

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES OF PHARMACY

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DEPARTMENT.

HOW "THE THREE-YEAR MINIMUM" SAVED TO THE STUDENT'S ONE-THIRD MORE CLOCK HOURS FOR USE IN THE PHARMACY LABORATORY.

BY D. H. SPENCER.*

The faculty of every college of pharmacy has had to solve the question: "What will the Three-Year Course include?" We have had Two-Year and Four-Year Courses for a number of years, but the intermediate, Three-Year Course, was a new adventure, and we were confronted with a new problem. Professor Spencer has shown, very nicely, how a combination of several courses into one longer course will be more economical of the student's time. There will be less repetition and, therefore, the time may be shortened.

Prof. Spencer does not tell us what is being done with the time that was saved to the student. I hope it is being spent on the fundamental general subjects such as English, history, mathematics, economics, etc., because our graduates from the shorter courses have always been handicapped on account of their courses being too technical. *The time has come for Pharmacy to expand to include a more general training along with professional training.*

C. B. JORDAN, Editor.

The University of Kansas, in revising its curricula preparatory to dropping the two-year course in Pharmacy, saved thirty-three and one-third per cent clock hours for use in the pharmacy laboratory. Three courses made up of lecture, recitation and laboratory work, and containing ten and one-half clock hours per week in the laboratory were so remodeled as to give the student fifteen hours per week in the laboratory without taking any more of the student's time for all the work than before. Perhaps similar improvements have occurred at other schools and comparing notes might be mutually beneficial.

For a good many years we have offered three courses in Pharmacy leading to degrees: a two-year course, granting a Ph.G., a three-year course, a Ph.C.; and a four-year course leading to a B.S. At the beginning very little was taught from the NATIONAL FORMULARY. (It was simply used as a reference book in the two-year course.)

We had a two-hour course called "Official Pharmacy" which was a study of the classes in both the U. S. P. and N. F., and the names of the U. S. P. preparations. We taught definitions of classes, number of preparations in each class, general methods or preparations, advantages of each class, general method of administration and preservation.

Another course offered was "Manufacturing Pharmacy," a study of the U. S. P. preparations in detail. It was a four-hour course: two-hours lecture and recitation and two-hours laboratory with the necessary laboratory instruction. When I say two hours, I mean two credit hours. In the laboratory, every credit hour requires three clock hours. Naturally we did not make all of the U. S. P. preparations but covered most of the classes, making types of each.

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As the National Formulary came more and more into use and the State Boards of Pharmacy commenced asking questions from it, we expanded the Official Pharmacy to include the names of the N. F. preparations and also posology, making it a three-hour course. At the same time we added to our curricula a three-hour course in manufacturing National Formulary preparations.

Like the U. S. P. manufacturing, this was half lecture and half laboratory work. The two-year curriculum was already full and it contained nothing that it seemed advisable to omit in order to admit National Formulary manufacturing. The expansion of Official Pharmacy from two to three hours had already added an extra hour to the course. So National Formulary manufacturing was not offered in the two-year course but was required of three- and four-year students in the third year and U. S. P. manufacturing of all students in the second year.

When the two-year course was dropped, these three courses: Official (3 hrs.), U. S. P. Manufacturing (4 hrs.) and N. F. Manufacturing (3 hrs.)—a total of ten hours, were reorganized into two five-hour courses: Theoretical Pharmacy—a lecture course and Practical Pharmacy—a laboratory course.

The six and one-half hour lectures, given in the three different courses, when organized into one course, it was found, could easily be covered in five hours, thus saving one and one-half hours or four and one-half clock hours for new work in the laboratory. This was easily possible because the same material given in different courses would necessarily take more time because of certain repetitions used in correlating matter and reviewing things learned the year before and forgotten.

There was also a saving of time by the elimination of repetition in manufacture of some U. S. P. preparations. It has always been our policy to have our students make as many of the preparations, used in making the preparations in the course, as practicable. As for example: In making Tincture of Ferric Chloride instead of furnishing the solution of ferric chloride, we had the students make it. This caused no extra work in U. S. P. manufacturing because all preparations used in making U. S. P. preparations had to be U. S. P. standard and could be included in the course.

But in the N. F. it was different. Here the material used might be either U. S. P. or N. F. For example: In making boroglycerine suppositories, glycerinated gelatin and glycerite of boroglycerine, which had been made the year before in U. S. P. work for credit, had to be made again in order to make the suppositories.

So that, without any extra time on his part, each student is given four and one-half extra clock hours in the laboratory which has been saved by a better correlation of the lecture material, and almost as many more by being able to use, in making N. F. preparations, U. S. P. preparations made in the course.

CITED FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION IN NICARAGUA.

Lieut. William T. Minnick, Naval Corps, and three pharmacists' mates were cited for gallantry in action when U. S. Marines and Nicaraguan national guardsmen captured Quilali, Sandino's headquarters. The names of the pharmacists' mates are: Welder C. Caie, George B. Worthington and Harry A. Roonev. Lieutenant Minnick was in charge of the U. S. Naval Hospital Corpsmen Training School of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, during the World War.