

be interesting, and no doubt valuable as a contribution to modern medicine, to study the possibilities of Chinese native drugs and drug products.

WHAT SHOULD A PHARMACIST KNOW TO SERVE FULLY?

THE COMMONWEALTH STUDY OF PHARMACY.

BY JULIUS A. KOCH.

The committee in charge of the study of pharmaceutical education from the functional point of view is convinced that the knowledge necessary in order that the pharmacist may serve adequately should be determined in the light of the public demands upon them rather than in relation to the ideas of any particular group.

While a comprehensive survey of all the duties expected of a pharmacist would undoubtedly serve as a satisfactory basis for determining the specific background of knowledge essential for their proper fulfilment, the question naturally arises as to the manner of the interpretation of the data obtained. Pharmacists are of course concerned deeply in knowing the extent to which the opinions of outstanding successful practicing pharmacists are to weigh in the final decision.

The entire study is based upon the actual experience of pharmacists and the committee keenly realizes that the ideas of those actively engaged in the practice of pharmacy have value of the highest order. The committee has planned to avail itself liberally of the views of practicing pharmacists, primarily, because of their value, but also in recognition of the fact that pharmacists are the ones most vitally concerned in the outcome of the survey.

Since the true gauge of success in any endeavor is inclining more and more toward completeness of the service rendered to the public, the committee has decided to consider exhaustively or in detail this aspect of pharmaceutical activity. It believes that, measured by this standard, pharmacy should certainly be entitled to high standing.

Basing its opinion upon years of fair dealing characterized by an emphasis on the part of the pharmacist toward the public good rather than material gain, the public has come to regard the pharmacist, not merely as a surveyor of merchandise, but a man who is ever ready to give honest and expert advice regarding his merchandise.

This public regard charges the pharmacist with a deep responsibility. Public opinion concerning him and his profession earned through generations of self-sacrifice upon the part of pharmacists everywhere is possibly one of pharmacy's chief possessions. Even those who seem almost entirely to neglect professional practice, or at least regulate it to an inferior place in the conduct of their business, freely admit the tremendous value of the prestige of the professional aspect of pharmaceutical practice.

How best to conserve this public regard and, if possible, increase the extent to which pharmaceutical service can be developed, is the problem of those studying pharmacy from the functional point of view. A consideration of all the data obtained from a survey of representative stores, together with the other information, should, the committee believe, if properly interpreted, serve as a satisfactory basis for determining the knowledge necessary in order that the pharmacist may serve fully.