

on a special day each year to determine and unify certain processes and standards and compare results. In short, it would constitute a clearing house for drug analysts. It seems to this Committee that our own Association is a more natural center for such work than the American Chemical Society in which there is at present a special section for drug analysts.

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RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL CANDIDATE.

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The question of the hour is, who shall have jurisdiction over the coming pharmacist? The pharmaceutical press is teeming with editorials upon the subject; educators and others are expressing their views, hence the writer believes no unpardonable sin will be committed if at this time he add his mite. Some of the opinions expressed are diametrically opposite, and it is the writer's opinion that the desideratum might be reached by striking an average of all.

The theme has both radical and conservative partisans, the former contending that authority should be entirely vested in the Colleges of Pharmacy, while the latter hold that the Boards of Pharmacy alone should wield the supreme power. The radicals naturally are confined principally to those interested in the schools either as teachers or graduates, while the majority of the conservatives belong to the class who either did not have the opportunity of a college education or failed to take advantage of it when it was offered.

It is the intention of the writer to state facts and illustrate them with examples and if in doing so the personal pronoun be used too often the reasons are obvious.

All who have had experience with State Board applicants, too well recall how numerous were the times certain ones would try the examination, always meeting with the same fate-failure, until at last the required mark was made and they stood upon an equality in the eyes of the law with you, while you sat in amazement and wondered until constant repetition of the example no longer caused surprise.

In your own hearts do you consider such men competent to practice a calling where so much is at stake and would you entrust them with the compounding of remedies for your own dear ones?

Legislators claim that laws are not made for the benefit of any class but for the people, and how remiss are they when any measure for the relief of the above conditions come before them.

Would conditions be improved were a college course exacted? That depends upon circumstances. The graduate with only his college training is not much better than he who has failed so often; but this when conjoined with the necessary amount of experience makes the ideal condition.

The writer recalls the case of a medal student, who after graduation was employed in a manufacturing laboratory and while his theoretical knowledge at

the beginning of such a career was up to the top notch, he was wholly at sea with his surroundings and lacked that essential that a college training cannot supply, and which is acquired only by hard knocks—practicability. A year after graduation he went before the State Board and though he passed successfully, his answers disclosed anything but a college trained mind. The seeming brightness at college was actuated by a possible reward, but had he had experience before entering college the knowledge acquired would have been more deeply rooted and would not have been forgotten so readily. The above conditions represent the extremes; what would the happy medium be?

The candidate for registration should possess two necessary requirements, a practical experience of two years and a college course.

Each Board of Pharmacy should have complete supervision of the apprentice from the time he makes application for such papers until he is registered, thus making the board the court of first and last resort.

When the apprentice first enters upon his career he should be fully informed as to all conditions that will be imposed upon him. At the end of two years he may enter a school of pharmacy, but his fitness to do so should be determined by the board not through certificates or diplomas, but by an examination, and no permission to enter a school should be given until the board is fully satisfied. (The limitations of such fitness will be discussed later.) This is the first obstacle he encounters, and after several trials, if found wanting at this stage, would it not be better to discourage him from continuing, rather than meet with failure higher up the line? The time he has already lost amounts to nothing and you would be doing both him and humanity an act of kindness by such procedure, and would rid the calling of the undesirable element with which it is so badly burdened. To advance into a higher class an examination should be passed and another before graduation, and the final gateway is his examination before the board to entitle him to the Registered Pharmacist's Certificate. Thus it is seen that constant study is necessary to reach the goal and if deficient at any step may result in a final failure.

Are the conditions as outlined impossible of realization? What method must be pursued to bring them into effect? Neither the radical nor conservative method alone will be of any avail; the middle of the road policy must be adopted and every phase of this momentous question must be fully considered.

The educational prerequisite is perhaps the feature over which there is a greater difference than any other. Here again the educator is wont to go to extreme measures and attempt to enforce a condition so high as to make it nigh prohibitive. Certificates and diplomas cannot always be depended upon as a measure of qualification, the lack of which should not be an absolute bar to one's entering a college—and common sense should sit in the judgment seat. We once had a student who had graduated from a Southern college near the Ohio, possessing a B. S. degree, who had never heard of the term bacteria and while apparently versed in Latin and Greek, was unable to perform problems under Ratio and Proportion. Another illustration bearing upon the same point was a case of a young man applying for a position in a manufacturing laboratory, and upon interrogation stated he had finished mathematics and had passed an examination at a preparatory school to enter the University. It was not very long after that his

knowledge of such subjects was shown to be very meagre and he was unable to perform examples under simple fractions. It was true he had studied as he had claimed, but it was a case of cram and not with an intent of reason. He was taken in hand and given a thorough drill, pursued a course in Pharmacy, standing highest in his class, and after further tutoring to make the counts required by the University, entered it as a medical student and has since become a successful physician.

