

of the tablets, was discussed. Dr. White's address was well received and a vote of thanks was tendered to him.

Reports of the committees appointed at the last meeting were then presented. A. B. Nichols, chairman of the auditing committee, reported that the books of the secretary and treasurer had been examined and found correct. The committee expressed appreciation on finding such a satisfactory balance in the treasury.

The nominating committee made its report through Chairman E. Fullerton Cook. The nominees for 1922-23 were elected, and are as follows:

President—Wm. H. Jenkins, a graduate of University of Iowa College of Pharmacy in '95. He engaged in the retail drug business until 1900 when he joined the U. S. Custom House Service; in 1917 he became attached to the field force of the Department of Agriculture. In 1920, he went with H. K. Mulford Co., as manager of the "Fluid Department."

First Vice-President—Dr. Horace B. Morse, of Temple University. Dr. Morse has been granted leave of absence by the university, for special studies.

Second Vice-President—Wm. R. Decker, a retail pharmacist since 1901, and is active

in all the local and national organizations.

Secretary-Treasurer—Jos. W. E. Harrison, Assistant Chemist, Bureau Foods, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Fraternal Relations Committee: Chairman—Frank E. Morgan, a retail pharmacist since 1881; Dr. Horatio C. Wood, Jr., well known author and member U. S. P. Revision Committee; Joseph W. Noble, president of the Philadelphia Retail Druggists' Association.

Membership Committee: Chairman—Ralph R. Foran, of the Technical Chemistry Department, P. C. P. and S.; J. C. Peacock, president, Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association, and Leo G. Penn, retail pharmacist and member of Temple University teaching staff.

Practical Pharmacy Committee: Chairman—Robert C. White, graduate of the University of Maryland, 1903; formerly connected with Temple University, now president of the Robert C. White Co., Inc.; John K. Thum, apothecary at Lankenau Hospital, and Robert Simpson, retail pharmacist.

Council Member: Dr. Frank E. Stewart.

The new officers of the Branch were installed. President England expressed his appreciation of the coöperation he had received during the year from the members.

JOS. W. E. HARRISSON, *Secretary*.

CORRESPONDENCE

IRREGULARITIES IN THE CONDUCT OF EXAMINATIONS IN ILLINOIS.

The exposé in Illinois regarding irregularities in the conduct of state examinations for licensure of pharmacists, physicians, dentists and "other practitioners," as described in the daily press, notably in the *Chicago Daily Tribune*, is another argument against a system—consolidation of boards—which gives opportunity for the protection of dishonest practices.

While the whole story cannot be told until the State's Attorney's office has had ample opportunity to present its case to the Grand Jury, I feel it my duty, as Secretary of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, to give to the pharmaceutical press a statement of the facts, so far as they may be divulged at this time.

A few of the high points should be set forth at the very beginning:

First: To the credit of pharmacy and pharmacists, let me say that the Pharmacy Examiners themselves in this state are not accused of being responsible for, or of knowingly aiding in, the disgraceful proceedings, although they had begun to suspect that all was not well.

Second: The pharmacy examinations, it now develops, had but a minor part in the plot; medicine, nursing, veterinary medicine, dentistry, chiropractic, osteopathy, etc., etc., were all involved—the "big killings" appear to have been made in medicine.

Third: The irregularities consisted, so it appears at this writing, in supplying advance copies of the state board questions to individuals conducting certain "Quiz" schools who either sold them to their students direct or "fed" them to the students in short review courses of a week or ten days preceding examination. The fees charged ranged from \$200.00 to \$500.00. Lists of names of men who had failed in examination were supplied to these schools and a high-pressure

advertising system was employed in getting them to come in. All the old tactics were used—circular letters every other day: “hurry, hurry, our classes are nearly full”—“you have but two days more”—“it will pay you to see me personally”—etc., etc.

In addition, persons who were not eligible to take the examination because of lack of experience, college graduation, etc., had their admission credits “fixed up” so they could take examination; the prices paid ranging from \$500.00 to \$2500.00 for the privilege of taking the medical examination, this in addition to the fee paid (usually \$200.00) for entrance to the quiz course. It is reported that two osteopath practitioners, a man and a woman, paid \$1100.00 and \$2500.00, respectively, for the privilege of taking the medical examination, which, of course, they passed. Cases are also reported where candidates, after receiving notice of failure in examination, would be visited by a “fixer” and, if the sum demanded was paid, a license would come in due time, but the names of such persons would not be included in the list of successful candidates issued by the Department of Registration and Education for publication.

The wholesale corruption thus exposed, or about to be exposed, is made possible by the consolidation plan in force here in Illinois, which places all examinations for licensure under one head. States contemplating consolidation of Examining Boards or commissions under a central body, department or bureau, whether similar to the Illinois plan or a modification thereof, would do well to inform themselves as to how this plan actually works out.

The writer has given careful study to the proposition, not only from the viewpoint of the Illinois plan, but from every conceivable angle of the many modifications of this plan which have been proposed from time to time, and always arrives at the same conclusion, *viz.*, that the prevailing custom of changing heads of departments or bureaus when political rule changes in a state makes it impossible to guard against the probability of a condition such as exists in Illinois at present.

