

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF PHARMACEUTICAL FACULTIES

IT IS ALL IN THE DAY'S WORK.

BY ZADA M. COOPER.*

("Every secretary of a national organization has without a doubt a great deal of experience which would be interesting if told in an entertaining way. Prof. Zada M. Cooper, secretary of the A. C. P. F. is giving her experience and I trust that the readers of the JOURNAL will be interested in it. There are also good lessons for Conference members indicated in this tale and I hope that our members will read it carefully."—C. B. JORDAN, Editor.)

Many things of interest occur in the course of the regular work of the secretary of the Conference. For the most part none of these may be made a part of an annual report in which business matters receive consideration.

There are requests for all sorts of information and in so far as it is possible this is supplied or the individual is referred to some one who can give the information desired. Requests have come rather frequently for a classification of schools of pharmacy from secretaries of state boards and prospective students and, strange to say, the Belgian Embassy asked for such a report. Of course, it is not possible to supply this information at the present time. The most that can be done is to send a copy of the latest Conference Proceedings with its roll of member-colleges and refer them to the booklet issued by the state of New York. The frequency of these requests convinces one of the importance of the adoption of some method of classification, such as that proposed by the Conference Committee on Higher Educational Standards. One realizes what it would mean to have the Carnegie Foundation undertake a study of our schools. People seeking such information have a right to something less vague than a statement that certain named colleges are members of an organization whose *minimum* requirements are thus and so, when everybody knows that some are giving very much more than this minimum to say nothing about wide differences in faculties, library and laboratory facilities and equipment.

Appropos of work done, the head of an institution, not the best, reminds us that we *should know* that his school is in the upper fourth of the schools in the United States and that compliance with Conference rules, when he doubted their wisdom, is too much for us to expect. Furthermore the Conference had had but little to do with the school in the past and would have little influence on the sort of school they expected to maintain in the future. Is it not evident that the prestige of having membership is worth \$25 per year, perhaps will be worth \$35 now that it has been increased, and that nothing more is desired, when a decade passes without that institution having a representative at any annual meeting? It proves the wisdom of the Conference requirement that a college must be represented at least once in three years. How could the Conference accomplish anything if every institution looked upon its membership so lightly?

Very numerous are the letters setting forth the advantages of various resorts and wonderful hotel accommodations as an attraction for our conventions. One of these, not a typical one by any means, contained the following paragraph:

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"You are probably aware that the Province of Quebec has been termed the balance wheel of the North American Continent, for there the individual liberties of the citizens have not been disturbed, and Montreal is able to offer a hospitality in entertaining guests which, under the existing laws, cannot be equalled by any other city in America." In addition to the statement that our meetings are held "at the same time and coincident with the annual meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association" your secretary in replying added the following: "Your statement, that in the province of Quebec 'the individual liberties of the citizens have not been disturbed and that Montreal is able to offer a hospitality in entertaining guests which, under the existing laws, cannot be equalled by any other city in America,' interests me very much. Doubtless you refer to the ease with which 'alcoholic beverages' may be obtained there. You are probably not aware that the American Pharmaceutical Association was one of the first national organizations to go on record as absolutely opposed to the liquor traffic, that the pharmacists of the United States as a class are sober and law-abiding, that the delegates to the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties would not dignify by the title of individual liberties anything which contributes so largely to poverty, insanity and crime. In my judgment, the committee that recommends the choice of places of meeting and the voting body itself would not consider a city that included among its attractions for a convention that sort of 'hospitality.'"

All sorts of entertainers, lecturers, readers, poets and musicians want to assist in making our convention a success. If we engaged a fair representation from those who offer their services, for a consideration of course, we should be turning our programs into a vaudeville performance. We would be much decorated if the makers of badges could have their way. Each delegate would need an extra bag or two to carry away the souvenirs that we are solicited to buy and distribute.

It is all in the day's work.

AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF PHARMACEUTICAL FACULTIES. SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1924 MEETING.

The twenty-fifth annual meeting of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties was held at the Hotel Statler, Buffalo, New York, on August 25-26, 1924. Forty-four colleges located in thirty states were represented and there were ninety delegates in attendance. President Charles W. Johnson presided at all the sessions.

President Johnson stressed the importance of using every "influence to have pharmacy definitely catalogued as the equal of other professions." He outlined a plan for the use of the credit hour as a basis for measurement of work. He urged that college curricula be arranged to provide training in all types of pharmaceutical work. The importance of well-trained teachers was emphasized; degrees may not "mean much to the old experienced teacher" but young people who show teaching ability should be urged to do graduate work and graduate work should be a part of every college of pharmacy. He suggested that the Conference provide for a class of associate members. He also suggested that in some courses credit be given for work *in absentia*. The report of the committee on President's address follows:

"The members of the Committee read with very great pleasure and interest the splendid address of the President in which he discussed so many questions of vital interest to present-day pharmacy. Very careful study was made of the various recommendations included in the address and if it meets with your approval our findings will be given seriatim.

"Recommendations one and two relative to the use of the term 'pharmacist' by the U. S. Civil Service Commission and to the proposed classification of pharmacists by the Personnel