

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF PHARMACEUTICAL FACULTIES

PROGRAM FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE—1922,
AT CLEVELAND, OHIO.

The Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Conference is at work upon the program for the next annual meeting which will be held at Cleveland, Ohio. He feels that the annual meeting of the Conference should be something more than an attempt to merely clear off the routine work of the Conference and the reports of committees.

He feels that one of the weakest points in our system of educational work is the lack of library facilities and our inability to use what we have to advantage. He is quite sure that were he to visit the schools belonging to the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties to-day and should ask to see the institution he would be more frequently directed away from the college library than he would to it. In other words, not many of the Conference schools would be proud of their library facilities.

It is a well-known fact that pharmacists are not readers, and the average pharmacy student shows contempt for reading and does just as little as he can. It is certain that we cannot become progressive in our efforts until we do become readers of our own literature, as well as that of related and more general subjects. The Chairman of the Committee, then, would welcome any papers upon the subject of libraries and library work, to be included in the Cleveland program.

Another matter which must be stressed at this time is the matter of practical dispensing experience. There seems to be a feeling just at this time among board members that the college of pharmacy and not the drug store is the place where a man should get actual experience in compounding. While this feeling is in the air it is very important that we stress methods of improving the teaching and giving experience in prescription work. The chairman will appreciate papers from anyone upon this subject.

He further asks for suggestions from everyone as to how the next Conference program may be improved. The 1922 meeting should be the most profitable that we have ever had.

Dean Rudd of Virginia has recently called the attention of the Chairman to the fact that students are failing in one Conference school and then going to other Conference schools and continuing their studies uninterrupted. He has made the suggestion that the time has come when no Conference school should accept a student from another Conference school without a complete transcript of studies completed in the school from which he comes. Some Conference schools are already requiring this to be done but there are others that are not and it is becoming an annoying matter. This will come up for discussion, and if there are other questions of an executive or teaching nature that should be discussed in the coming meeting, the Chairman hopes he will be informed at once.

RUFUS A. LYMAN,

Chairman of the Executive Committee.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, WILBER J. TEETERS.*

A review of the history of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties is of value, for each meeting furnishes a cornerstone from which to measure progress.

President Rudd and his predecessors have given very comprehensive reviews and I shall take for granted that you are familiar with these reports. No argument is necessary, I take it, to convince you that progress has been made along educational and other lines. Too much progress possibly for the ultra-conservative and by far too little for the distinctively progressive.

* Delivered before the 1921 meeting of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties, New Orleans.

With your permission, I prefer to take up a few of the problems that have to do with the future of pharmacy and the work of the colleges. To my mind the most vital problems of the Conference have to do with internal development of the colleges themselves. If this is carried out some of the problems that have bothered us in the past will take care of themselves. I wish to state at the beginning that I have always been a progressive but have honestly tried to be fair and have endeavored to see both sides of all questions.

I have heard the arguments pro and con in all the meetings of the Conference with but one or two exceptions, and am thoroughly convinced that there is a lot of human nature in this world. It appears that most of us are interested in and are working for the things that we think will benefit us personally or our particular institutions.

I have often wondered if the day will ever come when we, as a Conference, can work, vote and decide what is the right thing for pharmacy as a profession and leave self and the almighty dollar out of the question. I have the highest regard for pharmacy as a profession and the men connected with it as a whole, but a review of the Proceedings of this Conference reveals some things that some of the prominent members of the Conference ought to wish could be erased. I have no respect for the man who is not sincere in his expressed convictions.

We might just as well use every-day, ordinary horse sense and come to the general and united conclusion that if pharmacy is to progress as a profession it will have to move forward with the advance of general education. Arguments not supported by facts, and resolutions do not convince anyone that pharmacy should be recognized as a learned profession. The camouflage is too thin. Pharmacy will take its rightful place only when the final qualifications are up to university standards. This means high school graduation for entrance, and university requirements for graduation, with this three-day-a-week combination course eliminated. The Conference goes to high school graduation in 1923, but this is too late by several years to save some of the respect for pharmacy that should belong to it.