The consolidation of all examining boards, especially the professions, under one executive head, places in the hands of one man tremendous power, responsibility and temptation. If he is the kind of man to be tempted, the power granted him under the law, together with opportunity to usurp additional power in conducting examinations for licensure in the various professions, gives very great possibilities for loot. Under a broad-gauge executive—a man of vision and integrity—if such a man remained permanently without being subject to removal under changes of political administration, consolidation of boards, properly safeguarded, if that were possible, might be tolerated. Under a “narrow-gauge” politician, who knows no ethics, and who looks upon his office only as a source of personal gain, the possibilities for harm are unlimited. In the changes of personnel incidental to changing administrations, the wrong man will land in office sooner or later and then we have chaos. The safety of the state in this branch of its government would therefore, it appears from experiences we have had, be better protected by having each separate board control its profession.

Having described rather sketchily the major points in the situation, it may not be amiss to describe briefly how the conditions “broke cover” and who seems to be responsible.

In the October 1921 Illinois pharmacy examination—on which examination the writer was one of the examiners—only two of the four sets of questions to be used were sent to the Department of Registration and Education to be printed, as ordered. Two sets were withheld because suspicion had been aroused. In that examination it was discovered, when the answer papers were rated, that several candidates had made unusually high marks on the subjects which had been printed by the department, and notoriously low grades on the subjects printed by the examiners themselves and which were brought in on the morning of the examination. Coupled with this was a “request” from the Director—the head of the department—presented by one of the examiners, that these same men be “put over.”

My connection with the department as an examiner was forthwith severed, as was also that of Mr. Frank W. Kraemer of Chicago, a member of the Board up to that time.

Rumors concerning conditions continued to come in, “short course” schools offering five to ten day courses sprung up over night, in spite of the fact that for the past fifteen years one “short course” school has been ample to take care of applicants for review work—this a high-grade institution with excellent instructors, charging a very moderate fee and making no pretense of “guaranteeing” results. The new schools charged fees of \$200.00 and upward for a few days’

course and guaranteed that the student would pass. Candidates who had failed on examination repeatedly, some of them even failing to obtain assistant registration, suddenly appeared with registered pharmacist certificates. Circumstantial evidence was mighty convincing.

I recognized, as did others, that the condition which had sprung up was a public menace—a plague abroad in the land. I also realized that when conditions in any state reach such a pass that applicants unqualified to take or unable to pass an examination can be “put through,” such a condition, in addition to being a menace to public health, will, if permitted to continue, undermine the principles on which reciprocity is founded.

About March first, I consulted the Attorney General's office and by agreement with him the matter was placed in the hands of the Cook County State's Attorney, with such evidence as I had collected. Men under suspicion were brought in and questioned. Some of them confessed. The *Chicago Tribune* gave due publicity to the hearings and aided materially in securing important evidence. As soon as it became known that the situation was being unearthed, information poured in. The State's Attorney's office now has plenty of evidence for their purpose and more is coming in every day. We expect to go before the April Grand Jury to secure indictments, and then to trial.

It appears that the central figure in the scandal had surrounded himself with relatives and confidants, both inside and outside of his office, and, evidently, thought himself sufficiently entrenched so that it would be impossible to implicate him.

There is much interesting matter to be told, but it must be withheld until the legal requirements are satisfied.

In conclusion, it may be added that the “conspiracy” was of short duration. Illinois is righting itself; 99.9% of our pharmacists are honest, reputable men. Right will prevail here as elsewhere in the long run. Any harm done will be corrected so far as is humanly possible.

The officers of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy came to the support of their secretary at once with letters and telegrams offering both financial and moral support. This support is having a healthy and far-reaching effect on the situation.

In the foregoing I have only alluded to the conditions in this state which make our present undesirable situation possible. In a later article, when we have cleaned up our present muddle, this office will send out a survey of the whole situation, analyzing, so far as possible, fundamental principles, in the hope that it may be of value to states planning changes in their administrative code.

LATER.

Since the foregoing was written, the regular Cook County (Illinois) Grand Jury voted true bills—indictments—charging conspiracy, graft, etc., against the following named persons:

W. H. H. Miller, Director of the Department of Registration and Education.

Dr. Odeon Bourque, Dean of the Chicago Medical College, and head of the National Review System.

K. A. Fries, son-in-law of W. H. H. Miller, a clerk in the department, in charge of educational qualifications of applicants for examination, and having various other duties giving him access to examinations and examination records.

William S. Bromarczyk, a druggist reported to have failed in examination but to have received a license.

It is expected that several other indictments will follow, and that early trial dates will be fixed.

H. C. CHRISTENSEN, Secretary National Association of Boards of Pharmacy.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

- A. PH. A. COUNCIL LETTER NO. 11. 64. Applicants Nos. 194-213 elected to active membership.
 WASHINGTON, D. C., April 3, 1922.
 To the Members of the Council: 65. Francis E. Bibbins has been elected Council Representative from Indianapolis Branch, to succeed Frank R. Eldred.
 63. Mr. Clyde L. Eddy has been elected Secretary of the Section on Historical Pharmacy. 66. Election of active members: No. 214,