

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF PHARMACY

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TIMELY SUGGESTIONS FOR LEGISLATION.

BY H. C. CHRISTENSEN, SECRETARY.

Legislatures will meet in some forty odd states the coming winter and spring. Already, many inquiries are being received by the N. A. B. P. office for advice and help relating to legislative matters. It seems, therefore, an appropriate time to consider legislative programs. Uniformity in certain fundamentals in pharmacy laws is important to avoid antagonism with neighboring states. Also, there is no sense in enacting meaningless technicalities which will deny the pharmacists of the state reciprocity elsewhere in later years. The legislative committees, state associations, board members, college faculties—in fact everyone interested in a legislative campaign—owe it to the pharmacists of that particular state to check on these fundamentals and particularly to determine that his reciprocal privilege has not been curtailed.

WARNINGS.

Sometimes a legislative committee has the feeling that if it picks the best provisions from the laws of a considerable number of states, the result will be a perfect law. Entirely the reverse usually happens, as all laws should be planned in such a manner as to make each section complete in itself, yet a coherent part of the whole. This can seldom be accomplished when separate provisions from different laws, often with little or no relation to each other, make up the whole.

Do not ask for too much. It is practically impossible to present an entirely new pharmacy law and have it enacted without many changes by the legislature. In the end, it may be worse than the law you now have. Therefore, decide on one, or at the most two, important changes that are necessary or desirable and concentrate on these. Each change or provision should be presented as a separate amendment, thus taking advantage of the fact that if one is defeated, the other