

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF PHARMACY

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DISTRICT MEETINGS.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

The joint meeting of Boards and faculties of District No. 4 held in St. Paul, Minn., on Feb. 9th was well attended, and the program as published in our February Department of the JOURNAL was carried out. Vice-President Hugo O. Peterson presided.

Those present at the meeting were:

J. W. Slocum, Iowa Board of Pharmacy, H. L. Haussamen, North Dakota Board of Pharmacy, Hugo O. Peterson, Minnesota Board of Pharmacy, Edwin A. Brown, Minnesota Board of Pharmacy, J. P. Jelinek, Minnesota Board of Pharmacy, Marie A. Piesinger, Minnesota Board of Pharmacy, J. W. Dargavel, Secy., Minnesota Board of Pharmacy, Dean Frederick J. Wulling, College of Pharmacy, University of Minnesota, Dean W. F. Sudro, School of Pharmacy North Dakota Agricultural College, Dean E. R. Serles, School of Pharmacy South Dakota State College, H. C. Christensen, Secy. National Association Boards of Pharmacy.

The question as to why so many college graduates fail in State Board examinations, while not included in the tentative program, was discussed by members present at some length with benefit to all. The consensus of opinion seemed to be that the colleges should adopt a selective method of passing on applicants for entrance to college, and probably to some extent there should be a rearrangement of the college curriculum for the three- and four-year courses; then through co-operation of Boards and colleges and discussion in these joint meetings, it was thought that a more satisfactory condition would result. All present took part in the discussions with the result that a number of resolutions were passed, re-endorsing the following:

1. Minimum examination entrance requirement of four years of high school, graduation from a recognized school of pharmacy, and sufficient experience in a retail drug store under a registered pharmacist to make a total of four years when added to college time. To require only one year of retail experience from three- and four-year graduates.

2. Consultation with the N. A. B. P. Secretary in order to procure uniformity in examination entrance requirements
3. Adding subjects of Bacteriology and Pharmaceutical Jurisprudence to examination suggested, but left to discretion of individual boards.
4. Basing examinations hereafter on the tenth revision of the U. S. P. and N.F. V but showing leniency in grading papers, owing to the recency of the change.
5. Boards of Pharmacy should meet with the members of the faculties of schools of pharmacy and the Education Committee of the State Association at least once each year in their respective states.
6. Obtaining authentic information as to education, experience, etc., from applicants for examination and reciprocity to reduce the danger of fraud to the minimum. Filing of duplicate examination grade sheets in the N. A. B. P. Secretary's Office.
7. Applying the rule requiring one year of experience since registration in the state of examination only when there is evidence of evasion and accepting worthy candidates who cannot meet this requirement.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

Vice-President Taylor of the Boards and Dr. DuMez acting for the colleges are to be congratulated for planning and carrying out the very successful joint meeting of the Boards and colleges in District No. 2, held on March 10th and 11th at Philadelphia, Pa. This district is comprised of Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. Every Board was represented by delegates, and every school in the district, with the exception of two.

The meeting opened with a discussion and analysis of college curricula and Board examinations, in an attempt to avoid conflict and thereby reduce the number of failures among college graduates in State Board examinations. Many interesting side lights were brought out in this discussion, and the very comprehensive report taken by Dean H. C. Muldoon, as Secretary of the meeting, is published elsewhere in this number of the JOURNAL and will be sent to all Board and faculty members in the District by Chairman A. C. Taylor.

Dr. Jacob Diner, of New York, opened the discussion of the above-mentioned topic, and because of the interesting analysis of the subject and the valuable comments and suggestions made by him, permission has been obtained to publish a summary of his remarks, as follows:

"There are a number of contributing causes for the failure of college graduates at Board examinations.

