

pharmacy. Those who specialize in any of the branches concerned with pharmacy are specialists; they render a very essential service; the retail pharmacists are generalists—they seek information from all of these sources for their needs in the practice of pharmacy.

There are other subjects equally or more important, as, for instance, the promotion of a pharmaceutical corps in the U. S. Army, as a part of its Medical Department, the adequate representation and coöperation of State Pharmaceutical Associations in the House of Delegates, and a consideration of the advantages to be derived by federating the associations of all the drug industries. Relative to the latter proposition your attention is directed to a paper in this issue by Chairman H. V. Arny of the committee having this important matter in charge. Presentations and outlines of the plans have heretofore appeared in the *Journal*, in the messages of President Dohme, and as part of Ex-President Wulling's address, last year. A careful study of the subject will enable members to participate in the discussions and to lend their counsel.

The call is to attend the Sixty-sixth Annual Convention of the American Pharmaceutical Association in Chicago, during the week of August 12.

Do your best! Come!

E. G. E.

STANDARDS OF PHARMACY SHOULD BE UPHELD. PHARMACY
STUDENTS OF DRAFT AGE SHOULD BE GIVEN OUR
CONSIDERATION.

Pre-pharmaceutical education needs adjustment—"high school education or its equivalent," is indefinite. The "preliminary drug store experience" may signify a splendid preparatory training for the courses in pharmacy schools or, have little value. It is possible to standardize the first requirement but the latter presents a more difficult problem as the opportunities for training the prospective pharmacy students in drug stores differ as do the inclinations of those who are employed in them.

It is necessary for legal and other reasons to fix an age at which a person acquires certain rights not given to a minor, but this does not necessarily mean that a person of twenty-one years is better qualified for service in pharmacy than one a year younger. Experience and age have a relation to how the individual has employed his time and his ability and capacity for acquiring knowledge. The object is not to minimize the value of experience nor of age but to point out that these two requirements of the prerequisites for practicing pharmacy can be shaded in times like the present, provided, that the exigency for doing so exists and, more specifically, out of consideration for those who will enlist soon after graduation. There has been a depletion of pharmacists, and many others will answer the country's call; they ~~should~~ not be unnecessarily handicapped when they return

from service, so every reasonable opportunity, that does not do injury to the standing of pharmacy, should be given those under the draft age, before going abroad, for completing their education and securing their credentials as pharmacists. Such consideration enlists our immediate interest and may, perhaps, present a duty we owe them and pharmacy; the lowering of educational standards, however, for entrance or graduation requirements or for boards of pharmacy examinations would be deplorable.

A contemporary, in a recent issue, reported a statement from a Government official to the effect that there were only about eight reputable schools of pharmacy in the United States. Such a charge and every other aspersion of this kind should be answered. Charity would suggest that this statement was made without a knowledge of the facts. There is a tendency to remove the need of educational qualifications from pharmacy and it is therefore of greatest importance that the standards of pharmacy not only be maintained but advanced.

Notwithstanding that pharmacy has for many years been deemed necessary to medical practice, that pharmacists have provided the standards for medicines employed by physicians, have met every requirement, there is the inclination, tinged with selfishness, to belittle its service, in fact, to ignore pharmacy and pharmacists. And to progress backward now would produce the arguments desired by the proponents.

Pharmaceutical education is in the process of standardization, it should not be impeded but the strongest encouragement should be given thereto, war or no war. The very fact that we desire the Government to grant pharmacists recognition by the establishment of a pharmaceutical corps makes such course even more necessary. While this is desirable and pharmacy is entitled to such recognition the point is that pharmacy deserves such support, progressive medicine requires the aid of progressive pharmacy and the people are entitled to the very best service pharmacy can render.

If it should finally be deemed necessary, for the special reason assigned, to grant concessions to students for admission to colleges of pharmacy, then let the entrance requirements be for a lesser number of years of experience, but this of a kind that has greater value in pharmacy; age of the student has a direct relation, but the number of years do not count for so much as how this time has been utilized. The courses in pharmacy should be progressively advanced and the preliminary educational requirements should be raised as fast as practicable. We can theorize as much as we like but the facts and the conditions must be faced.

Drug stores fill an important place in commercial life; in many of them pharmacy is insignificant and unprofitable and it would be far better for the proprietors to discontinue such service, if it can be done without inconveniencing the public.

Other stores can arrange their service so that a lesser number of pharmacists will be employed by assigning them to supervisory duties and to work that must be done by qualified pharmacists.

As far as educational requirements are concerned, let pharmacy go onward not backward. With this thought in mind let us give every possible consideration to the young pharmacists who enlist in the service of our country.

E. G. E.

THE FEDERATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL BODIES.*

BY H. V. ARNY.

It was the writer's fortune or misfortune to be honored with the chairmanship of the committee appointed by President A. R. L. Dohme, of the American Pharmaceutical Association, to consider the federation of American pharmaceutical organizations under the aegis of the oldest national pharmaceutical body in the country, the A. Ph. A. This Federation Committee began its work the early part of the current year and is still continuing its deliberations.

The idea of a federation of the several national bodies representing various branches of the drug trade was put forward by Henry P. Hynson, in 1916, in his masterly address as chairman of the house of delegates of the A. Ph. A. Dr. Hynson's idea was to make the house of delegates the rallying point at which all pharmaceutical bodies, including State pharmaceutical associations, could gather to their mutual advantage.

In his presidential address at Indianapolis last year, President F. J. Wulling discussed at length a plan of federation in which a Greater A. Ph. A. in conjunction with other national bodies would form a great organization of far-reaching influence, with journals, research laboratories and other means of disseminating pharmaceutical knowledge. He expressed the opinion that the raising of one million dollars for these beneficent purposes was a task by no means impossible.

Since assuming the presidency of the A. Ph. A., by reason of the untimely passing of our dear friend, Mr. Charles Holzhauer, Dr. A. R. L. Dohme, with his characteristic energy, has gone into the federation idea with all of the enthusiasm for which he is noted. He has submitted a plan of federation that is familiar to most of us here present, since it has been given prominence by the pharmaceutical press during the past few months. Briefly summarized, Doctor Dohme's plan proposes federation more quickly than can be expected if the project is to depend upon the prior raising of a large sum of money. He believes that the present national drug associations, with their already existing machinery of organization, with the wealth behind some of them, the numbers behind others, can be federated into a great body wielding tremendous influence, potential of great good to the public as well as to pharmacy. His plan employs for the federating, the present Council and House of Delegates of the A. Ph. A., with, of course, amended personnel and with enlarged powers. He also suggests several bureaus of service; a bureau of chemical aid and research, a bureau of legal information, a bureau of employ-

*Read at meeting of New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association, June 1918.