Allusion was made above to the fact that we cannot be guided only by a certificate. Many a worthy lad would be turned down if we adhered strictly to such ruling. A few years ago I was called upon by a young man desirous of studying Pharmacy, who stated he feared the examinations as he had been placed upon his own resources at the age of ten, and until entering the drug business several years before had led practically a nomadic existence.

I became very much interested and after learning all I could decided to shoulder the responsibility of admitting him without an examination. My judgment was not wrong, for he soon proved that the knocks he had received had made him self-reliant, and he not only mastered the studies, but he possessed that keenness of forethought that he saw and understood things before they were fully explained, and as may be imagined his standing was far above the average.

Two years ago several belonging to the class of "repeaters" passed the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy. One of these came to the private school of the writer (before the existence of the N. O. C. P.) after having already failed several times to pass the Board. He paid his fee in advance and took one or at most two lessons. It subsequently developed that the nights that his employer permitted him to attend he spent in other ways than "burning the midnight oil," and twelve years after he finally succeeded in squeezing through.

Objection has been raised to a prerequisite college course on the ground that it would deprive the poor boy of an opportunity of attending college. This poor boy proposition has done service so long that it has "died from over fatigue." The legislative committee of the Louisiana State Pharmaceutical Association, when they appeared before the Committee on Health and Quarantine who had this measure before them, presented some eighty or more affidavits showing the possibility of young men attending college while employed. The committee made a favorable report and the bill passed both houses only to receive a pocket veto for political reasons and not upon merit.

I can recall many cases of the basest ingratitude shown by some poor boys towards their employers, some beyond belief. Charity is a trait worthy of emulation, but it is too often misplaced. I do most emphatically claim without fear of contradiction that any young man can attend a college if he is possessed of a determination to succeed. The principal reason more do not attend is that they have been advised by those not having had a college education that such is unnecessary, and naturally without the incentive the effort is never made. A "repeater" upon being approached to take a course in the private school of the writer stated he did not need any instruction and could pass without it. Eight years later, after all manner of excuses why I could not coach him were offered and failed, I finally yielded and during this period only a few lessons were given for which he paid nearly as much as two sessions of college would have cost

today and more than what was charged during my time. As may be imagined, such desultory methods proved valueless and he failed at the next examination but succeeded at a later one. Do not these examples forcibly illustrate the fallacy of expense? Do not some of these young men pay more before they finally pass than a course at college? Some may ask, "How can this be?" Consider one side of this subject alone. What has been the monetary loss of the repeater compared to the young man who has gone to college? Calculate the difference in the pay between the registered pharmacist and the unregistered, and it will only take a short time to pay for the college course as against the many years it takes the repeater to pass.

Is not the more sound education worthy of consideration? Can any one cite a single instance where an education as suggested has any drawbacks? Then as men following a calling quasi-professional in nature we should demand such restrictions. An editorial in one of the recent pharmaceutical journals quoting a college professor is beyond reason. The professor opposes prerequisite education on pure sentiment, stating that if a student failed to pass his college examinations it would deter him from becoming a registered pharmacist and that was a responsibility he did not care to assume. Especially when the failed ones would appeal to him for sympathy. This is a fine state of affairs if men of education take this view. Sentiment in matters as vital as this is as bad as politics. Did it ever occur to this teacher that a student's failure to pass is largely his own fault, not on account of stupidity but lack of study? The failures at college would be indeed few if the student knew that it was compulsory to have a diploma in order to pass the board; and if the avenue to which the professor referred were still open to the student who failed, there would be but few applicants.

In this paper generalities have been avoided almost entirely. No attempt has been made to paint impossible conditions; the illustrations are facts not romances, nor have exceptional cases been cited and while only one or two instances were brought forward under each of the several cases, examples could be given almost without number. An experience of nearly thirty years in the various paths of pharmacy must certainly carry with it some weight in an opinion upon this subject, and the stand taken by the writer and the views expressed are the result of a thorough study of every phase mentioned.

THE STAB IN THE DARK.

"A man may lead a life of honesty and purity, battling bravely for all he holds dearest, so firm and sure of the rightness of his life that he never thinks for an instant of the diabolic ingenuity that makes evil and evil report where naught but good really exists. A few words lightly spoken by the tongue of slander, a significant expression of the eyes, a cruel shrug of the shoulders, with a pursing of the lips—and then, friendly hands grow cold, the accustomed smile is displaced by a sneer, and one stands alone and aloof with a dazed feeling of wonder at the vague, intangible something that has caused it all."—*William George Jordan.*