

exemplified. Students who come from high schools are frequently proficient in algebra and geometry but the rule of three or simple proportion and percentage are wrapped in obscurity so far as their knowledge, or practical application of them is concerned. Problems in specific gravity might as well be given in Sanskrit, for the answer is often given in terms which indicate that the constant has either been determined in interstellar space or at a point about the earth's center. It is so difficult to teach pupils that the specific gravities of all official liquids and solids range between about 0.6 and 14.0.

I am firmly of the opinion that owing to some vital defect in our present system of preliminary education a large number (not a majority, of course), of holders of certificates entitling them to study pharmacy, by reason of their preliminary qualifications, are far inferior to many of the applicants who have struggled to educate themselves but who are debarred on account of their inability to pass the examinations which are provided for such applicants.

Our present day systems, both in preliminary and in professional work, place too much reliance upon certificates of competency and upon examinations. The woods are full of examiners who could not pass their own examinations (or others of equal severity) if put to the test, and it is time that some common sense provision is made making allowance for the man who is qualified in the essentials, i. e., the three R's and common sense, but is debarred because he cannot correctly parse a sentence from Milton's "Paradise Lost," according to the system of some particular grammarian, or give the chronological succession of the rulers of England, or give a synopsis of some classic (?) which nobody reads except for the purpose of boning up for some examination. The world is full of holders of certificates, diplomas and degrees of all kinds who are not educated anywhere near to the requirements of those certificates, diplomas and degrees and it is time to realize that true education can lie outside of all these external and frequently misleading credentials.

LEGISLATION RELATING TO PRELIMINARY EDUCATION FOR PHARMACY LICENSURE.

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Some laws have been enacted making certain preliminary educational qualifications compulsory for those who enter pharmacy schools or engage in the business of pharmacy. The tendency in several States at the present time is to amend pharmacy laws or school codes and provide such preliminary requirement for pharmacy licensure.

No one having experience in examining persons who apply to the boards of pharmacy for registration will deny that the deficiency exhibited in the work of many applicants is due largely to lack of proper preliminary training. The truth is oft unpleasant, but that jurist who declared recently that druggists are

"men of no great learning," would find his statement justified by the work of the average pharmacy board applicant.

It is not intended to condemn the efforts which have or may be made to correct this condition through legislation. The enactment of laws of this kind is highly commendable and essential, if pharmacy is ever to occupy a proper place among the professions. The sooner all the States have such laws will the stigma of "unlearned" be removed.

Neither shall a review of existing laws on the subject be attempted. However, a rather short experience with the workings of one of these laws leads to some suggestions, which may be of more or less value to those upon whom the duty falls of framing proposed bills establishing a preliminary educational requirement for pharmacy.

The more important provisions should include a progressive requirement, fixing the responsibility for entry into apprenticeship, and safeguarding the rights of persons who have already engaged themselves in learning the drug business. Power should be given those enforcing the law to fix the standard for preliminary education and advance the same, as the status of pharmacy and public educational facilities may warrant.

All who are employed in learning the drug business and as yet unlicensed, should be exempted in the statute from the application of preliminary requirements adopted subsequent to their employment, thereby being allowed to qualify irrespective of these measures.

Some legislation now in effect fixes a completed first year high school course or equivalent education as the standard. While this is now deemed to be adequate by many it would inure to the progress of pharmacy, if a specific minimum requirement were avoided and power to establish one and advance it, without further enactment, duly granted the proper authorities.

The entry into pharmacy of unqualified persons should also be controlled. All who take up the study of pharmacy either in schools or stores should be required to first register with the board of pharmacy. A certificate representing this registration should be granted upon producing satisfactory evidence of having the preliminary education required for ultimate licensure to practice pharmacy, and entitle the holder thereof to be admitted to a school of pharmacy or employed as an apprentice in a drug store.

These laws should provide a penalty in the form of a fine to be imposed upon the person who admits to a school of pharmacy or employs in a drug store, with the intention of teaching them the drug business, any person who does not hold a board certificate entitling them to such privileges.

Thus the responsibility for the entry into pharmacy of properly qualified persons will be placed where it rightfully belongs. Those who now neglect or are indifferent about the matter, will be compelled to inform prospective drug clerks of the requirements which must be met to obtain certificates as legally qualified pharmacists, thereby protecting the interests of both parties and that of pharmacy as well.