

## THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF PHARMACEUTICAL FACULTIES

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—The editor is convinced that one of the weakest points in our present-day pharmaceutical training is the lack of proper library facilities and the lack of knowledge as to how to build and use a library. With this in mind he has asked two men of unusual ability and experience to discuss these important subjects. These men are Dr. H. V. Army of New York and Dr. Edward Kremers of Wisconsin.

RUFUS A. LYMAN, Chairman and Conference Editor.]

### THE LIBRARY OF THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

H. V. ARMY.\*

It is an axiom that what we have at our very doors we count of little worth and a thing is appreciated directly in proportion to the difficulty in getting it.

If this is so, the writer may be pardoned in bringing to the attention of the alumni how great a mental treasure-house the college library is and what great benefit each of us can secure by using it; for to the writer, whose library facilities have, in the past, been more or less limited, the free use of such a splendid collection of books and journals as the library affords has been a real joy.

Many have been the times during the past three years that he has "called blessed" the thoughtful, painstaking and generous men of the past eighty years who have made the college library what it is, and as the present librarian, he feels he can best pay his debt to past librarians and other book-loving friends of the college, by calling attention at this time to what the library can do for every pharmaceutical worker around New York.

It is not his purpose to detail all the books in the library catalogue, nor will he say much of the fine lot of herbals, dispensatories and other medical books of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries which our library possesses. These will be worthy of a later paper, especially after the directions of the trustees of the college, to properly exhibit these in suitable cases, will have been carried out. What is proposed to do at this time is to merely enumerate those books that the librarian would recommend to one seeking information on a special subject as the Source Books, not merely because written with authority, but chiefly because in such books the best references to the literature on the subject are given; in short, those books which give the most complete bibliographies of the subjects taken up.

As to the use of our library, suppose our inquirer desires information on some pharmaceutical subject; of course we have the dispensatories, the best known textooks on pharmacy, Hager's classic work, practically every pharmacopoeia of the modern world, and last but not least that great work, "Real-Enzyklopaedie der Gesamten Pharmazie." If these do not furnish the information, we turn to the (8) volumes of the PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION or to Beckurt's *Jahresbericht der Pharmacie*, of which we have the entire 72 volumes. If the original article is desired, the inquirer can consult practically every American pharmaceutical journal and those mostly in complete sets, and in addition, two of the leading English journals, three German and one French periodical. It would

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\* The contribution by Dr. H. V. Army was printed in the *New York Journal of Pharmacy*, January 1914, under the title of "Our College Library and How to Use It."

be well if we could have the leading drug journal of each of the other European countries and contributions in that direction would be much appreciated.

If the searcher is after a botanical subject, our library is just as great a pleasure, for not only can one consult the modern botanical literature, but one can delve into quaint old herbals. The source book of pharmaceutical botany is 't'schirch's "Handbuch der Pharmakognosie," which represents twenty years of labor on the part of its distinguished author and which is still coming from the press. Its peculiar value comes from its excellent bibliography and many of its references can be verified from the three botanical journals now on our shelves and these in nearly complete form. The yearly progress in botany is reflected in the Just's "Botanischer Jahresbericht," while the library has a large number of books on the drug and commercial botanical products of special countries, such as Watts' "Commercial Products of India" and Simmond's "Tropical Agriculture." Likewise, we have the leading books describing the flora of each country, including such monumental works as "Index Kewensis" and Engler & Prantl's "Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien." In this connection, only recently a gentleman visited the library seeking aid in translating an Arabic medical work of some six hundred years ago and we were able to place in his hands Bossier's "Flora Orientalis," which gave a list of the plants of the Orient with their titles in Arabic, Greek and Latin. One notable omission from our botanical books is one that should soon be supplied—that splendid work, "North American Flora" (published by the New York Botanical Garden)—which we hope we will soon receive either by donation or by purchase.

In chemical books, our library is uncommonly rich and that thanks to the proper selection during the past few decades of that type of book peculiarly needed in a pharmaceutical library. A marked advantage that can be found in the classical books on chemistry is that phase as yet not sufficiently shown in books on pharmacy—sufficiently voluminous bibliographies. A book on science to be of the utmost value should not only present succinct facts, but should also refer the reader to volume and page of the journal where the original communication is found. Of course, such information is not usually required by the casual reader, but it need not necessarily enlarge the book beyond comfortable limits, and when there, is of utmost value to those readers who wish to go deeply into the subject. And pharmaceutical books—even such classics as the "Real-Enzyklopaedie" and the dispensaries—are considerably behind the average authoritative book on chemistry or on pharmacognosy in the matter of adequate and systematic bibliography. Notable among the American works furnishing fine bibliographies are the Bulletins of the Lloyd library, of which No. 18 on the history of official drugs is a masterpiece of bibliographical research.

