

THE STANDARDIZATION OF SCHOOLS OF PHARMACY.*

BY WILLIAM B. DAY.

Standardization is the topic of the day. Standardization of drugs, chemicals and galenicals occupies the attention of the revision committees of the United States Pharmacopœia and National Formulary. Standards for state licensing examinations, drug store experience and educational qualifications are prominent in the deliberations of our affiliated organization, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. The American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties is discussing educational requirements, standards for admission to schools of pharmacy, standards for the courses given by these schools, standards for the equipment of the schools and even suggests standardizing the faculties themselves!

The American Pharmaceutical Association is vitally interested in all these matters but in none more than in the standardization of the schools of pharmacy, for this bears directly on the one thing that is of supreme importance to the A. Ph. A., namely, the development of pharmacy and the determination of its status as a profession.

Our schools of pharmacy are making progress—for which the A. C. P. F. deserves much credit—but we are still far behind our allied professions of medicine and dentistry. Will pharmacists and the public support more rapid progress toward higher standards?

We hear much of the commercialization of pharmacy, and even a casual observer must note that conditions in pharmacy have changed greatly in the last decade. Such commercialization seems unavoidable—it appears also in other professions—but it does not necessitate a lowering of ideals, for the pharmacist of to-day remains primarily a pharmacist—his professional knowledge and skill fix his status in the estimation of his patrons, and since he has accepted the responsible duties of the pharmacist he is bound to discharge them faithfully.

With the change in the manner of conducting drug stores comes a change in the value of the experience gained therein—at least insofar as this “practical experience” is a qualification for the license to practice. Hence the need for schools of pharmacy to supply more comprehensive training and more extended laboratory courses. Yet, the education of the pharmacist and the development of pharmacy go hand in hand. Neither can make headway without the other.

For these reasons I venture to present to this Section rather than to the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties this brief discussion of the standardization of colleges of pharmacy and to sound a warning against the establishing of standards that may hinder rather than promote the professional development of pharmacy.

Standards for schools of pharmacy are necessary, but they should be broad standards, capable of general application and, of course, only intended as a minimum upon which development along several lines may be based. Schools of pharmacy must develop according to their opportunities and their environment; they cannot all, like the victims of Procrustes, be made to fit the same bed. Important as the teaching work is, the activities of the school of pharmacy must not cease there.

* Read before Section on Education and Legislation, A. Ph. A., Cleveland meeting, 1922.

Just as the objective of the pharmacist should be of service to his community, both as a pharmacist and a citizen, rather than the amassing of personal wealth, so the school of pharmacy should aim to be of service to the pharmacists and to the citizens of their city and state. The school should be a clearing house for pharmaceutical knowledge. Its library and its collections should be available to the pharmacists and the public. Its faculty should endeavor to help pharmacists with their problems and be able to take an active part in affairs. It should, in fact, be a center for things pharmaceutical.

Schools who train for leadership deserve our praise—honor to them! But intelligent followers are no less important than leaders. Unless the rank and file select their leaders wisely and support them effectively, good leadership is impossible.

Schools must prepare their students to be *pharmacists* rather than to prepare them "for pharmacy." This implies broadening the courses and giving them greater cultural value, and yet the young men and women who are graduated by the school and thereby stamped with its approval have the right to expect that they shall also be able to qualify for the practice of pharmacy by passing the state examination. This condition will continue so long as the examination given by the board of pharmacy is the standard whereby the qualification for practice is finally determined. It therefore becomes necessary for the schools to consider the nature and scope of these board examinations in shaping their courses.

Whatever standards are established for schools of pharmacy, their reputation will be fixed and their usefulness judged by their fruits—their alumni. So let us not bind them too closely by *material* standards, of buildings, of equipment, of libraries, important as these are, but let us also consider the use that is made of these advantages, the place which the school of pharmacy occupies in its community, the *esprit de corps* of its faculty and students, and the professional standing of its alumni.

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PHARMACEUTICAL EVENTS IN 1822.*

BY OTTO RAUBENHEIMER.

Following up my previous efforts, I herewith beg to present a continuation of "Pharmaceutical Events a Hundred Years Ago." Although my notes on this subject are quite voluminous, being a compilation of many years, great care has to be exercised to exclude any errors, which are quite common in historical accounts. Let us hope that this paper will help to arouse a little more interest in that much neglected subject, "History of Pharmacy." The arrangement of the paper is similar to that of last year.

I. GENERAL INTEREST.

Greek independence declared on January 27, 1822.

Mexico an empire.

A number of South American countries became independent of Spain.

Brazil separated from Portugal, in commemoration of which event a Brazilian International Centennial Exposition will be held at Rio Janeiro in September 1922.

* Read before Section on Historical Pharmacy, A. Ph. A., Cleveland meeting, 1922.