"1. *The Preliminary Education.*—A large number of high school graduates are woefully deficient in the fundamentals, such as simple arithmetic and the ability to express themselves in English, not to mention spelling. Much of this deficiency is due to the fact that most high schools, especially in the larger cities, and I can only speak of New York City as far as personal observation and direct information are concerned, are so overcrowded that the teachers are compelled to advance students to the next higher grade to accommodate those who are clamoring for admission. Furthermore, I understand that teachers are rated down by their superiors if a sufficiently large percentage of the class fails to advance. This, of course, is not necessarily the fault of the teachers, nor of those higher up, but rather is due to the tremendous increase of population in urban districts and the legal requirement that a student must remain in an educational institution until the sixteenth year of age has been attained. As a result of this, many boys and girls who would otherwise enter remunerative occupations find themselves eventually pushed out of high school with a diploma and an exalted opinion of their 'educational attainments!' Business or trade is not good enough for them, and they cast their eyes on professional education, with all the emoluments and prestige which it will bring them. Among all professional schools available, pharmacy offers the easiest road to a profession and therefore many try to enter a college of pharmacy, and mostly succeed.

"2. *Selection of Students.*—It is the duty of every educational institution to afford an opportunity for higher education to any one earnestly desiring it and fundamentally qualified. But this does not necessarily mean that every applicant for admission to a school of pharmacy, having a high school diploma, or its equivalent, must be accepted. I believe that those in charge of admission should carefully determine the fitness of the candidate, first by his record in high school, and secondly, by a personal interview to fathom, if possible, the candidate's mental reaction and capacity, and the reasons for his choosing that particular profession. We have done this for a number of years at the Fordham University College of Pharmacy and are greatly pleased with the results. The careful selection of the students admitted will be reflected in the greater number of successful students in the college and State Board.

"3. *College Curriculum and Method of Teaching.*—The curriculum as outlined in the Syllabus is an excellent one. However, heads of departments are often prone to overestimate the value of their subject and if sufficiently backed by political ability and strong lungs, their insistence may be crowned with success to them and dire calamity to the student. The methods of teaching are, of course, of the greatest importance. If we teach our students how to study, if we emphasize that the work done is in preparation for the more important and responsible duties in the pharmacy and not merely for the purpose of passing examinations, we will have laid the foundation for success, both in examinations and in life.

"4. *Methods of Examination.*—While at school the student is given a number of examinations, oral and written, and his success or failure does not depend on a single trial by a strange person who holds the candidate's professional life in his hand. Furthermore, the student becomes familiar with his teacher's method of framing questions. This is not the case with the Board members. The candidate has to stand or fall on this single trial; he or she is frequently uncertain of what the examiner means by a given question. It, therefore, becomes incumbent upon the examiner to frame his questions clearly and definitely, leaving nothing to guess or imagination.

"5. *Rating Questions.*—Many examiners have a preconceived answer to their questions, either in their minds or in the form of a 'key.' This, of course, is most reprehensible, as I found from practical experience. Quite frequently the candidate's answer is by far better than the answer the examiner had in mind.

"Concluding, I wish to emphasize that greater care in the selection of students, more attention to fundamentals, frequent examinations, both oral and written, in the college, intelligently framed questions and careful scrutiny of the answers will lead to marked improvement in the result of Board Examinations."

DR. CHARTERS' COMMONWEALTH SURVEY REPORT.

BY H. C. CHRISTENSEN, SECRETARY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF PHARMACY.

A classic has been written. That seems a trite statement and at first flush may appear to savor of exaggeration but it is true—so true that this writer offers as his only argument in proof of the assertion, an invitation to the skeptical—if there are any such—to glance through the book.

This book "Basic Material for a Pharmaceutical Curriculum"¹ is a report of the Commonwealth Fund Study and Survey of Pharmacy over a period of nearly three years by Dr. W. W. Charters, Director, and his collaborators. It is so far-reaching in its possibilities for pharmacy that every Board member, every teacher of pharmacy, every member of the Syllabus Committee, every retail pharmacist, and every student of pharmacy—particularly every senior student—should read and study it.

Hundreds of pharmacies or drug stores in all parts of the United States, representing all classes and sections, were investigated and the duties of the pharmacist tabulated. Thousands of prescriptions were checked for ingredients, frequency of ingredients, etc., etc.

¹ McGraw-Hill Book Co., 370 Seventh Ave., New York City. Price \$4.00.