

# THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF PHARMACEUTICAL FACULTIES

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—With the closing of the year it will be of interest to the Conference Membership to know that Conference matters are in a satisfactory condition, and it is also satisfying to know that more schools are realizing that Conference Membership is not only to be highly prized but has almost become a necessity. This is indicated by the fact that during November the Executive Committee sent sub-committees to visit three schools that have made applications for membership and the Chairman of the Committee now has received notice from three more schools that their applications for membership will be submitted in the near future.

It is appropriate that the December number of the JOURNAL should contain a brief message from the new president, Charles H. LaWall, together with the personnel of the standing and special committees named by him to carry on the work of the Conference during his administration.

RUFUS A. LYMAN, *Chairman, Executive Committee American Conference Pharmaceutical Faculties.*]

## THE NEXT STEP.

BY CHARLES H. LAWALL.

### PRESIDENT AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF PHARMACEUTICAL FACULTIES.

It is very disquieting to some of the members of a calling which is suffering from "growing pains" to see serious discussions taking up valuable space in the pharmaceutical journals on "What is the matter with pharmacy?" Others of a more philosophic turn of mind smile and say nothing, realizing that the condition is only temporary and is not common to pharmacy alone. Medicine, dentistry, engineering—all have suffered or are suffering from the same symptoms, but with this difference: when they settle a thing, it is settled, but in pharmacy nothing ever seems to be definitely settled.

Just as soon as things appear to be all cleared up and progress planned along a certain line by unanimous consent, someone throws a monkey wrench into the machinery and the whole thing needs rebuilding. This is true of all lines of pharmaceutical endeavor, professional, educational and commercial. Self-interest is disguised in many ways and expediency often replaces principles as a guide to action. There is always a minority that will not or cannot go along.

Minority rule in any organization is a forerunner of disaster. There is only one way to make progress and that is to invite full and free discussion, provide for proper representation of all parties interested, agree upon principles to be followed, and then stick to the policy agreed upon.

No "next step" can be taken until the previous step is completed. Progress in pharmaceutical education has not measured up to the requirements of that great unappreciated public which pharmacy serves. A definite step was planned for 1923 in the unanimous agreement of all of the Conference School representatives, that four years' high school should then become the minimum entrance requirement for the study of pharmacy.

This step must be taken at the time agreed upon. It should have been taken years ago. To delay it longer would be to make pharmacy a subject for laughter and sympathy, and we want neither.