

# THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF PHARMACEUTICAL FACULTIES\*

## SHOULD STUDENTS BE SELECTED?

BY FREDERICK J. WULLING.

Some colleges are now selecting from applicants for admission those best fitted to profit by the courses they wish to pursue. The applicants must first of all meet certain prescribed minimum scholastic requirements. The selection is then made from among those who meet those requirements.

It is not my purpose to go into the basis or method of selection except to say that the intelligence test is in my opinion the best single test. It is by no means the only one but if the applicant fails to reach at least the average intelligence quotient (I. Q.), he ought not to be regarded as qualified to submit to additional tests. With only an average I. Q. must go industry, earnestness and determination. The intelligence test alone usually indicates the limitations of the person's intellectual working capacity. If he lacks in this one respect, no matter how good his intentions, his morals, his application to work are, he will never be successful in a calling requiring a higher I. Q.

It is evident to all observing educators, and to others as well, that too great a number of unqualified persons are going to colleges of all kinds at present. I am not speaking of primary or secondary education but of the higher education provided by academic and professional colleges. In the primary education especially, but also in the secondary, the education should be adapted and suited to the pupil. Persons wanting to go to institutions of higher learning, must sooner or later be made to show that available and reliable tests indicate their fitness to be members of the higher callings. There are many persons in the professions of all kinds who are unqualified, inherently or educationally, and who would have been more successful and happier had they become good artisans. Possibly such persons are not to blame; no one may have advised them. But as the complexity of our society and civilization increases, more thought, discrimination and order must be injected into the necessity of thoughtfully and willingly considering his relations and obligations to society at large. Where he does not do this himself, society is increasingly doing it for him. There is the individual duty and the collective duty. The latter, where it is clear and unquestioned, is expressed in a large measure by statutes and laws. In the remaining degree, this collective duty is carried out by those having administrative and directive powers either by virtue of office or by their particular fitness or qualification or interest. But these are always in the minority. Often they are helped by public opinion, even actuated by it. This minority is made up of fairly level-headed individuals and organizations of the right kinds, who are consciously or unconsciously solving or attempting to solve problems as they arise who look forward to apply the experience and lessons of the past and present to the future, in order that man may have more happiness

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\* The contributions in this issue by Dean Frederick J. Wulling conclude the papers sent in for this Department by Chairman R. A. Lyman of the Executive Committee, A. C. P. F. His successor, Prof. C. B. Jordan, now assumes the former's duties in the conduct of this Department.

and joy and less hardship. This minority does the thinking and the planning for the great majority and indicates and fixes standards of all kinds. It is an agency for, and doing, affirmative work in the interest of all. A spirit of positive progress animates it and this spirit is ever at work and accounts for our development. It is this spirit that is suggesting and in a fair measure already applying the idea or principle of selection for the recruiting of the higher callings.

Emphasis is placed upon the value of selection from two points. First, more persons are seeking admission to colleges than ever before, actually and relatively, and a larger proportion of these is unqualified. Second, the financial burden of educating or attempting to educate the unqualified is heavy and militates directly against the qualified and hence against society at large.

There is no question in my mind that pharmacy is not better off because of the intellectually and ideally unqualified in its ranks. Every calling is thus handicapped, but some of these are protecting themselves by selection. Those whom they do not select, other callings get and pharmacy has a goodly number of those who could not for instance qualify for medicine or law. Ought not pharmacy to protect itself similarly? If we all had the right sort of regard for our calling we would quickly set up standards that would be more according to the scope and responsibility of our profession.

Some blame the colleges for the poorly qualified among us. The colleges taken together must acknowledge some shortcoming in this respect but they certainly have done as much upward work as possible with the comparatively little support the profession at large has given them. Some of them are ready now to apply selection in the determination of those to be admitted. If past experiences of the colleges who periodically advance their standards continue, such colleges will be glad if the proposed selection of students is not actively opposed, but on the other hand I believe the number of thinkers and workers for better pharmacy is increasing and that upward steps are receiving more support than ever.

To give more force to what I have said, possibly I may be pardoned for giving a concrete example of the need of selection. There were admitted to the College of Pharmacy of the University of Minnesota last September a total of sixty-nine freshmen, all of whom with two exceptions (war specials) met the full high school and subject requirement within the high school curriculum requirement. Of these, eleven dropped out before the end of the first quarter, on account of inability to keep up with the college scholastic progress. At the end of the first quarter sixteen additional freshmen failed to make passing marks in most of their subjects and they now are on probation during the second quarter with the prospect of being dropped at the end of the quarter. First-year students in other colleges of which I know quite generally seem to be less qualified than freshmen were several years ago.

Inquiries that I have made have brought out the fact that most of the dropped students in a number of colleges came from families and environment that clearly indicated lack of background for higher learning and all that goes with it. These students ought not alone to be blamed for wasting three months or a year of their time and the time and expense involved in finding out their unfitness. Some one else or a proper agency should have done this for them in their own interest and in that of the State. Such an agency would pay for itself over and over in many ways.

Schools of medicine, education, law, business, now require two years of academic college work before admission to professional courses. Engineering, dentistry and some other colleges require one academic college year preparation for entrance to their technical courses. Selection goes on during these two years. Those who survive the prerequisite year or two are quite likely capable of going on to the professional schools, but even some of these have reached their intellectual limitation and cannot carry the higher work. Pharmacy has no such or any other agency for selection, although its work and service are comparable in extent and responsibilities with those of other professions.

