

Section on Education and Legislation

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THE CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

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There are two great problems before American pharmacy today—Education and Legislation.

There are to be sure other problems that press for solution and which to some may seem to be of equal importance, but the basis of progress must come through education in the broad sense of the term and sane legislation.



WILBER J. TEETERS, Iowa City, Ia.,
Chairman Section on Education and
Legislation, 1912-1913.

The influence of the work of this section is most important in helping to create the proper attitude towards education and its needs and the influence it exerts in moulding public opinion so that it is possible to enact reasonable and just pharmacy laws throughout the various states.

By education we do not mean simply the work done by colleges of pharmacy in the training of pharmacists, but the general increase of knowledge of medical

and pharmaceutical subjects gained through journals, magazines, science courses in our public schools and colleges, pure-food laws, the publicity of the American Medical Association of nostrums and quackery, the demand for truthful advertising and many other sources open today for general education in these and kindred subjects to the reading and thinking public.

The day of mysticism in medicine and pharmacy is past and the Jovian symbol is no longer regarded as a prayer to unknown Gods but is taken as it should be—a command to the pharmacist to put up the following ingredients of U. S. P. standard of purity and strength, and that the preparation is not in most cases a panacea but meant simply for temporary relief or to aid nature in regaining normal health.

The general education of the public has had its influence upon the profession and it should be the duty of every college of pharmacy and every true pharmacist to aid in this general uplift.

The faculty of any college today that think they have done their full duty after instructing in pharmacy, chemistry, botany, materia medica and pharmacognosy, have fallen far short of their duty to themselves as educators and their duty to the college and general public.

The curriculum of the modern college includes the subjects of pharmaceutical mathematics, physiology, bacteriology, pharmacodynamics (which includes the physiological testing of drugs and toxicology), prescription writing and dispensing, urinary analysis, business accounting, and last but not least, the science of salesmanship.

This is not all that should be expected of the college of pharmacy, for the faculty should be of aid and assistance to the people of the state; especially is this true should the college be a part of a state institution, and aid in county, district and state organization, furnish popular and scientific lectures before clubs or other organizations, and do analytical and research work in the interest of science, and help to solve the economic problems of the people.

This may seem to be putting a great and burdensome responsibility upon the colleges, but it is a responsibility the colleges should and must meet if they do their full duty.

The higher demands being made in medical education is having an influence upon colleges of pharmacy.

It is generally conceded that our national educational standard for entrance upon pharmaceutical work is too low to furnish the necessary basis upon which to build the scientific training that a really competent pharmacist should have for his work.

The colleges of pharmacy that have advanced their entrance requirements and courses beyond the mere requirements of the Conference are to be commended, for in most cases it has meant a shrinkage in attendance, at least temporarily, and in some cases pecuniary loss.

The objection, in the main, of institutions not wanting colleges of pharmacy included in the Carnegie Foundation investigation list is due to the fact that they fear the result of the report that would follow. Some of our colleges of pharmacy would be put out of existence just as some of the medical colleges were, and for the same reason.

No college of pharmacy that is not endowed or does not receive state support can honestly give the high degree of technical work that should be given, except at a loss, from tuition alone. The equipment necessary and salaries that must be paid for thorough and competent instruction makes it an impossibility at the present time.

I predict that the Carnegie Foundation investigation will come whether we ask for it or not. It is to be expected that the weak schools will raise an objection, but the "fly in the ointment" is the inevitable result that is sure to follow, just as it did with the weak, poorly equipped medical schools and diploma mills of a few years ago.

The character of the instruction given in some of our colleges of pharmacy might certainly be improved. There is evidence of inbreeding by recruiting the teaching staff from the same institution.

New blood is more likely to bring new ideas and a more progressive spirit into the work. I do not at all mean that a good instructor may not be found occasionally among your own graduates, but to build up an entire faculty in this way is, to say the least, a dangerous proposition for results.

Our pharmacy colleges need live, wide-awake men of high ideals who have the ability to teach. Men who by example and precept instill higher and loftier ideals into the students with whom they came in contact, and by this association make of them better and nobler citizens and pharmacists than they otherwise would have been.

Some one has said that teaching is an interesting art, as it has so many degrees of success, but Roosevelt says that teaching that does not include efficiency, success and service, has no rightful place in education today.

Such is the responsibility of the college and its faculty, but the druggist has an equal responsibility, for the apprentice and clerk that you employ today will be the proprietor of the drug store within a few years.

How about the quality of the men that you are taking into your business? Are they clean, conscientious, capable fellows with scientific knowledge of the profession that will command respect or are they fellows who, for the most part, have been promoted from errand boys or soda clerks, with little or no high school training? These are simply questions to bring your responsibility forcibly to mind.

The enterprising and conscientious pharmacist should keep posted upon patent and proprietary remedies and free prescription fakes and tell the truth about them.

The drug journals, and there are many good ones, should have due credit for the work they are doing in general education.

The syllabus committee has been an entering wedge that has shown up weak spots in our curriculums and its value cannot be overestimated, but its best work is to follow.

The commercializing of pharmacy in some sections by the stocking of everything from canary birds to umbrellas, has caused much comment and chagrin to the ethical pharmacist. The result is hard to predict, but it would seem reasonable to suppose that the public would not expect to receive the highest class of service professionally in the drug line from a cafeteria.

Professional pharmacy is not lost because a few prefer to conduct a restaurant. The so-called detail men of the manufacturing houses are responsible in a large degree for the doctors filling their own prescriptions, and this presents an interesting educational problem for both the physician and the public. The dispensing doctors' stock should be inspected by law and required to meet the same standards as your drug stock. This would eliminate some of the difficulty.

The address of my predecessor upon legislative subjects was so thorough and well prepared that I hesitate to reopen the subject. Suffice it to say that the movement for honest advertising should receive all possible support from the pharmacist. The pharmacist is a busy man and we, as a class, have given too little attention to legislative matters. There is an old saying that if you want a drink, you should go to the head of the fountain yourself. The pharmacist has too often entrusted too much to some one else. He has sent a substitute when he should have gone himself.

It is absolutely certain that just, reasonable and sane laws for the protection of the pharmacist and public can be enacted if the members of this honorable profession will unite their efforts and create the proper public opinion. This means personal and united effort, backed by an organization modeled after such a plan as the American Medical Association.

Organization should be the slogan, and every man should stand willing to do his part in bringing to a respected and honorable profession its just dues.

I have outlined no Utopian dream. It may be charged that I have dealt in idealism, but idealism backed by push and energy, and combined with sane judgment, can accomplish things worth while. Will we measure up to the task before us?

I have but this recommendation to make: That we favor the passage of honest advertising laws and urge that colleges of pharmacy extend, within reasonable limits, their sphere of usefulness to include the great field of general education and public service.

HIT-AND-MISS MEN.

The world is jammed full of bunglers—of hit-and-miss men who use their heads for everything except thought—who confuse random ambition with capability. Wherever you turn, you can jab your elbow into some incompetent weakling proclaiming the existence of a "universal handicap"—but no sane man—no determined, industrious, thinking human ever finds the scales of Justice dishonest.—*Herbert Kaufman.*