LIBRARIES.

The work of many colleges could be strengthened and improved by better libraries and better library facilities.

A few of the colleges have most excellent pharmaceutical libraries and adequate library facilities. Among these should be mentioned the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy; also belonging to this class are most of the colleges in connection with state universities, but not all.

A satisfactory pharmaceutical library should be considered as essential to the school equipment as apparatus is, and it should include the current drug journals and bound volumes of the same, both American and foreign.

I well remember being sent by this Conference a few years ago to make an investigation of a college that had made application for membership. I asked to be shown the library and imagine my surprise upon being shown a copy of the United States Pharmacopoeia, ten years out of date, and a copy of "Remington's Practice of Pharmacy." We all admit the value of these books but they do not make a complete library in themselves.

Books are an important item not only in institutional equipment, but are absolutely necessary for the personal equipment of the faculty. It takes money to buy books and every budget should have a liberal yearly allowance for books. When the work of the pharmacy colleges is extended to three years, I hope that the Syllabus Committee may include a library course which, among other things, will teach students how to use a scientific and reference library to advantage.

DRUG GARDENS.

Drug gardens are being conducted in connection with several colleges of pharmacy. The demand during the world war for drugs that had been grown commercially only in Europe was the primary stimulus for drug gardens in connection with colleges. The work has proved interesting and profitable, and at a few institutions it has reached the stage of commercial proportions. The work of the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy on digitalis and the supplying of assayed tincture for army use, and the work of the College of Pharmacy of the University of Wisconsin in volatile oils are worthy of special mention.

Drug gardens should be used as a practical laboratory in connection with the work of colleges of pharmacy in the departments of botany and of pharmacology.

ENDOWMENTS.

A short time ago the press carried the story that Amherst College at its centennial celebration had present almost three thousand out of its five thousand graduates and former students, and that they completed the three million dollar endowment, two million five hundred thousand dollars of which was raised in four days. The loyalty shown for some of our colleges and the apparent ease with which they put over vast endowment funds are truly astounding.

Attention is called to this, for the future of pharmacy, as far as private colleges are concerned, will be determined largely by endowments of some form. The tuition paid by students no longer is adequate to cover the expense of a pharmaceutical education. Moreover the tuition in most state institutions is merely a nominal sum and the deficit is absorbed by the state. In private institutions a different problem of trying to break even is presented, and can be met only by cutting expenses, which results in either inferior and inadequate equipment or inferior teaching (low salaries) or both. Very few colleges of pharmacy have been fortunate enough to receive large endowment gifts. What will be done in the future no one can tell, but large gifts do not seem to be moving that way.

The Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, principally through the generosity of one man, has secured what is without question the finest and best building devoted exclusively to pharmacy in the United States, if not in the world. The Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, the pioneer in America, has this year celebrated its centennial, and the authorities are conducting an endowment campaign for two million dollars. It would seem that if their alumni and former students are as loyal as the alumni of private literary colleges are, they should be successful. Philadelphia is the oldest college of pharmacy in the United States and has had an honorable record. We hope the endowment plan will be successful.

FACULTIES.

Too little attention has been given to the personnel of the faculties, and in many cases the salaries are inadequate to secure the best talent. The time is here when

the major subjects in pharmacy should be taught by full-time professors and the remuneration made adequate. Time should be allowed for research to those capable of doing research work, and conditions in general altered so that side issues are not necessary in order to live respectably.

I recommend, therefore, that this Conference go on record as favoring full-time professors for major subjects and adequate salaries. Boards of education, regents or directors ought to be convinced of the importance of this forward step, and action by this Conference will be the means of calling their attention to it.

STANDARDIZATION OF COLLEGES.

The question of an investigation looking to the standardization of the colleges has been under discussion for a long time. In the beginning little was done more than to discuss the subject, for it was evident that some did not care to be classified. Sufficient time has been given to adjust conditions and an urgent appeal was made last year to the Carnegie Foundation, but it is evident that this work, if carried out reasonably soon, must be done by the Conference itself.