Discussion of the chemical books of our library will therefore consist largely in stating those source books from which the inquirer should start his hunt. Without question, the master books on chemistry from the standpoint of proper bibliography are "Gmelin-Kraut-Friedheim," which gives practically every reference in inorganic chemistry that is worth while, and "Beilstein" which does the same service to organic chemistry. Our library also has both Dammar and Abegg who discuss inorganic chemistry, though not quite as fully as Gmelin-Kraut; and in English we have Roscoe & Schorlemmer, Watts' Dictionary and Thorpe's Dic-

tionary, although not in the latest edition. Moreover, the bibliographies of these English books leave much to be desired.

All these works are to chemistry what the Century Dictionary is to the English language, and like the Century these books are primarily works of general reference and for ultimate details the searcher is supposed to consult the special books on the several branches of chemistry. In these, our library is particularly good and the ones mentioned below are those which appeal not merely because of excellency of contents but also because of their fine bibliographies.

Thus we have Gildermeister-Hoffmann "Die Aetherische Oele," Pictet-Biddle "The Vegetable Alkaloids," Van Rijn "Die Glykoside," Winterstein & Trier "Die Alkaloide," Mann "Die Moderne Parfumerie," such works of technological chemistry as Bolley and also Thorpe, the best books on analytical chemistry (including, of course, Fresenius), Abderhalden's and also Hoppe-Seyler's classic works on physiological chemistry and Cohnheim's "Chemie der Eiweisskörper." And what is still more satisfactory is that most of the original articles referred to in the books just mentioned can be consulted in the journals on our shelves. We have seven English and American journals, including the publications of the American and of the English Chemical Societies. We have 10 German journals, including almost complete files of *Liebig's Annalen* and the "Berichte" of the German Chemical Society, and we have partial files of the *Compte rendu* of the French Academy and the *Journal de Pharmacie et Chemie*.

Mention has already been made of how indispensable to the library worker are those pharmaceutical publications which give in abstract all of the published work of the year. This type of publication is particularly well furnished in chemistry, and in our library we have *Chemical Abstracts* and *Chemisches Centralblatt* as well as practically complete files of Liebig-Kopp "Jahresbericht und die Fortschritte der Chemie" and Wagner-Fischer's "Jahresbericht der Chemischen Technologie."

Let us close by giving a concrete example of what we can do with our library. Choosing at random, suppose we were looking for some information regarding Valerian and its preparations. Turning to Tschirch's "Handbuch der Pharmakognosie" we find 14 pages (Part II, pp. 511-525) given to this subject and in his bibliography there are ten references (to books and journals) to the etymology; 15 to botanical origin; 7 to the culture; 17 to the anatomy; 58 to the chemistry and 7 to the adulteration and uses of the drug. As to the pharmacy of Valerian, we find in the PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION 2 references to the fluidextract, 1 to the tincture, 3 to valerianic acid, 4 to ammonium valerianate. Assuming it is valeric acid and valerates regarding which we wish information, we turn to "Beilstein" and we find reference to the thirty-five papers on iso-valeric acid (the pharmaceutical variety), and in order to complete the bibliography to date since the publication of Beilstein (1899), we find in Liebig-Kopp *Jahresberichte* up to 1908, forty-four references to this valerianic acid, and in the *Chemical Abstracts* of 1909 to 1912, inclusive, seven other articles on valeric acids and preparations of same. And as mentioned above, on our shelves we find a large percentage of the journals in which the original articles were published, thus giving opportunity of reading the paper in full.

The foregoing is but one of many illustrations of the richness of the college library and indicates the service it can render to those desiring information on

practically every phase of pharmacy. It is offered to every one desiring pharmaceutical information and each year its value is becoming more appreciated not only by the drug trade of Greater New York, but also by chemists and physicians of the vicinity.

EDWARD KREMERS.

A number of years ago, the writer visited one of the older colleges of pharmacy. While walking through the building, the sign "Library" attracted his attention. The guide evidently was not over-anxious to show this room to the visitor but was about to pass by. However, the writer's interest would not be denied, so we entered. Of books, none were to be seen. The entire equipment consisted of a table, some chairs, and, if the writer's memory serves him correctly, several cuspidors. The visitor was informed that the students had but little or no use for a library, hence the room had been turned over to them as a smoking room.

