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## CORRESPONDENCE

### PHARMACEUTIC EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS.

While the following communications might have been abstracted, there is much of importance contained therein that should be of record, hence, it has been deemed advisable to print in full.

HON. NEWTON D. BAKER,  
*Secretary of War,*

Washington, D. C.:

Information has recently come to me to the effect that a training school for pharmacists has been established at Camp Pike, Ark. For the past twenty years the best colleges of Pharmacy in this country have worked together in an organization known as the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties. Conditions surrounding pharmaceutical education were deplorable at the time this organization was formed. Improvement has been slow, but many reforms have been inaugurated both in the way of higher entrance requirements and improved curricula. By unanimous agreement all member schools will require four years of high school training before matriculation, after 1923. The minimum requirement is now two years of high school work, though the majority of schools already require four.

Several states by legislative enactment require applicants for registration as pharmacists, to have had the equivalent of high school graduation before taking up pharmaceutical training. This leads me to the object of this communication. I am writing you, as President of the above-mentioned organization. I feel that the Federal Government, in the training of pharmacists for the Army and Navy, should at least make the conditions of both entrance into and graduation from its institutions, correspond to the Conference State Board requirements. If this should not be done, it will inevitably work an injustice to those men taking the course in the Army and later finding themselves disqualified for examination as civilian pharmacists.

Colonel H. D. Arnold, formerly in the office of the Surgeon-General of the Army, and Dr. A. G. Dumetz, U. S. P. H. Service, are rather intimately acquainted with the matter of pharmaceutical education, and would, I am sure, aid in the proper adjustment of this matter. It is one rather far-reaching in its effect upon the training for a line of service, whether military or civil, which affects the health and welfare of the whole citizenship. If in my official capacity or personally, I can render assistance in this regard, please command me.

Richmond, Virginia, April 22, 1920.

(Signed) WORTLEY F. RUDD.

MR. WORTLEY F. RUDD,

Richmond, Virginia:

Careful consideration has been given your letter of April 22nd, with reference to the training of pharmacists in connection with the vocational training program now in operation in the Army.

I agree most heartily that we should coöperate to maintain the standard in pharmaceutical education which you and your colleagues have labored to establish. I assure you that, in all our vocational training work, we shall not establish a lower standard than that which now prevails in civil life for any of the vocations for which we shall conduct courses of training.

We have called to our assistance civilian educators of the highest professional attainments in establishing our courses of instruction. In addition, we are asking the coöperation and assistance of those in civil life, who, like yourself, are interested in the educational work which the Army is doing, and who are desirous that the highest possible standard of achievement in knowledge and skill be maintained.

In the pharmaceutical course, as in all other courses, we shall establish standards of knowledge and accomplishment that will insure that every graduate will have reached the minimum standard which has been established in civil life for this particular line of training. Out of justice to the student and in accordance with what we consider the most practicable and efficient method, we cannot establish a time requirement with reference to school work, such as now prevails to a great extent in the educational world. We will, however, establish standards of achievement in knowledge and skill which will insure the accomplishment of the end which is sought by the prevailing time schedule requirement of civilian educational institutions. We shall ask your assistance in establishing such standards of achievement for the line of training in which you are particularly interested.

We feel quite sure that the establishment of standards of achievement in knowledge and skill will do far more towards establishing and maintaining the highest possible standard among our graduates than could possibly be accomplished by any time-schedule requirements.

We have established at Camp Grant, Ill., a school, or a combination of schools, in which courses of study and standards of achievement and accomplishment for various lines of educational and vocational training are being worked out for the Army as a whole by Civilian Experts. We shall be very pleased to have you visit this school and to have you investigate fully the principles upon which we are working.

(Signed) NEWTON D. BAKER.

Washington, D. C., May 20, 1920.

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