Nothing that we could do would advance the work of legitimate pharmacy schools more. It would separate the sheep from the goats. It is time to know what the actual standing of every college of pharmacy happens to be. I recommend, therefore, that this Conference pay for such an investigation, and that the result be published in full, and that the expense be pro-rated among the members of the Conference.

CONSOLIDATION OF PHARMACY COLLEGES.

An absorption or consolidation of pharmacy colleges has been slowly but steadily taking place. The results are for the betterment of pharmacy. I predict that many more changes of this kind will take place in the next few years. Re-adjustments must take place and are but natural to expect; especially will this be true as requirements and higher standards of teaching are demanded, for colleges must compete for talented men with commercial institutions, to a certain extent.

The university atmosphere of culture and refinement may do a lot to hold good men for a time, but the salary must approach, at least in a measure, a man's earning power along other lines.

A number of changes have taken place within the membership of the Conference, namely, Medico-Chirurgical absorbed by the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, Northwestern absorbed by the University of Illinois, Cleveland taken over by the Western Reserve University.

HIGH SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS IN 1923.

The Conference has gone on record, as well as the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, in regard to the high school requirements to become effective in September 1923. As might have been anticipated, the "go slow" interests already think they see the utter destruction of pharmacy by this, as they think, radical educational requirement. When this resolution was adopted the date was purposely placed far enough in advance so that sufficient time would be given for all to adjust themselves to the new conditions.

That the pharmacy colleges will not be patronized, or that there will be no applicants before the boards, is not substantiated by the facts, for in every case of which I have knowledge the increased requirements have resulted in more students

and in students of better quality. Men and women of ability and educational qualifications are selecting pharmacy colleges with high standards. It is not reasonable to suppose that students of ability and culture care to be associated in classes with educational cripples; by educational cripples, I mean students without high school preparation. I make the statement, and am not afraid of successful contradiction, that the boys or girls, at the present time, who do not finish high school, or get an equivalent education, are handicapped for the remainder of their lives by this fact, if they enter any profession; pharmacy is no exception. I certainly should not intentionally do or advocate anything to injure or hinder pharmacy as a profession in carrying out its great mission, as I see it, of service to the people. I am thoroughly convinced that pharmacy must advance educationally with other professions, if it is to command continued respect as a profession and serve as it should the best interests of humanity.

ASSISTANT PHARMACISTS.

The work of the Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties and the work of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy have on the whole been coöperative. It is a well-recognized fact that all real progress must be by coöperation of these two organizations, and the spirit in which the National Association of Boards has handled problems is very commendable and it should have due credit for the progress that has been made.

It is the National Association of Boards that has the final word in regard to who may practice pharmacy. The Conference can lend support, but is without power except in a recommendatory way.

The question of the assistant pharmacist is a vital question bearing upon the future of pharmacy, so attention is called to the requirements (educationally) that should be demanded before candidates may be eligible for examination as assistants.

It is my firm conviction that no candidate should be allowed to take the assistant pharmacist examination until he has completed high school or its equivalent as a basis for his work. Less education as a basis upon which to build a profession is not accepted in any other recognized field of endeavor.

The main objection is the fact that the candidate, if allowed to qualify with less education, is thereby handicapped in ever completing his college course, for it is not at all likely, after the candidate gets assistant registration, that he will go back to high school to complete his course.

I recommend therefore, in the interests of the future of pharmacy as a profession and in the best interests of the candidates themselves, that this Conference go on record as opposed to assistant registration being granted until the candidate has, at least, completed high school work or its equivalent.

IRRITATION OF SENATORIAL EPIDERMIS.

Mustard plasters had a great day in the U. S. Senate last month. No longer can it be said that pharmacy receives no attention there, for eight hours of the nation's time of one day were consumed in debate on this hot proposition when the tariff on mustard plasters was

under heated discussion. The question of the tariff on more important items like vinegar quite naturally required more of the Senate's time, involving calculations of anticipated revenues that will hasten slowly returning normalcy.—E. G. E.