

EDITORIAL

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THE CORRELATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL AND MEDICAL EDUCATION.

BY H. H. RUSBY.

VARIOUS attempts have been made during recent years to improve the relations between pharmacists and physicians, the initiative usually proceeding from the former. That these attempts have met with comparatively little success is probably due to their having been made in the face of natural obstacles, in the want of harmony between the interests of the two professions. The lines of development in pharmacy, followed in the interest of the pharmacist, have not been equally conducive in meeting the requirements and ideals of medical service. Of late, this gap has widened rapidly, the preparation of the pharmacist having failed to keep pace with the changes in medical practice.

The result of this condition is that many medical men have been compelled to engage largely in work that is distinctly pharmacal in its nature. Throughout the laboratories of the country, both commercial and educational, we find medical men engaged in work which should be performed by pharmacists. It appears worth while to inaugurate a new attempt, beginning at the bottom, and coördinating the training of the pharmacist with the nature of the service required of him. While it is undoubtedly a mistake to regard the pharmacy school as a department or branch of the medical school, it is equally true that there should be a much closer coördination between them than now exists.

It may be accepted without discussion that pharmacal assistance is necessary to the success of medical practice and development, and that the more definitely the two professions can differentiate their fields of labor, and the more closely and harmoniously they can coördinate their work, the more successful the results will be.

It may also be accepted without discussion, that as a result of the great development of medical science and practice, a higher grade of service is demanded from the pharmacist than formerly and that new lines of study and training must be pursued in order to fit him therefor. As a general statement, it can be said that the physician deals with patients, the pharmacist with materials, the two lines of activity necessitating a wide difference in the kinds of training provided. While the physician knows his materials well enough to be able to state his exact requirements, it would represent a duplication of effort and a waste of time for him to prepare the materials that he needs. The most perfect and satisfactory pharmacal assistance should be available for such service, a statement that applies equally to research operations and professional practice. A physician may desire, and properly so, to concern himself with the preparation or the investigation of the materials to be employed in his art, but it should be recognized that in doing so, he is performing pharmacal work, and he should be freed from all necessity of doing so. Many of our most active and successful investigators along pharmaceutical

lines, at the present time, are graduates in medicine, and not in pharmacy, a reversal of the proper status.

Material examinations by the pharmacist need not be confined to articles of the *materia medica*. To pharmacists possessing the appropriate education and training, and equipped, as they must be, with the necessary accommodations and apparatus, may well be referred the examination of pathological products. If physicians have been unwilling to entrust such work to pharmacists, it is chiefly because they have had no satisfactory assurance that the latter were competent to the extent of being trustworthy. Through the medium of an association in which the competence of pharmacists to perform certain kinds of work should be passed upon by medical authority, an arrangement contemplated in the association here proposed, this objection would necessarily disappear. The average physician would then welcome relief from lines of work pertaining to laboratory equipment and facilities that he does not possess, and that are not suitable to the physician's office.

Every practicing physician should have at his command the most perfect service in prescription work, using the term in its broadest sense, and every research medical worker should be able to turn to some pharmacal worker for assistance in developing new materials for special investigation. Such assistance is to be found in the laboratories of manufacturing pharmacists, and training schools are necessary for the recruiting of these ranks. Such trained investigators are not restricted to these laboratories. Many are engaged in independent research. We are informed that 240 of them are listed as now engaged in pharmaceutical research in this country. It is evident that competent institutions must exist for the training of such workers. The same is true of the corps of more than a thousand teachers in the pharmacy schools of this country.

It seems obvious that training for this higher grade of pharmacal service should be different, from the beginning, from that of the pharmacist who has in mind merely a preparation for the ordinary work of the pharmacy. Admitting the desirability of having all pharmacists educated in this ideal manner, the hard fact is realized that most of them will never do so, and that some provision should be made for the special training of a limited class.

For the purpose of accomplishing this work, the best arrangement would appear to be the establishment of graduate schools of pharmacy, in close connection with our first-class medical schools. Such schools might have a separate existence or be departments of the medical school, but in all cases, the conditions of admission should be acceptable to the medical school, which should also have a strong influence in the formation of a curriculum adapted to the needs of the medical profession, and a voice in deciding upon the fitness of candidates for the appropriate degree. In other words, since it would be the function of such a school to supply specially trained assistance in medical work, medicine should, to a great extent, determine the character of the work of the school.

The subjects of a pharmaceutical nature to which attention should be specially directed in a graduate syllabus are the chemical and microscopical examination of foods, drugs, medicines, poisons and pathological products; the biological testing of drugs and medicines; the manufacture of biological medicinal agents; advanced botany; synthetic chemistry; chemical microscopy and special pharmaceutical manufacturing.

