

their chosen respective locations; the important thing in their education is that they are led to think, to think through, to analyze, and to apply. The subjects in a pharmacy school are primarily vocational, but they contribute to a broad and liberal education which develops an understanding and makes the hand and brain work easier whether business or professional application is made, even though not in the drug business. It is for this reason that pharmacists are not infrequently eminently successful in other activities—their pharmaceutical education has qualified them to engage in other pursuits. Pharmacy and pharmacists have contributed largely to the development of many industries, and to applied chemistry; the search for drugs has in all ages had much to do with the development of commerce, and the investigations of them with art and science.

Scholars and statesmen have said that the fate of a country depends upon the education of the people; that its prosperity consists in the number of its cultivated citizens, in its men of education, enlightenment and character; by deduction—the fate of pharmacy depends upon the education of pharmacists; its usefulness and service are exemplified by the number of its cultured votaries, in its men of education, enlightenment and character.

Pharmacy is entering one of its most important epochs. There are many problems to be studied, difficult because of the interrelations of pharmacy. Improvements are to be made, and much that is more or less intangible now must be more definitely fixed. Pharmacy has been formative and progressive—it will probably always be more or less complex—but recent developments indicate that coördinated, coöperative endeavor will energize and characterize it.

E. G. E.

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#### THE INCERTITUDE OF LAW AND PHARMACISTS' INTEREST IN LEGISLATION.

A test case brought up to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals by an optometrist was decided against the appellant, who was fined and sentenced to imprisonment, having been convicted of violating the Texas Medical Practice Act.

For a number of years past efforts have been made by the optometrists of Texas to pass a law recognizing optometry as a profession; the proposed measures have been defeated and, if we are rightly informed, the object of this court transaction was to impress the public and the Legislature with the importance of the desired enactment.

The only appeal from the decision of the Court is to the Legislature and the people. A condition has been brought about which gives one needing glasses his choice of being fitted by a doctor who has made a study of optometry or by one who has not. Optometrists, after recommendation has been made by a licensed physician, may fit glasses, but the opinion holds that when they do so without such endorsement they violate the Medical Practice Act; the business of hundreds has been injured.

It is admitted that the need of glasses comes from a "disorder or physical deformity," but these are not the largest causes. It is reasonable to assume that one who has made a study of refraction and qualified as an optometrist will not risk

his reputation by fitting glasses for correcting vision when he is aware that his patron needs to consult a physician or surgeon.

The only reason for presenting this decision in these columns is thereby to direct attention to proposed measures, enactments and decisions which may in a somewhat similar way affect the drug business and pharmacy; members of legislative committees know the dangers of adverse legislation and also of that which seeks to grant special favors or privileges. Laws applying to pharmacy should protect the people and give them better service.

President Harding is said to favor a federal department of Public Health; pharmacy as a branch of medicine should receive due consideration in the measure which will provide for its establishment.

E. G. E.

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## THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

BY WM. B. DAY.

In view of the statements that have been made from time to time concerning the growth or lack of growth in membership of the American Pharmaceutical Association, it seems worth while to present in tabular form a comparison of the membership of the Association during the past seven years, the period during which the writer has occupied the offices of General Secretary and Chairman of the Membership Committee. With the assistance of Mr. Wm. Mittelbach, who for a number of years was Chairman of the Membership Committee and who is deeply interested in the growth of the Association, the following tabulations\* of the membership by states and cities have been prepared.

The comparison of the total membership year by year beginning with 1914 is of interest inasmuch as it reveals the fact that the total increase in membership in these seven years amounts to 1096 members, or 46 percent. Explanatory of these figures, attention should be called to the fact that during the seven years, from 1914 to the present time, 3430 new members were added—enough to have more than doubled the membership. The resulting gain of only 1096 means that in seven years 2334 members have been lost through suspension, resignation or death. While an average annual increase of six percent is rather small, there is encouragement in the fact that during the last two years the average increase has been 15% and 11%, respectively.

As might be expected, the states having the largest population have as a rule the largest membership, but even here there are other factors to be considered. Density of population is a favorable factor; for example, Ohio, with about 20% larger population than Texas, has more than twice as many A. Ph. A. members. Massachusetts has 40% more members than Michigan and double the number of members California has, while the three states rank close together in population. New Jersey, with a population 10% less than Missouri, has 25% larger membership in the A. Ph. A. Energetic membership campaigns exert great influence, thus Virginia

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\* These figures were compiled from the geographical lists of members published in the Year Book, Vols. 1-7 and the manuscript for Vol. 8 now in press.