I fear that this institution of pharmaceutical learning has not been the only one that has had little or no use for a library. The average student cares little for books other than textbooks and even these he is willing to sell as soon as he is "through with them." So long as faculties and trustees are willing to convert libraries into smoking rooms, we can scarcely blame the students. Better a few shelves with reference books in some corner of an office or balance room than a large room labeled "library" with no books in it. Here as in everything else it is the spirit that pervades the institution rather than a magnificent edifice with costly equipment. We may well rejoice when a college of pharmacy has both, but the absence of either or both need not discourage the smallest faculty from making the most of the few books in its possession.

The question naturally arises what books shall be purchased first with the small sum of money available. Not long ago the writer received a letter to this effect from a colleague in an institution not in the United States, thus showing that one of the first things he thought of was books. An institution headed by such a person will make headway in other directions.

The Pharmacopoeia has been designated the Bible of the pharmacist. The student may be expected to be in possession of the latest edition, but the college library should have a copy of each edition. If evolution is of any value whatever it is of importance in the study of pharmacy and how can you understand the latest edition of the United States Pharmacopoeia without knowing something of how it evolved out of its precursors?

Next to the U. S. Pharmacopoeia come the commentaries thereon. Most of these commentaries are not restricted to the U. S. P., but include one or several of the foreign pharmacopoeias as well. This, naturally, suggests that foreign pharmacopoeias be added as rapidly as funds will permit. Only in the course of years can these foreign series be built up. It will take even longer to secure the various editions of their commentaries.

Having made a good beginning with pharmacopoeias, the librarian will not wait until he has built up a complete collection of these, but will from the very start endeavor to secure complete sets of the three standard annual reports of special value to pharmacy. These are:

1. Report on the Progress of Pharmacy of the A. Ph. A.

2. The corresponding report of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, known as the Yearbook.

3. The "Jahresbericht" of the German Apothecaries Society.

In the study of the Pharmacopoeia these three reports are an indispensable supplement to the commentaries. The reports in turn lead to the purchase of the journals abstracted by the editors of the reports. If it requires some money to purchase the complete sets of these reports, it will require more money, but even more patience, to collect complete files of the journals. If pharmaceutical institutions of learning, in the past, had done their duty so far as the preservation of pharmaceutical journals is concerned, it would be much easier to purchase sets to-day. The very fact that in the past most of them had not sufficient money value for the antiquarian to collect them reflects the past situation.

As already intimated, the collection of series of pharmaceutical journals will require a lifetime, indeed will have to go on forever. However, here also, the librarian will not be doing his duty if he stops to do this and accomplishes little else. Continuing the line of thought first suggested, the "Digest of Comments" published by the Hygienic Laboratory at Washington should be secured. The current numbers, like many other bulletins of this government institution, can be had for the mere asking. Indeed, if the pharmacists of this country had shown a greater interest in this "Digest," it would, no doubt, have been enlarged before this and have been kept up to date. The pharmacists have not half appreciated the work of its editors and of the Laboratory Directors and the Surgeon General in this direction.

These few suggestions may indicate to the inexperienced librarian how to make a good beginning. Nothing has been said thus far about pharmaceutical texts and numerous other books on pharmacy, much less about chemistry, botany and other related sciences. In the libraries of universities these latter will be taken care of by the respective departments. The college library will have the additional task to supply its needs in these directions as well.

The only other suggestion which the writer cares to make at the present time is to humanize the library. The room devoted to library purposes need not be large or its equipment expensive. However, the room should not be a sarcophagus of that which to the student may seem dead. It should be alive with the past. If no other funds are available, the librarian may well leave a book unbound and spend the money for having a suitable picture framed. It is a splendid idea to exhibit in glass cases books, opened to some interesting cut, that are too precious to be exposed to the hands of the thoughtless students. The ingenious librarian will find numerous ways to make his room the most attractive of the college building without converting it into a smoking room.

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#### STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF PHARMACEUTICAL FACULTIES.

President Dye of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties has appointed the following standing committees for 1921-1922:

- No. 1. *On higher educational standards*—D. B. R. Johnson, *Chairman*, W. O. Richtmann, E. O. Kagy, C. E. Mollet, Robert Wilson.
- No. 2. *On faculties*—W. F. Sudro, *Chairman*, H. W. Youngken, C. E. Caspari, A. H. Clark, E. F. Kelly.

