

# THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF PHARMACEUTICAL FACULTIES

[EDITORS NOTE.—The membership of the Conference has always recognized the necessity, as a factor of progress, of having some sort of classification of the pharmacy schools of America. Every board of pharmacy has felt this need as well, for the purpose of registration within the various states. So keenly has the Conference felt this need that annually for a number of years it has, either through its officers, its executive committee, or a specially appointed committee, implored the Carnegie Foundation to undertake this work, but to no avail. The Conference, with considerable difficulty, set its own standards for membership and has, with greater difficulty, been able slowly to increase these standards. At the present time, one of its standing committees, that on Higher Educational Standards, is at work on a plan of classification. The feeling against any self-attempted plan of standardization and classification, however, is so keen, that at the meeting at Cleveland, Ohio, in 1922, the Conference instructed its officers not to print the results of the efforts of the committee on Higher Educational Standards before they had been passed upon by the Conference in annual convention assembled. The Editor, however, cannot comprehend how any plan suggested by any committee or individual could possibly do any harm and suggestions coming in the interval between meetings might furnish food for constructive thought which would be very valuable at the time of the annual meeting.

The Editor has received advance copy of an editorial by Mr. A. L. I. Winne, of the Virginia Board, which has since been printed in the February number of the *Virginia Pharmacist*. The title of the article is, "Lay the Yard Stick on Schools of Pharmacy." The article is a keen analysis of the whole problem and teems with constructive thought. The Editor of the Conference Department has asked Mr. Winne to permit him to publish it in the Conference section of the JOURNAL so that it may be read by practically every one interested in pharmaceutical education. Mr. Winne gave his consent and the Editor assumes entire responsibility for its publication.

RUFUS A. LYMAN, *Chairman, Executive Committee and Conference Editor.*]

## LAY THE YARD STICK ON SCHOOLS OF PHARMACY.

For several years there has been agitation in certain quarters for a proper classification of the schools of pharmacy of the United States, and for obvious reasons there has been thinly veiled opposition to such a procedure, and obstructions have been placed across the pathway of progress by those with axes to grind.

It probably remains for someone to determine what shall constitute the standard of perfection by which these schools may be segregated into the sheep herd and the goat herd, and there has been effort put forth to establish this ideal standard. So far little progress has been made. The American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties have had a committee at work on the matter for several years. They have registered progress; they have not set forth any standard by which the relative quality of any given school may be determined. As one state after another adopts prerequisite pharmacy legislation they are confronted with this problem of recognition of the schools teaching pharmacy. The state boards are forced to grope in the dark and weed out the ineligible and establish a list of those acceptable under their particular laws. It is a tiresome process, and is gone about from different viewpoints by different states. How much saner would be a nationally established standard of quality, proficiency, eligibility—what you please—so long as it is a recognized standard, and one that any state might accept in good faith.

Realizing the improbability of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties ever coming to a common agreement on the subject—and it would be miraculous if they should, sitting as judge and jury, as it were, at the bar before which their own cases must be tried—the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, at their meeting in Cleveland last August, discussed the advisability of undertaking this work in behalf of the ever-increasing number of state boards that are facing the problems presented by a lack of their proper solution. In the latter part of September Secretary Christensen, acting upon the adoption of a resolution providing for a com-

mittee to "formulate rules and regulations by which 'reputability' or recognition of schools of pharmacy or colleges of pharmacy and departments of pharmacy of universities may be determined with a view of compiling a list of these institutions, so that both rules and lists may be available for the individual state boards of pharmacy," sent out a letter inviting suggestions to be placed at the disposal of the proposed committee. We do not know what response he has received, other than the suggestion offered by Virginia, which is embodied herewith.

We believe that the N. A. B. P. has not put its finger upon a softer spot than this very one of evaluating the schools of the country which are teaching pharmacy, since its inception. We do not know of a more constructive piece of work that the organization could undertake. It should be tackled in a whole-hearted fashion—set the line, hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may. Carried through to a definite conclusion the work would do much toward accomplishing desired legislative reform, facilitate reciprocal exchanges, and hasten the day of uniformity of procedure on the part of the individual boards, so much desired.

That there is the necessity that some organization undertake this work is conceded, and it seems to the writer not only an opportunity for the N. A. B. P. to score, there is even something of the aspect of an obligation to perform, a distinct service for its constituent members. The A. C. P. F. should not be left to work this out alone. Knowing this organization's make-up, its aims and ambitions, its factional divisions—all perfectly natural manifestations of a virile body steadily working toward the accomplishment of an ideal condition, but divided as to the route it should take and the duration of the journey—they should be assisted materially by the boards, or the work taken entirely out of their hands. The N. A. B. P. certainly has the whip hand in the matter if it is disposed to wield it. The boards can force the schools to any reasonable standards they may set. These standards in turn, of course, would be largely determined by the character of the laws under which the several state boards had to operate. This would insure sanity. It is our belief that many of the schools are more than anxious to have their own reputability established according to some recognized standard; many others need but to be shown wherein they are deficient and they will willingly adjust their affairs so as to come within the ideal conception of the standard of eligibility. The need of the day is the establishment of a standard—adherence to this standard may be left to take care of itself. The law of self-preservation will assert itself as occasion arises.

