

energy in building up sales on your own private brand of various side lines than to help a manufacturer. Let the salesman furnish proof of the "enormous demand" that is to be created according to his talk. If he really has a good proposition he will have convincing evidence with him; if he has not, the time to find out is before you tie up capital, energy and space on a gamble.

"We shall stock your product when there is a demand for it" is a good answer in the majority of cases. As the retailer gains experience he can judge pretty well what the possibilities of a line or an individual product will be in his neighborhood and how far he can afford to go in getting it started. Coöperation should be given to the concerns who can show an honest merchandising plan and a fair possibility of permanency, others do not deserve it.

FINAL CHAPTER OF THE MILLER EXAMINATION SCANDAL IN ILLINOIS.

BY H. C. CHRISTENSEN.

Secretary National Association Boards of Pharmacy.

Across the top of the first page of *The Chicago Daily Tribune*, of January 29, 1923, running from margin to margin, in the usual big type employed to announce important events, occurs this caption:

"CONVICT MILLER AS GRAFTER"

and as a heading to the column giving the details, the following:

"JURORS FIND APPOINTEE OF SMALL GUILTY"

and in smaller type,—*"Dr. Bourque also sentenced."*

So at the end of practically a year, the flaming disgrace of examination rottenness in Illinois, which had befoiled the very name of this sovereign State, came to its legal close. The moral wounds will be long in healing.

W. H. H. Miller, former Director of the Department of Registration and Education, escaped with an insignificant fine of \$1,000.00. This could be but an inconsiderable part of what he collected in the illegal trafficking in pharmacy and medical licenses. The State's star witness testified that he had paid Miller \$8,500.00, submitting cancelled bank cashiers' checks totalling this amount—and he was but one. Bourque no doubt collected and paid Miller large sums, and there were other sources. Many men and women who never even attended the "Miller authorized" medical and pharmacy "Quiz Schools" where the majority of the "put over" prospects were "fed" on answers to the State examination questions, were nevertheless granted licenses, for which they paid money. For example, it seems fairly well established that there were many who flunked or did not write on examination, and whose names did not appear in published lists of those who passed—who were subsequently approached and having duly satisfied the "fixer," were granted certificates.

It would probably be no exaggeration to estimate Miller's illegal gains at \$100,000.00, for which he paid a fine of one per cent. Not a bad return for a year's work. A good investment from a financial viewpoint, and it is entirely possible Miller so regards it.

The question promptly presents itself—If Miller was guilty as the Jury found, why was he not penalized by a larger fine, or by imprisonment, or by both, as provided by law for the crime committed? That is a hard question to answer. Evidently it was a compromise verdict. It is rumored that one man was going to “hang the Jury.” How that man got on the Jury, some one might be able to explain. The verdict is ably described in an editorial in the *Chicago Daily News* of January 30, 1923, as reproduced below:

“COMPROMISE WITH CRIME IN OFFICE.”

“No sort of criminality is more despicable than that of the public official who accepts bribes and betrays his trust in exchange for them, thereby selling his honor for cash. His conduct, reprehensible enough when it involves only money or other material things of value intrusted to his care, becomes infinitely worse when it menaces the lives and health of the people whom he has sworn to serve.

William H. H. Miller, who was tardily removed by Governor Small from his position as head of the state’s department of registration and education after being indicted on charges of selling physicians’ and pharmacists’ licenses to persons unfit to receive them, of selling questions in advance of examinations for those licenses and of raising the grades of persons who had failed to pass such examinations, has been convicted on those charges by a Cook County Jury. How many lives have been endangered by men and women who paid money for the fraudulent licenses received by them at Miller’s hands can never be known. It was developed during the trial that in addition to granting licenses to persons who had failed to pass the examinations, Miller granted licenses to numerous other persons who passed satisfactorily only after they had paid for and received in advance the questions asked of them at the examinations.

For bribes paid to him directly or through his agents, according to the testimony, Miller issued certificates to men and women absolutely unqualified to practice as physicians or as pharmacists in Illinois—to write or fill prescriptions on the correctness of which human lives depend. Yet, through a compromise verdict, Miller escapes the prison sentence which the state’s attorney’s assistants demanded of the jury as his just due. Consequently he will be permitted to go free on the payment of a \$1,000.00 fine, even though one witness testified during the trial that he alone had paid Miller \$8,500.00 for a set of questions to be used at a medical examination.

The public will feel some satisfaction because so faithless a servant has been declared guilty. Here, however, was a case that should have been made a conspicuous example to grafters in public office. Jurors supposed to express the unprejudiced view of the whole body of the citizenship should know that compromise with corruption in places of official power is compromise with the forces that tend to destroy popular government.”

The exact jury situation which makes such a miscarriage of justice possible is succinctly set forth in an editorial of *The Chicago Tribune* of January 30, 1923, extracts from which we quote.

“The verdict of the jury in the trial of W. H. H. Miller, former chief of the State Department of registration and education, is a *scandalous failure of justice*. * . . . How is it that twelve citizens can let off such an offense with a \$1,000.00 fine? How does such a failure of justice occur? There is a report that one jurymen was not in favor of any penalty and that a compromise was reached. This is not a satisfactory explanation. The compromise was wrong and it was not necessary. . . . We do not think such a verdict represents the intelligence or moral perception of the average citizenship from which juries are supposed to be drawn. . . . Are we getting a grade of citizenship on our juries we ought to get or are we getting a subgrade? How efficient are the safeguards against the planting of purchased or purchasable men on juries?

We have no intent to exaggerate the significance of a special instance, but isn’t the subject of justice and the jury system worthy of a practical inquiry?”

If one reads the lines, and between the lines, of the foregoing editorials, it must be pretty obvious how it happened that Miller escaped with such a light sentence.