- No. 3. *On curriculum and teaching methods*—W. J. Teeters, *Chairman*, L. E. Sayre, E. N. Gathercoal, W. C. Anderson, William Mansfield.
- No. 4. *On activities of students and alumni*—Zada M. Cooper, *Chairman*, F. J. Wulling, E. R. Serles, J. W. Sturmer, Edward Spease.
- No. 5. *On uniform college bulletins*—J. A. Koch, *Chairman*, Jeannot Hostmann, Adolph Ziefle, H. C. Newton, L. C. Bird.
- No. 6. *On relations of pharmacy schools and other professional schools*—L. S. Blake, *Chairman*, C. H. LaWall, W. G. Crockett, W. G. Gregory, A. F. Schlichting.
- No. 7. *On relations of the colleges with the boards*—Jacob Diner, *Chairman*, H. M. Faser, C. P. Wimmer, P. F. Fachenthal, Robert Crowe.
- No. 8. *On examination questions*—G. C. Diekman, *Chairman*, E. L. Newcomb, C. H. Stocking, C. W. Johnson, J. G. Beard.
- No. 9. *On research*—Albert Schneider, *Chairman*, H. V. Arny, Edward Kremers, W. H. Zeigler, C. B. Jordan.

## COUNCIL BUSINESS

### A. PH. A. COUNCIL LETTER No. 10. (Abstract.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 15, 1922.

*To the Members of the Council:*

57. *Plan of Procedure for Committee on A. Ph. A. Headquarters Building*—Motion No. 41, carried.

Prof. Lyman submits the following explanation with his vote:

"I enclose my vote on Motion 51 and I wish to explain why I must oppose the plans of procedure as suggested by the Committee on A. Ph. A. Headquarters Building. I am in sympathy with all of Item 41 except Section 5. Before men will give to the building of a permanent home we must know where that home is to be. This will determine very largely what men will give. We have no money just now to deposit in some penny savings bank at a low rate of interest for some air castle, but we have a little that we might give for a home for the Association when we know where that home is to be. Furthermore, we are not going to locate the permanent home of the Association in some town because they offer us a lot or even a building free of charge. We had better pay a good round sum for a building spot in some location than to have a donation in another place that might determine the policy of the Association in the future. I think the item the committee is trying to leave in the air is the first one to settle. Therefore, I emphatically register my vote against Item 51."

58. *Motion to appropriate \$200 for office supplies for the Committee on A. Ph. A. Headquarters Building*—Carried.

59. *Motion to give Treasurer Kelly the right of*

*access to and control of the contents of the safety deposit vault of the A. Ph. A.*—Carried.

60. *Nominees for Secretary of the Section on Historical Pharmacy (see Item No. 55):* Clyde L. Eddy and E. H. Wisner.

61. *Applicants 185 to 193 elected to active membership.*

62. *Election of active members:* No. 194, Edwin R. Littman, 215 W. Green St., Champaign, Ill.; No. 195, John A. Palmer, Chelsea, Mich.; No. 196, Milton L. Robinson, 248 Broadway, San Diego, Calif.; No. 197, Henry Cleland, 140 West Philadelphia St., Detroit, Mich.; No. 198, Raymond Edward Dockery, 411 East Fourth St., Oil City, Pa.; No. 199, P. H. Dirstine, 701 Linden Ave., Pullman, Wash.; No. 200, Willson Ying Chiang, 1636 New Hampshire St., Lawrence, Kans.; No. 201, Sister M. Mechtildes, Mercy Hospital, Market Ave., North Canton, Ohio; No. 202, Sister Mary Vincent, 5th Ave., E., and 3rd St., Duluth, Minn.; No. 203, Jay Jacob Depuy, 307 West 51st Street, New York, N. Y.; No. 204, Anthony Di Cosola, 740 Independence Blvd., Chicago, Ill.; No. 205, Sister Marie Hortense, 1068 Belmont Ave., Youngstown, Ohio; No. 206, Perley Windsor Howard, 2826 So. Hope St., Los Angeles, Calif.; No. 207, Sister Mary Kierau, 8th and Market Sts., Galveston, Texas; No. 208, Albert B. Hall, 315 N. Capitol Ave., Box 144, Indianapolis, Ind.; No. 209, Frank Bruce Robinson, Merrill, Ore.; No. 210, Sister M. Alice, St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Brighton, Mass.; No. 211, Sister Mary Joseph, 2200 Hayes St., San Francisco, Calif.; No. 212, Arthur Frank Heboing, 13764 Maine Ave., Detroit, Mich.; No. 213, Theodore Albert Zich, 7839 Riopelle Ave., Detroit, Mich.

A. G. DuMEZ, *Secretary.*