

A FIVE-FOOT SHELF OF JOURNALS.*

BY EDWARD H. NILES.

The title of this article is chosen with full acknowledgment to Doctor Elliott of Harvard for the thought that a liberal education may be contained in a 5-foot shelf of books.

As applied to journals, the 5-foot shelf takes on a specific meaning. When magazines are placed on a shelf, they are laid flat and not stood on edge. The typical journals are from nine inches to twelve inches in length. By actual trial, a 5-foot shelf will nicely hold six average journals, laid out so that they rise in stacks from month to month through the year. The writer has always been a diligent reader of journals, realizing that they contained a great variety of useful information, interestingly set forth. But he has recently come to understand that journal reading can be made very purposeful and specifically helpful.

The college with which the writer is associated has the usual large number of scientific and trade journals in its library, and the students were known to scan them in a more or less haphazard way, but it was not known how much or what any one student read; some might spend hours per week in this perusal, and others might never open a magazine.

It was decided to institute a course of study to be called "Contemporary Pharmacy." The subject matter was all to come from current journals. The students were to be encouraged in reading the periodicals, but the success of the course was not to be left to their efforts alone. A competent instructor was placed in charge of the class. He delivered a one-hour lecture each week on his own abstracts, which were carefully classified under nine headings, and the students were given references for work to be pursued further. An important feature of all teaching was emphasized; that is, the class was held for written examinations on the course. The results were very satisfactory, showing a detailed knowledge of pharmacy in many vital phases, which would be creditable to any one with much professional experience.

The following list of questions was given on the final examination in January, 1929. They show the nine topics which were specifically stressed in journal reading. These questions were prepared by Prof. Ivan S. Glidewell¹ who gave the lectures to the class.

1. *Legislation.*—What is the Capper-Kelly bill, and what is its frequent status? Name eight other subjects of a legislative nature which we have discussed during this semester.

2. *Manufacturing.*—Name eight important activities among pharmaceutical manufacturers which have taken place during the last six or eight months. What are the two general outstanding tendencies to be noted among recent activities of manufacturers?

3. *Wholesalers.*—Discuss the combination of wholesalers as to—causes leading up to same; the kind of an organization it is; the probable results.

4. *Associations.*—Outline briefly the history of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, giving its age, purposes, accomplishments and present efforts as outlined in recent convention resolutions. What is the National Association of Drug Clerks? Explain the purpose and work of the National Association Retail Druggists.

* Section on Commercial Interests, A. Ph. A., Rapid City meeting, 1929.

¹ Associate Professor of Pharmacy, Indianapolis College of Pharmacy.

5. *Store Methods*.—Name and briefly describe the helps which modern druggists may obtain from the U. S. Bureau of Commerce in improving their methods. Discuss the efficiency expert of to-day, *pro* and *con*, as applied to the drug store. What valuable lesson may the independent druggist learn from the chain systems, and which of their methods may he safely adopt?

6. *Individual*.—Outline the "Ideals of Pharmacy" as applied to the individual. Outline the opportunities of modern Pharmacy open to the qualified individual.

7. *Scientific*.—In a few short sentences each, designate ten scientific developments of recent months.

8. *Historical*.—Outline briefly the procedure required by the apprenticeship system of licensing of sixty years ago. Explain the Doctrine of Signatures. What did it develop for Pharmacy of to-day?

9. *Exposures*.—Outline activities of the U. S. Department of Mails in detecting and exposing fraud in the drug manufacture and selling business. What action can the Interstate Commerce Commission take in such cases? Give a recent example of a veterinary preparation so handled.

The purpose of our topic may now be made clear. In our circles we sometimes find men who in their younger days were unable to obtain a college education in Pharmacy. For them a systematic reading of the journals will give a perspective of the field, both past and present, which will enable them to move with their professional associates with poise and credit to themselves. Many college graduates have been heard to say with regret that they haven't had time to open a textbook since leaving college. From some viewpoints this may not be entirely a cause for regret; textbooks become obsolete very rapidly. Some authors who spend years and months on their manuscripts are appalled to find their work is out of date before it is published. We should look for more success in a graduate who carefully reads the journals of his profession, than in one who said after a few years: "I still have my college textbooks, and get them out and go over them as often as I can."

The writer will not have the temerity to propose the names of the journals which should go on the 5-foot shelf, except to insist that the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION must be one; and that the Journal of the National Association of Retail Druggists cannot be spared by the retail pharmacist. Four more good trade papers can easily be selected from a large available list. A considerable latitude of choice is possible to meet individual tastes in the matter of special interests and the method of presentation. Above all, save every copy for reference, with the highest value on an annual index.

AN OLD FASHIONED DRUG STORE IN A MODERN SETTING.*

BY THOMAS ROACH.¹

In every age and under all conditions, there has been a constantly changing process going on in all trades and professions. In no line of human endeavor have more changes come during the last thirty years than to that of the drug business.

Starting with the drug stores of a generation ago, we have seen them grow from pharmaceutical establishments—which had some side-lines, to be sure, but

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¹ President of National Association of Retail Druggists.