

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES OF PHARMACY

When the Charters' Report was issued under "Basic Material for a Pharmaceutical Curriculum," teachers of pharmacy were very much pleased to note the coöperation of the Public Health Service in the preparation of the subject of "Public Health." The following paper by Dr. Taliaferro Clark, Assistant Surgeon General, U. S. Public Health Service, presented at the Teachers' Conferences at the last meeting of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy is further evidence of the willingness of the Public Health Service to coöperate with Pharmacy in determining what should be taught pharmacists regarding public health. As stressed in the Charters' Report, the pharmacist holds a strategic position in the dissemination of information regarding public health and it is the duty of every pharmacist to secure authentic information on this subject and to assist in its dissemination. This timely paper by Dr. Clark points the way for the development of a satisfactory course in public health in our colleges of pharmacy.—C.B. Jordan, *Editor*.

THE TEACHING OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

BY TALIAFERRO CLARK.

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It will probably interest you to know something of the steps taken in the development of the preparation for a course in public health to be included in the standard curriculum for colleges of pharmacy. As you know, the Commonwealth Fund, in 1924, undertook a study of pharmaceutical education, with the coöperation of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy and the National Association of Retail Druggists, which was headed up in the University of Pittsburgh under the direction of Professor W. W. Charters. After the study had been carried on for some time, it became evident to the directing heads that in working out a curriculum for colleges of pharmacy it would be possible to do so in a manner as to be of great assistance to the public health movement through the retail druggists. Accordingly, a letter was addressed to the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service by Professor Charters requesting the assistance of the Public Health Service in the preparation of an outline of such a course and it fell to my lot to be designated as one of the officers who participated in this work.

In accordance with an agreement arrived at in conference with representatives of the Committee on Curricula, Doctor A. R. Bliss, Jr., and Doctor A. B. Lemon, an outline on public health topics was worked out and incorporated in the report, "Basic Material for Pharmaceutical Curriculum," prepared under the direction of Doctors Charters, Lemon and Monell, published in 1927. The subject matter of the course was arranged in a series of topics instead of lectures in order to conform with the "Pharmaceutical Syllabus" prepared and published by the Pharmaceutical Syllabus Committee representing the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy.

I. Number of Hours.

In an investigation of courses of study in 57 Class-A medical Schools, in 1922-1923, it was found that from 3 per cent to 4 per cent of the total hours out of 108 to 176 hours for the entire course were assigned to hygiene and sanitation.