* Italics are ours.

Naturally, with the money in his pocket, plenty of it, that he had collected in the illegal trafficking in licenses, Miller could well afford to spend liberally to clear himself. Added to this was the fear of a prison term, so it may reasonably be assumed that he went the limit in the employment of Counsel and all of the tactics of criminals in these unsettled days. It was a compromise verdict where apparently eleven men who would have given Miller the limit—\$2,000.00 fine and five years in the penitentiary—compromised on a fine—after being out nineteen hours—in order not to have a jury disagreement.

However, the verdict legally establishes the fact that Miller was guilty, notwithstanding his vociferous claims to the contrary. One of his confederates, the "notorious Bourque" who conducted a "school" was also convicted.

As the trial progressed, pharmacy and the irregularities of pharmacy examinations took a minor place and the exposé in medicine took the lead. As a sequel to this conviction, both pharmacy and medical licenses have been revoked and others will no doubt be cancelled. This in itself will have a purifying effect. Take away a pharmacist's or a physician's license, obtained illegally, and you have fined him for life. It also has the effect of scaring away the "crooks and suckers" who are willing to pay money for licenses. Obviously, if there is none willing to pay money for license, the crookedest of officials will, perforce, be honest.

Despite the lightness of the penalty imposed in the Miller case, his conviction can well be regarded as a *moral victory* for the people of the commonwealth. Miller, as a public official, degraded his trust, a high office within the gift of the people, and he has been convicted. That will have a salutary effect. Few men relish the stigma of conviction of a crime—even if their material returns are great.

The question uppermost in the minds of men having the sanctity of the profession at heart will be how to prevent a similar crime occurring in their own state. What are the conditions that tend toward this violation of the law of the land? How may such a thing be avoided? Without appearing to harp unduly on the topic I cannot refrain from repeating what I have said often in the past, which is that the "consolidation of boards," placing the control thereof under a political head who does not and cannot have the ingrained regard and respect for the ethics of the professions and the safeguarding of the public health and welfare which is necessary, is the cause of all this. The tremendous volume of business incidental to the supervision of the various Boards, the possibility of such large returns if one goes wrong, all tend to a condition which makes possible a situation similar to that in Illinois.

So far as I know, we have yet to hear of a man heading any single Board in any state, be he secretary or president of a Board of pharmacy or medicine, who has disgraced his state as this state has been disgraced under "Consolidation."

Keep your individual boards. Have men on these boards recommended by your State Associations, men who sense the requirements of the profession they represent, make them feel their responsibility to their profession and to the public, and you will have little trouble.

Let us hope that the states seriously contemplating "Consolidation" will ponder well the experiences of Illinois before they act. The so-called economy and efficiency are, in my opinion, largely mythical—they have proven so in Illinois. And even if there is slight economy in spots and, possibly, more efficiency in cler-

ical duties, would this justify measured dollars against the advantage of maintaining a high standard in your various professions, which after all furnish the protection to the public contemplated under the law?

The menace of dishonest administration has, for the time being, been removed from Illinois pharmacy, but consolidation has not ceased to hamper our profession. Something over a month ago, our Pharmacy Board which under consolidation is appointed from examination to examination, and may be discontinued at a moment's notice, was wiped out by the dismissal of three members on a charge of dishonesty preferred by the Department. Despite the fact that over a month has elapsed since these charges were preferred, and the next examination is but two weeks away, these men, prominent in their profession, are held under the odium of charges which have been neither proven nor withdrawn, and their successors have not been named.

Picture a state the size of Illinois, running practically two months with no Pharmacy Board—no one authorized *by law* to approve credentials, issue certificates or act on reciprocal applications. And when we realize that the whim or panic of one man can bring about such a situation—or worse—any time he wills it, we have a mighty good argument in favor of returning the control of our profession to seasoned, tried men, chosen by the pharmacists of the state, for their ability to administer the affairs of pharmacy with dignity and impartial honesty, and a loyalty to the public foreign to an unprofessional office-holder.

FOOD-DRUG INSPECTORS WANTED.

An examination for food and drug inspectors will be held by the United States Civil Service Commission April 25. It is purposed to fill vacancies under the Bureau of Chemistry, Department of Agriculture, for duty in Washington, or in the field, at an entrance salary of \$1600 a year, plus the increase of \$20 a month granted by Congress.

Competitors must have graduated from a standard high school, or must have completed 14 units of high school work acceptable for college entrance. Credit will be given for experience in inspection service and for other preparatory training.

The examination will consist of practical questions designed to test the competitor's general store of information on methods of investigation, and his judgment and powers of concentration; a thesis, to be delivered to the examiner on the day of the examination, and a rating on general fitness, education, and experience. Full information and application blanks may be obtained from the commission at Washington, or the secretary of the Board of Civil Service Examiners at the post office or custom house in any city.

MEDICINAL CAMPHOR BY SYNTHESIS.

Synthetic camphor, for medicinal use, will be produced by a new factory in Fügen, Austrian Tyrol. This is the first time that camphor, of the same composition as the natural product, has been made commercially. Artificial camphor formerly was restricted to industrial use. The process is the invention of an Austrian chemist, Anton Gawalowski.

A report on the subject was printed in the *Apotheker-Zeitung* (New York), November 1921, p. 114.

PRESERVATION OF GLUE AND ACACIA SOLUTIONS.

In *Chemiker Zeitung*, 1922, page 922, there is described a new disinfectant, known as Parol. This product has a strong action against bacteria and also toward the formation of molds. When used in a 0.1 per cent. solution, which is as strong a solution as is necessary, it is non-poisonous, almost odorless and has no irritating effect. It may be used in the place of mercury sublimate, carbolic acid, cresol, etc. About one gram of the substance is required for one liter of glue solution.—*Scientific American* for March.