

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICE AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY.*

BY MARGARET S. KLEMME.

A student entering Purdue University pays an annual fee of \$4.00 which entitles him to free medical examination, any operations, ten days in the hospital and all prescriptions.

In charge of the medical work is Dr. O. P. Terry. One doctor and a nurse assist him. A secretary takes care of all records and excuses. They occupy a suite of seven rooms which are well lighted and contain equipment superior to that found in the average physician's office.

Any major operations or those necessitating skill beyond that of the ordinary physician are done by specialists. Hospital cases may be sent to any one of the hospitals in the city, there being no University hospital.

The Pharmacy department employs a registered pharmacist for the purpose of filling and the supervision of the filling of the prescriptions written by the University physicians. The prescriptions written by other doctors may be filled free of charge, providing they are first signed by one of the University doctors.

The prescriptions are filled in a laboratory which contains equipment found in a model drug store.

The pharmacist has one or two students of the graduating class in Pharmacy to train in the art of compounding and dispensing. Some time during the year each member of the class has an opportunity to work with the registered pharmacist. After he has learned sufficient about the fundamentals he is allowed to fill some of the prescriptions written by the University doctors for the students. However, each prescription is carefully checked in order to avoid all mistakes. Neatness and accuracy are taught to be of the greatest importance.

The prescriptions are filled between eleven and twelve o'clock in the morning and between three and four in the afternoon. Those brought in before eleven o'clock are ready at twelve. Those brought in before three are ready at four o'clock. In case of an emergency or other necessity, the doctors write "Rush" on the prescription and it is filled immediately. The prescriptions are called for by numbers, the usual check system being used.

Last year we dispensed forty pounds of ointments, 25,000 capsules, sixteen (16) gallons of Syrup of Cocillana Compound, several gallons of Brown Mixture, Elixir Heroin and Terpin Hydrate, several pounds of acetylsalicylic acid and acetanilid.

Dr. Wilkins, the junior doctor last year, used a shorthand system for prescription writing, to which he and the prescription department had a key. He listed his pet medicines under Sedative, Respiratory, Gastro-Intestinal, Ointment and Miscellaneous Medicine. A prescription written:

Rx.	Called for,
Sed. 2	Aspirin
(Signed) Wilkins	Phenacetin aa gr. xxxvi
	M. and ft. capsules No. 12
	Sig. One every 3 hours.

* Section on Education and Legislation, A. P. H. A., Philadelphia meeting, 1926.

Another example:

R_x.

Resp 6.

(Signed) Wilkins

Would be translated:

Aromatic Spirit of Ammonia ʒ iv

Syrup Cocillana Comp. qs ad ʒ ii

Sig. ʒi q. 3 h.

This system lessens the time spent in prescription writing and allows the doctor more time in which to study the patient. It is of the greatest help to the dispensing department because the various sedatives, respiratories and ointments may be made up by the dozens, gallons and pounds. It would have been impossible to have dispensed sixty to seventy prescriptions a day—which was the average for three weeks last winter—in the two hours' time, without some such system. Dozens of capsules and pounds of ointments were made up by some one student in the prescription laboratory and placed in the proper container ready for the label when needed in the Student Health Service prescription.

The Pharmacy Department is paid from the Student Health fund for the actual cost of the ingredients, which varies from year to year. The average cost of three to four hundred prescriptions is taken and a flat rate charged. This year they averaged eighteen (18) cents. Also the doctor's office is supplied with vaccines, ointments, alcohol and other medical necessities through the Pharmacy department, for which they pay actual cost.

The following report for 1925-1926 will show the value of the Student Health Service.

Number of students eligible to the service	3,465	In the hospital:	
Different students in the office	2,553	Medical cases	145
Physical examinations	1,813	Surgical cases	70
Inspection of students exposed to communicable diseases	379	Laboratory examinations	34
Different medical cases	4,445	In the hospital	945 ¹ / ₂ days
Different surgical cases	2,295	University paid	\$2424.70
Care of medical and surgical cases, advice, excuses, etc., required office calls	17,445	Students paid	\$1154.00
Prescriptions filled by the Pharmacy Department	5,382		
Prescriptions refilled by the Pharmacy Department	195		

The Student Health Service is a very good thing for any student. They will and do go to the University physicians, because of the fee which they have paid, quicker than they would to another doctor. In this way colds and other diseases may be checked before they get beyond control. Last winter there was not one case of pneumonia among the University students. There were cases of mumps, small pox, scarlet fever, besides the more common ailments such as colds and rheumatism, etc.

The service is a good thing for the Pharmacy Department because it gives the students practice in compounding and dispensing medicines which will be used. From their Freshman year they are taught that their preparations are to be used in the Student Health prescriptions. This prevents getting into the hit or miss habit of compounding which does happen when they know that the medicine goes down the sink, and for which habit some one, in the future, may pay.