

EDITORIAL

E. G. EBERLE, Editor

253 Bourse Bldg., PHILADELPHIA

COÖRDINATED COÖPERATIVE RESEARCH.

MUCH has been said and written about research, and it is not the purpose at this time to dilate upon it but to express satisfaction in that the effort to organize a National Conference on Pharmaceutical Research has been successful.

Several years ago the *Scientific American* in endeavoring to seek comfort from reflections upon the "valuable" lessons which the World War taught us, said editorially:

"In scientific and particularly in technical research lack of coöperation means not only needless duplication of effort, but incalculable loss through arrested development. It is often the combination of the ideas of two or more individuals that furnishes the solution of a problem. When these ideas are not brought together, they cannot combine. Hence it follows that free interchange of thought accelerates progress in altogether incalculable proportion.

"Yet a species of pardonable professional jealousy, or the fear of giving aid to a competitor in trade, has long been allowed to place obstacles in the way of such interchange of ideas. A less self-centered attitude in these matters cannot fail to bring advantage to all. The present economic situation should cause us to give most careful heed to these things."

In an editorial of last month Chairman H. V. Arny said that "an elastic conference plan has been adopted that will not only bring together all of those interested in pharmaceutical research, including those interested in the National Research Council, but will also be likely to bring about enthusiastic coöperation among research workers in pharmacy." The report of the Committee in this issue of the *JOURNAL* serves a larger purpose than editorial comment, which in this instance is to compliment those whose efforts have brought success. The science of pharmacy has a close relation to human life and popular interest in it is growing.

E. G. E.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES OF PHARMACY AND THEIR MATRICULANTS.

IT is very evident that the higher requirements exacted by schools and colleges of pharmacy have brought to them a larger number of students who can utilize their opportunities. There is a growing realization that the value of *preliminary* drug store experience, preparatory for the studies in a college of pharmacy, is variable; it is becoming more difficult to standardize it, and the application of the standard presents related difficulties. An increasing number now contend that

the value of experience generally gained in a "modern" drug store, as far as it applies to the study of pharmacy, is rather limited; that these years would have added more to the preliminary qualification of the prospective pharmacy student and prepared him better for a course in pharmacy, if they had been devoted to the furtherance of business and academic training. Viewpoints on and valuation of preliminary practical experience requirements differ, and it is not the purpose of this comment to discuss the question.

Greatly increased numbers are seeking enrollment within our colleges and, as a result, many fail to secure admission to the institutions of their choice. This will mean that a standard must be fixed for admittance that is based, as far as possible, not only on the educational qualifications of the student but on his desires, his conception of and purpose of education—his possibilities. "The ultimate aim of education should be the greatest possible advantage to the public and the development of the individual to his highest possibilities."

Ernst Martin Hopkins, president of Dartmouth College, recently said: "One of the greatest weaknesses of democracy is the taste for palatable untruths rather than for more nourishing but less agreeable facts." As a result of the larger number of applicants at institutions of learning some could not be admitted, and, as the aim of these institutions should be the greatest possible advantage to the public, it was necessary to use other means of selection than that of sequence in application; there followed charges which in most cases, if not all, were not founded on fact.

The same conditions as alluded to obtained at schools and colleges of pharmacy; all of the applicants could not be admitted, notwithstanding minimal educational requirements could be met by them, and standard of work maintained of the grade which these institutions consider of greatest value to the public. One school reports that a third of the freshman class had one or more years in college in addition to four years of high school work. Selection of the student body should be based, as far as possible, on who of the applicants can best utilize the opportunities of education; both moral and educational qualifications are to be considered in the selection.

It is very evident that the higher educational requirements exacted by the schools and colleges of pharmacy for the admission of students are attracting more young men and women to them who can and will advantageously utilize their education for the advancement of pharmacy and thereby be of greatest value to the public. President C. A. Dye said in his address: "The position any business or profession occupies in the mind of the public is governed by the educational, professional, business and ethical ideals of the individuals engaged in the business or profession."

"The desire for learning, the hunger for it, and a determination to satisfy that hunger will make better students and more efficient men than merely a desire to go to college because it is the thing to do."

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