

Personal acquaintance with the staff of doctors is necessary for the welfare of the hospital pharmacy. Every doctor has his hobby, particularly the specialists, and we must cooperate with them; I have in mind certain heart specialists, who have found in their study of digitalis that they have better success with *Digitalis lutea* than with *D. purpurea*. They also have a preference for the tincture made from leaves grown at our State University. Since the University is not allowed to sell the tincture, I make it from the leaves obtained at the College of Pharmacy. Our doctors have pronounced it a very good preparation. They also prefer a tincture made from *Veratrum album* to one of *V. viride* and, since the tincture *Veratrum album* cannot be purchased through the manufacturer or jobber, I make it for them. The above examples are cited as opportunities for cooperation with the doctors.

Last of all we must be careful about our drug charges to the patient; there is a belief, current among the laity, that higher prices are charged by the hospitals than at retail pharmacies. With this idea in mind, we should have our prices agree with those of nearby pharmacies, and also be careful not to make our charges lower than the current fees, for we should remember that we are closely allied to and really not competitors of retail pharmacists.

HOSPITAL PHARMACY—A PLEA FOR THE FORMATION OF A SPECIAL GROUP WITHIN THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.*

BY EDWARD SWALLOW.¹

When we hear of those good old times of years ago, let us remember the progress made in medicine and surgery and realize on the conditions which now obtain through the efforts of men who were not contented to leave things as they found them.

Hospital pharmacists are professional men in every sense of the word; they occupy the unique position in our profession of not being affected by profits and loss, their business is professional service only, and not concerned with selling problems. They are concerned only in doing the work accurately and conscientiously, so the patient may get the full benefit of the doctor's treatment.

Grave responsibilities rest upon the shoulders of a hospital pharmacist. He must see that the drugs and chemicals he uses are of the highest quality, and employ methods strictly according to art and science in preparing and compounding them. He is in the "stop, look and listen" attitude of mind all day so that mistakes do not get by him; he must be certain that the hypodermic solutions supplied to the wards are sterile, the Dakin solution absolutely correct and, in fact, everything must be just right or trouble will result.

The physicians attending a hospital would err in their deductions when giving certain treatments if the pharmacist used anything but standard drugs and accuracy in his work. Slipshod methods are a crime in hospitals, as physicians base their treatment in certain diseases upon the result obtained in the wards of the hospital—

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if the medicine ordered is not exactly what it should be the doctor draws wrong conclusions, to the detriment of the public health and welfare. In a hospital, the welfare of the patient is the chief concern. He is there to be cured, and the hospital pharmacist is there to use his professional services in carrying out the doctor's orders in regard to the medicines as far as compounding, preparing and supplying are concerned.

Naturally enough the methods of keeping track of alcohol, narcotics, etc., vary in different hospitals and also the formulas used; anything which will be for the betterment of the service by pharmacists will increase the importance of their position, help materially the medical profession and add to the efficient work of the hospital generally.

The proposed movement to create a special section of hospital pharmacist members of the American Pharmaceutical Association is of great importance as it will lead to an interchange of formulas, the adopting of the best methods of keeping track of things, and by affording the opportunity of solving the purely hospital problems generally, will make for higher standards in our profession. We ask for the active support of every pharmacist to make this movement a success as it is a constructive one of the highest order. This is a conception of American brains which I feel confident will, if carried out, be found of inestimable value to our profession, the hospitals, and the public.

In conclusion I wish to point out that hospital pharmacists are in a class by themselves, their problems and activities are concerned with hospital work in all its ramifications, and their aims, ambition, and ideas are along those lines which will lead to original research and efficiency—work, which will add to the dignity and usefulness of their calling, will encourage ideals of the loftiest character and result in scientific advancement and progress; it will be for the uplift of the profession in which every man in our calling is vitally interested. Actuated by this feeling I again ask every pharmacist to do his bit in making this movement to form a special group devoted to hospital pharmacists a success.

TEACHING OF BUSINESS IN COLLEGES OF PHARMACY.*

BY THEODORE J. BRADLEY AND CHARLES W. PEARSON.

During the past few years there has been an insistent demand for more and better teaching of business methods in pharmacy colleges, and the colleges must yield to this demand if they are to continue to serve pharmacy in full measure, but it will be necessary to develop the methods by which the additional work can best be done. The present course leading to the degree of Graduate in Pharmacy is designed, primarily, to prepare for the license to practice pharmacy and this is necessary for the protection of the general public. All who are to practice pharmacy must complete this minimum course, but at its end the road divides, one branch being for the comparatively few students who wish to do advanced scientific work along pharmaceutical lines; these few students are already provided for in the graduate courses leading to the degrees of Pharmaceutical Chemist and Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy, which are offered by most colleges of pharmacy.

* See page 988, December JOUR. A. PH. A., Minutes of Joint Session, Section on Education and Legislation, A. Ph. A., American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties and National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, New Orleans meeting, 1921.