

PROFESSORS OF PHARMACY.*

BY WORTLEY F. RUDD.

In medical schools the professor of medicine is regarded, I believe, as the most important single person on the teaching staff. Most of us will agree that the professor of pharmacy probably bears a similar relation to schools of pharmacy.

With this in mind I have attempted to collect some data about the men holding these positions in our schools. In this very brief paper I have tabulated my findings, made certain comments and drawn a few conclusions that may or may not be warranted, depending, of course, upon the point of view of the individual reading them.

The following letter and questions were sent to all the pharmacy deans in this country and Canada, as listed in the report of the New York Educational Department, some sixty odd:

June 18, 1928.

TO THE DEAN:

I am preparing a paper for the A. Ph. A. meeting on "Professors of Pharmacy." Of course the finished paper will deal with the subject in an entirely impersonal way, but I believe a genuinely interesting and helpful contribution may be made if the dean will supply certain data which will be held strictly confidential, of course, the summaries alone to be published and no names either of colleges or men will appear.

This is just one more questionnaire. I could get some of the information needed from your catalogue but it is not complete enough for my purposes. Please have your secretary mail me a copy of your catalogue for 1928-29 along with this sheet, as this will also be needed.

Hoping to see you at Portland in August and with regards, I am

Very truly,

(Signed) WORTLEY F. RUDD, Dean,
School of Pharmacy,
Medical College of Virginia.

1. School of.....
2. Name and age of each teacher in department of pharmacy having rank of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor.....
3. Academic training: Where received and degrees.....
4. Professional training: Where received and degrees.....
5. Honorary degrees: When conferred and by what institutions.....
6. Approximate clock hours of teaching per week—Session 1928-29—Didactic—Laboratory Total.....
7. Yearly salary of each. (Some schools may object to this item—then omit.).....
8. Contributions to the literature of Pharmacy:
 - (a) Strictly scientific paper, No.....
 - (b) Of professional nature, No.....
 - (c) Books, titles of each.....
9. Administrative office in the school held by Professor of Pharmacy.....

Information has been received from forty schools. Not all of them answered all of the questions. We believe, though, that the answers received represent a fair cross-section.

* Section on Education and Legislation, A. Ph. A., Portland meeting, 1928.

The average age of full professors reporting is forty-seven, the oldest being seventy-one and the youngest twenty-six. Three are more than sixty, six between fifty and sixty. Among associate professors reporting the average age is forty-one, none over sixty and only one over fifty. Among the assistant professors the average age is thirty, there being only one over forty.

The average then of the full professors is on the upper limit of their prime as teachers. The average of associate professors well within the prime of usefulness, and the assistant professors at thirty, just well on the way.

Some interesting facts have come from Question 2 headed "Academic training." Among the full professors reporting, thirty-six in number, twelve have a bachelor's degree, seven a master's, four a Ph.D., two are M.D.'s, and one an honorary M.A. Among the associate professors reporting, nine of them, one has the bachelor's, five the master's and three the Ph.D. degree. And among the assistant professors, fourteen of them, six are bachelor's, seven are master's and one a Ph.D. It will be noted that all men reporting in both of these latter groups have at least a bachelor's degree.

In the question about *clock hours per week* actually given to instruction, we have a range from a minimum of two hours among full professors to a maximum of thirty-five, and an average of 14.9; among associate professors a minimum of ten to a maximum of thirty-five, and an average of 15.7; and in the assistant professors' group a minimum of twelve, a maximum of thirty-five, and an average of 17.6 per week.

Information in reply to the question about salaries was given much more freely than we expected it would be. Among twenty-nine full professors reporting, we have a maximum of \$6000, a minimum of \$2000 for full time and an average of \$3948. Four are \$5000 or more, sixteen from \$4000 to \$5000. It is interesting but also pathetic to note that the man receiving \$2000 for full time has thirty-five hours' teaching per week.

Among associate professors the range is minimum \$1200, maximum \$4000, and an average of \$2883, and among assistant professors a maximum of \$3300, a minimum of \$2000, and an average of \$2637. Since sixteen of the twenty-nine full professors reporting on salary schedules are also acting in capacity of dean, it is fair to assume that a part of the salary paid men acting in such dual capacity may properly be charged to administration.

Naturally data in the above paragraph have a far greater human interest than any other in this paper. Just as the paragraph was being written a fellow teacher, the head of a large department in another institution, came in for a loan and when we had to confess to him that we could not help him out he said, "Teachers are always broke." Is this the teacher's fault or the fault of the salary? "*Quot homines, tot sententiae.*"

The answers to the 8th question on contributions to the literature of pharmacy, etc., were very unsatisfactory. Out of seventeen reporting on scientific articles, the number published ranged from one to "too many to be enumerated," or "it would take a week to collect this data." I fear the word "scientific" may have been used a bit loosely. Only seven textbooks were reported. Many papers of a professional nature were reported though fewer of them than of a scientific nature. We must record with deep regret that many of our schools reported no sort of

scientific or professional contributions from their teachers occupying these most important positions.

Now for a few general observations. In the first place our questionnaire asked for data on "Professors of Pharmacy." Many schools sent page after page of data about all the men in their universities, chemists and everybody else. The fault must have been with the question itself. It frequently is this way.

In two of the good schools of the country the highest rank accorded anyone teaching "pharmacy" is that of associate professor. This raises an interesting speculation. Are these institutions unwilling to grant full professorships to pharmacy teachers or is it that the men are not well enough trained and long enough in service to rank as full professors?

I cannot close without making a suggestion. The basis for it comes out of some ten years of experience as the administrative officer of a small school of pharmacy. Who are to be our professors of pharmacy in the next generation? What provision is being made for training broadly men to take up this work? A few of our universities are prepared to give men honest-to-goodness training leading to a Ph.D. in pharmacy, but a very few. I have felt for some time that since the field of chemistry is becoming so crowded, it would be a fine thing if our best universities that have well-organized departments of pharmacy would plan with their graduate departments of chemistry to have a few of the former's graduate students take all of the work given under the chair of pharmacy as a first major for their doctorate.

This would serve two good purposes, first, relieve some of the congestion among those now flooding the field as applicants for teaching positions in chemistry at pitifully low salaries, and second, bring into "pharmacy" a group of finely trained young men with a real scientific background fitted to give good service as professors of pharmacy at salaries that are better than the average in chemistry.

INSPECTION OF MANUFACTURING PLANTS.

The advisory committee of the Federal Narcotics Control Board has been engaged in a tour of inspection of plants manufacturing narcotic preparations. The committee is composed of L. G. Mutt, secretary of the board and representative of the Department of the Treasury; John K. Caldwell, of the Department of State; and C. C. Concannon, of the Department of Commerce. This inspection is giving the officials first-hand knowledge of the problems and process of the plants holding permits under the Federal narcotic laws.

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE COMMISSION ON MEDICAL EDUCATION.

In the third report of the Commission on Medical Education this body urges broader latitude for entrance requirements to medical schools, holding that specific medical school

requirements should be confined to the fundamentals of biology, physics and chemistry. Among the most common criticisms are those that have to do with the overcrowding of the curriculum, and a failure to correlate properly the work of various departments with clinical practice.

The Committee also holds that state medical boards and other agencies concerned with licensure could help materially to correct present defects in medical training if they would confine their functions to the approval of medical schools and the general features of medical training and internship, and leave the details of the curriculum and clinical training to the medical school authorities.

The California State Medical Board recently revoked four licenses—the reasons assigned are habitual intemperance, illegal operation and narcotic addiction.