Were a sufficient number of men, properly qualified for such work, and their qualifications determined by competent medical authority, to be supplied, it can scarcely be doubted that their services would be freely utilized in medical assistance work. A coördination thus established would be in accordance with natural conditions.

The present tendency of medical schools to function as sanitary centers, rather than as mere curative institutions, appears to absolutely demand some such arrangement as is here proposed. Associating themselves, as they are doing, with veterinary and dental schools, and training schools for nurses, it would appear to be quite an anomalous situation for the pharmacy schools to remain isolated.

THE DES MOINES MEETING AND THE AMERICAN PHARMACY HEADQUARTERS.

PRIOR to the convention of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION in Des Moines, a Plant Science Laboratory Seminar will be held at the University of Minnesota. The success of the Pharmaceutical Laboratory Conference at Buffalo last year prompts us to say that another conference will be arranged for. A program of the former, and a partial one of the meetings of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties and National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, are printed in this issue, and that of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION under "Association Business."

A partial program of a session of the Association to be given over to the American Pharmacy Headquarters appears under "Societies and Colleges." The Headquarters will be publicity of a high order for pharmacy, because it expresses faith in the mission of pharmacy; it will be the outpost of pharmacy and afford the means for combating destructive tendencies, conserving and preventing duplication of effort, and make possible a coördinating force and clearing house for industrial, business and professional problems; it will mean a new note of pharmaceutical progress, because behind all of this stands the coördinated association of the drug business and of pharmacy.

How quickly new opportunities will come with the establishment of the Headquarters is evidenced by the message from the Board of Trustees of the United States Pharmacopœia, p. 467, June JOURNAL, A. PH. A. This brings into service three of the activities which have been mentioned in connection with the Headquarters—the Laboratories, the Museum, and the Library. Concerted effort should bring the subscriptions to conclusion before the Des Moines convention, so that the discussion there can be centered on pharmacy's greater activities. Most states have contributed; the few that have not are invited to do so. E. G. E.

LET US ASSUME OUR RESPONSIBILITIES.

NEVER before have messages come from so many sources admonishing the industries to assume responsibilities. There is no difficulty in determining why there has been a desire to delegate responsibilities—largely because the central government assumed direction and in a great many instances held different opinions

and, at various stages, not always consistently. The departments of the Government now realize that the progress and prosperity of the country depend on coöperation with the activities contributing thereto.

The divisions of trades and professions were influenced by government action, and with the changing attitude of the governmental departments there is coming a more general correlation, coördination and coöperation of the latter with the former, and also among those engaged in trades, manufactures, arts and sciences; this prompts the publishing of a number of prelects and the foregoing editorial in this issue of the JOURNAL. We may not discern how a leading thought that controls business shapes professional activities, but there is a permeating influence. The quotations from the addresses of President Coolidge and Chief Justice Taft serve for the title of this comment and the articles referred to as a pandect.

E. G. E.

RESOLUTION ON MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ALLEGED ALCOHOLIC MEDICINAL PREPARATIONS.

A RESOLUTION on "Manufacture and Sale of Alleged Alcoholic Medicinal Preparations" was presented to the Council of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and adopted. The motion, which is printed under "Association Business" in this issue, instructs that proper publicity be given in the JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION. The action is timely because there are a number of preparations on the market, the sales of which discredit the sellers and are condemned by pharmacists. Two paragraphs from the code of ethics* of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION follow:

"Pharmacy has for its primary object the service which it can render to the public in safeguarding the handling, sale, compounding and dispensing of medicinal substances."

"The Pharmacist, being legally entrusted with the dispensing and sale of narcotic drugs and alcoholic liquors, should merit this responsibility by upholding and conforming to the laws and regulations governing the distribution of these substances."

The resolution referred to reads:

"Pharmacy has for its primary object the preparation of medicines for the sick. In addition to this responsibility the members of the profession have been entrusted with the dispensing and use of alcoholic liquids for medicinal purposes.

"The pharmacist who connives at, or actually takes part in the compounding, marketing, or sale of preparations which, while masquerading under the guise of medicines, and possibly complying with the letter of the regulations governing these products, have for their principal purpose the evasion of the Eighteenth Amendment, is an unworthy member of our honored calling.

"Pharmaceutical organizations should purge their membership lists of such individuals as speedily as possible, in order that the public whom the profession serves may realize that such individuals are not representative of pharmacy.

"Our aims and ideals are constructive, and we deprecate the false position in which pharmacy is placed by the despicable actions of the few who infest our calling with purely selfish aims which are destructive to the best interests of society at large."

* See p. 728, September JOUR. A. PH. A., 1922.