A competent committee of N. A. B. P. members should be empowered to undertake this work, and they should be accorded a reasonable latitude in securing such outside professional aid as they may deem necessary. The secretary of the organization should be an active member of this committee, because of his familiarity with the organization's affairs, and the work he has already done toward the collection of information from member boards with respect to their attitude toward the schools at the present time. No member of this committee should be permitted to pass upon the eligibility of a school located within his own state, and for this reason the committee should be subject to such necessary changes as the president might see fit to make. We do not believe that any member would want to participate in the appraisal of a school within his own state.

The first work to be taken up by such a committee would probably be the determination of what factors should be considered of paramount importance—in the light of the avowed aims and ideals of the N. A. B. P., for the evaluation ought to be approached as one undertaken to satisfy the demands of this organization. If in the future we come to a realization that better standards have been attained than we have formulated it will be a simple matter to discard the old and adopt the new. We are at present outside the threshold of the whole matter. So far no one has done anything but talk about the desirability of having the work done and to wish that somehow it had already been done by somebody else.

Considered in the above light, the first item that would seem to suggest itself would be the number of years of high school preparation required by a given school as a prerequisite for matriculation. Our program calls for four years of such training, or its equivalent. That would give us a starting point. The number of full time teachers employed by a school is another. The number of hours of class room work and laboratory practice, and whether these are given as day instruction—that is, prior to 6 P.M.—and whether a school is maintained as a three day school or a five or six day school. This latter is of importance, since there are schools having large attendance which crowd the class rooms and laboratories to overflowing in order to measure up

to the number of hours per year that are demanded, but who teach their junior classes only three days a week and their senior classes only three days a week. It is obvious that such schools cannot do as complete justice to their students as schools that maintain a five or six day a week schedule for all their students. The attention given to the dispensing of medicinals by students under training is another important matter which most schools ignore almost entirely. Attention should be given to this matter in any evaluation. A student who perfunctorily slaps together a prescription destined for the slop-can will never learn to assume the responsibility which is instilled by the filling of prescriptions destined to be consumed by actual patients.

The determination of classification it would seem to us could most acceptably be based primarily upon the number of years of high school preparation demanded by a school of its matriculates, and other factors be treated as collateral. This would at least furnish a basis to start from. With this basis adopted all such schools as demand four years of high school work, or its equivalent properly established by state educational authorities, as a prerequisite for matriculation, could be classed as "A" schools. A school that demanded this of its matriculates, and in addition maintained a five or six day week, and lived up to requirements in regard to hours of class room work and laboratory practice, maintained a proper number of full time teachers, and in every other respect maintained standards equal to those regarded as the standard, could then be rated as an A-1 school. One that nearly approached the ideal, but was lacking in some one respect, might be classed as an A-2 school. One which lived up to the ideal in all respects except in two or more instances could be grouped as A-3 or A-4. Such schools as met all the requirements except in the matter of high school work, and demanded but three years of such preparation for entrance, could be classified as B-1. Those of the three year group showing deficiencies could be grouped similarly to the "A" groupings, that is, as B-2, B-3 and B-4 schools. Such schools as demanded only two years of high school work for admittance could likewise be grouped as C-1, C-2, etc. Those with only one year high school requirements could be carried in a D class. It would hardly be worth while to dignify with any recognition the quacks, quizzers, correspondence schools and night schools which are attempting to teach pharmacy.

With some such ratings impartially attached to schools of pharmacy no state board would need to hesitate to accord recognition to such as were worthy of their approval. It would not necessarily follow that a given state board would want to recognize, for instance, only A-1 schools, or even any of the class A schools exclusively; they might be in a position to recognize the class A, the class B, and perhaps the other classes. That is not the point. The fact that the schools would have been officially classified by a recognized organization in which all boards have confidence would go a long way toward dissipating the uncertainty with which applicants are occasionally accepted for state board examinations, and would remove the possibility of injustice being done a worthy applicant, whose application might be rejected because of the uncertainty involved. With the N. A. B. P. stamp of approval upon a school its applicants could be accepted for examination by all boards with a greater degree of confidence that they were not being imposed upon. And we are further of the opinion that it would be a matter of but a short time till we had a large group of A-1 pharmacy schools in the United States, and a very small and delicate group of all other classes combined.

A. L. I. WINNE.

#### NITROUS OXIDE IMPORTANT FOOD PRESERVATIVE.

In the German journal, *Archiv. Hygiene*, 1922, volume 91, page 1, there is given an interesting account of a number of experiments made with nitral, nitrous oxide, for the preservation of food. Fresh whole milk may be conserved at a nitral pressure of 30 to 35 atmospheres and a temperature of 37 degrees Centigrade in such a degree that the milk will maintain its fresh condition for as long as a month

without being cooled or watched in any way. The milk is kept in its original condition and its nutritious value is maintained constant. In a similar manner such foodstuffs as meats and fish are preserved effectively by the use of nitral. Preserved meat and fish will keep fresh for a far longer time than ordinary fresh food. The cooking of such food may be carried out without any difficulty and the taste of the cooked product is satisfactory. —Through *Scientific American*, March.