

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF PHARMACEUTICAL FACULTIES

A SYMPOSIUM ON METHODS OF TEACHING COMPOUNDING IN THE CONFERENCE SCHOOLS (*concluded*).

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—The Symposium on Dispensing and Prescription Practice is concluded with the March issue. The Chairman will, however, be glad to receive helpful suggestions at any time for publication in the JOURNAL. In the April number we hope to publish a number of articles from men in authority upon the subject, "The College of Pharmacy Library, What It Should Contain and How It Can Be Used."
RUFUS A. LYMAN, Chairman
and Conference Editor.]

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA.

In a booklet entitled "Medical Hospital Rules of the State University of Iowa" we find the following:

"The Hospital Pharmacy Department shall use all the products possible of the Pharmacy Department of the University, and the same shall be stocked up and be under the general care of the Dean of that Department or of some person suggested by him to the Committees and Superintendent."

The above was adopted on June 10, 1897, by the Board of Regents upon the recommendation of the Medical Department Committee.

In accordance with this resolution, the preparations made by the senior students in the Pharmacy College were used, as far as possible, in the hospital work but the dispensing of the same was in charge of the resident physician.

In 1905, the Board of Regents, by resolution, put the entire charge of the Hospital Dispensary under the control of the Dean of the College of Pharmacy.

The buying and dispensing of all drugs since the above date has been carried out and the service expanded until the Pharmacy College can now be truly stated to be a service college of the university. All drugs or chemicals used in any department of the university, exclusive of the department of chemistry, are secured through the College of Pharmacy. These departments are Botany, Zoölogy, Engineering, Dental, Home Economics, University Store House, Physics, Museum, Psychology, Child Welfare Station, Athletic, Pharmacology and Pathology.

All the reagents, percentage solutions, stains, etc., used in the various laboratories are prepared in the College of Pharmacy, and for an institution of some 6000 students, this is no small matter.

The College of Pharmacy has so conducted this work of service along all lines pharmaceutical, that it is now considered indispensable, and, incidentally, is saving many thousands of dollars to the institution.

The hospital work, as far as the student is concerned, is, of course, the most important and includes the University General Hospital, the Children's Hospital, Urology Hospital, Pscopathic Hospital and the Student Health Out Clinic. The total number of beds at the various hospitals is upwards of 625.

The dispensing at the University Hospital is in charge of a registered pharmacist on full time, C. C. Hazard, and the dispensing at the Children's Hospital,

under a registered pharmacist, E. A. Nixon, on part time. The senior class is divided into sections of twos and they are on duty from 10 to 12 each day including Sunday. The work is done under careful supervision and checked at every point to avoid mistakes. During the 17 years, no mistake has been made to our knowledge, but we never make this statement without knocking on wood. At least, it is a record we feel sure is not equalled by many pharmacies handling the same amount of material that we do. The statistical record for the past six months is as follows:

Month.	Prescriptions.
July.....	3111
August.....	3246
September.....	3866
October.....	4290
November.....	3530
December.....	3656
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Total for six months.....	21699

The didactic work in prescriptions is given in the senior year and is done with the use of a stereopticon lantern and several hundred actual prescriptions are thrown on the screen for study. This work is under Prof. R. A. Kuever. The laboratory work is taken up illustrating the different kinds of incompatibilities using Scoville's "Art of Dispensing" as a text and is under Prof. Zada M. Cooper.

Our graduates are qualified to take charge of the prescription work in any pharmacy and have had more and better experience than they would receive in the majority of pharmacies throughout the country in two or three years' time.

The main dispensary at the University Hospital is equipped with every convenience possible for service. The shelfware is all amber glass with recessed label, all table tops are alberene, the refrigerator large enough to take care of all biologicals, ointments and suppositories and is cooled directly from the refrigeration plant. The furniture was made by the Saginaw Furniture Company and, at the time of installation some ten years ago, was supposed to be the last word.

WILBER J. TEETERS, *Dean.*

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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

In the matter of practical experience in filling and dispensing prescriptions, there is a growing tendency on the part of many state boards to grant liberal credit to applicants who are graduates of colleges that require more than the usual amount of laboratory work in this branch. At Michigan there has been a gradual evolution in the teaching of prescription filling and incompatibility, and I am glad to say that this evolution has never been in the form of a revolution and hence is constantly being worked out along lines that are leading to the utmost good of all concerned. The lecture and quiz periods deal with methods of filling compatible and incompatible prescriptions, aiming to acquaint the student with information that will engender confidence, accuracy, neatness and speed as well as the commercial knowledge necessary in figuring costs and selling prices.

The laboratory work is divided into three separate and distinct divisions. The first division of the work is performed in the regular prescription laboratory, the second division in the Health Service Pharmacy, and the third in the pharmacy of the University Hospital. The student is at all times amenable to his instructor in the course even though he may be employed in the Health Service Pharmacy or in the Hospital Pharmacy. A record is kept of the time spent in both of these institutions and credit granted according to his proficiency.

In the prescription laboratory each student is required to fill a minimum of 100 prescriptions including many that are either chemically or physically incompatible. Practice in prescription reading and writing and in checking doses is also included.

Students who have had drug store experience are selected in the first groups for work in the Health Service Pharmacy, the less experienced being retained in the prescription laboratory until later in the year. After two or three weeks in the Health Service Pharmacy the students are transferred to the Hospital Pharmacy for a similar period of from two to three weeks. From the beginning of his career in this work until he has completed the course, the student works under the supervision of registered pharmacists, meeting during the course of time with three such registered men.

The Health Service of the university was established eight years ago but on account of the small prescription laboratory with which it was originally provided, only a few of the students were privileged to gain the experience that is now extended to all who are enrolled. About a year ago, modern fixtures for the pharmacy were installed in a first-floor, well-lighted room. The location is convenient to the offices of the five Health Service physicians, and therefore patronized freely by the ten thousand students enrolled in the university. No prescriptions are brought to this pharmacy by patients confined to the hospital. All hospital prescriptions for student in-patients and for other hospital patients both in and out, are sent to the Hospital Pharmacy.

In the Health Service Pharmacy of the university approximately 12,000 prescriptions are filled during the college year, the peak number for any one day of four hours being ninety-three, the pharmacy being open from 10 to 12 A.M. and 3 to 5 P.M. daily except Saturday afternoon and Sunday. At the University Hospital about 40,000 prescriptions are filled per year, and daily average of new prescriptions totaling about fifty and refills about seventy-five. There are no refills in the Health Service Pharmacy as new prescriptions are issued by the physicians for all calls.

On account of the plan we are following, the Michigan Board of Pharmacy is very liberal in granting credit for practical experience gained by students who graduate from the university. Many colleges are not so fortunately supplemented by Health Service Pharmacies or even hospitals, but where such opportunities are at hand, it would seem only reasonable to suppose that pharmacy boards would be as willing to grant credit for this type of work as for time spent in a store.

CHARLES H. STOCKING.