In a later paper I will take up the economic and other losses involved in the attempt to train or educate the intellectually unfit or unprepared.

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### ELIMINATE THE UNFIT AT THE SOURCE.

It appears that applicants for entrance upon next year's course in the colleges of pharmacy are much earlier and in greater numbers than usual, but I seriously doubt the correctness of the statement made to me by a New York editor, that "practically all of the colleges of pharmacy have enrolled all the students they can accommodate for the term beginning next fall and they have already turned away many fully qualified applicants for matriculation because the classes are already filled." If the statement is true, there is occasion for rejoicing because some colleges would thus find themselves enabled to raise their requirements to proper standards. This would reduce the number of matriculants but increase the quality. The present need of pharmacy is not greater numbers but greater quality on part of entrants. Of course some will challenge my claim that altogether too many are entering pharmacy at the present time. No one could successfully hold that the public of this country is in need of the enormous increase in drug stores that we have experienced during the very recent past. It was reported not long ago that the City of New York increased its number of drug stores by fully one thousand. The same claim was made for Chicago and relative reports came from practically all parts of the country. These seem exaggerated figures but that there has been an unprecedented and unnecessary increase in the number of drug stores everywhere cannot be controverted. This increase following upon the prohibition legislation leads to an obvious conclusion and prompts my suggestion that applicants for entrance into the ranks of pharmacy, especially the older ones, should be subjected to the utmost scrutiny and inquiry into their intellectual and ethical standards that would make a further debauching of our profession more difficult.

We do not need more students nor more pharmacists if we base our measure upon the professional pharmaceutical needs of the people. The colleges can and no doubt will accommodate themselves to the legitimate demand growing out of the prerequisite requirements. They should not be censured for not being able to meet (if that is the case) a most unusual and sudden demand upon their facilities, a demand not due entirely nor very largely to the prerequisite. The colleges ought to make selection among their applicants, limiting the number selected to their facilities. The bases of selection should be carefully fixed. A little backbone and

determination put into such a procedure would discourage a large percentage of those who are unfit by education and disposition to become useful and ethical members of our ranks. I say this without hesitation because I have personal knowledge of the success of this sort of discouragement with certain persons of unethical and parasitical inclinations.

Let me employ this opportunity of repeating what I have often said before: that the colleges will never suffer reduction in enrollment because of advance in entrance requirements. It has been our experience and also the experience of others that as entrance requirements and even fees are increased, no reduction in enrollment but rather increase follows. The logical thing to do therefore is to increase requirements to a point that will eliminate the unfit as well as the unscrupulous at the source.

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PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY AND SCIENCE WILL CONTINUE ITS FREE POPULAR SCIENCE LECTURES.

The free Popular Science Lectures will be continued semi-monthly at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science during the winter. Popular Science talks will also be broadcasted from one of Philadelphia's Broadcasting Stations, following up the program inaugurated last spring. The attendance at the lectures is good and has brought the audiences into a better relation and understanding of pharmacy. Reference is made chiefly for the purpose of inducing institutions elsewhere to arrange for programs that will present opportunities for informing the public of the importance of pharmacy and pharmacy schools.

SOFT DRINK REGISTRATION RULES.

Treasury Decision 3517, issued recently by the Internal Revenue Bureau, amending various regulations relating to registry under the internal revenue laws, required the registration of "every manufacturer of cereal beverages; of unfermented fruit juices or imitations thereof; of still drinks; of natural or artificial mineral waters or table waters, or imitations thereof; of finished or fountain sirups; of carbonic acid gas who sells such gas to a manufacturer of carbonated beverages, or to a person conducting a soda fountain, ice cream parlor, or other similar place of business; of carbonic acid gas who uses such gas in the production of carbonated beverages; of carbonated beverages made with concentrates, essences or extracts; of carbonated beverages made by use of finished or fountain sirups

manufactured by such manufacturer; and every person conducting a soda fountain, ice cream parlor, or other similar place of business who manufactures any syrups of the kind mentioned in article 13."

The law provides a penalty of \$1000 for failure to register or for failure to keep certificate of registration posted.

COMPOSITION OF SOME MIXTURES SOLD FOR MAKING ALLEGED GENUINE EUROPEAN WINES.

By L. F. Kebler.

This country was for some time flooded with literature offering to sell mixtures for the manufacture of various wines possessing genuine flavors and aromas. No grapes were required for this purpose, as will be shown by the following:

In one case the mixtures were alleged to be infected with bacilli for fermentation purposes and found to consist of barley; rose hips, European mountain ash, St. John's bread; another sample in addition to the above contained dried figs, dyed, and still another contained weed seeds and some artificially dyed wood. From these mixtures, by following the instructions, may be prepared most any wine desired. Among those enumerated may be mentioned, Rhine, Moselle, Port, Tokay and Bordeaux.

In other instances alleged concentrates of the various wines were offered to regenerate genuine Burgundy, Malaga, Port, Bordeaux, etc., guaranteed to possess the same bouquets, body, alcohol content, etc., as the respective genuine wines.

In every instance the use of the mails was denied.