

with education, the terms foundational and cultural are so frequently used interchangeably. The college training of the future pharmacist must be broad and liberal and, in that sense at least, cultural. If we would have him capable to readjust himself to the changes incident to scientific progress, if we expect him to take his place, side by side, with men of the other learned professions, if we would have him possess the breath of knowledge, and to exhibit the morale which he will require if he is to take a part in the advancement of pharmacy, we must see to it that his college course provides something more than a vocational training. There must be, also, cultural education. Indeed, no matter what may be our interpretation of culture, even though we may think of it with reference to the esthetic, or in connection with the social graces, I would still contend that culture is an asset to the pharmacist.

It does appear, however, that in our discussion of the new curriculum, we shall have difficulty in making ourselves understood unless we explain what we have in mind when we classify a subject under the caption "cultural."

DR. GEORGE B. WOOD.*

BY ARNO VIEHOEVER.

Quite a number of years ago, a young lad walked on the sidewalk of one of the residential streets of Philadelphia enjoying the bright breezy morning air, not thinking of anything in particular. Then suddenly he noticed sheets of white paper on the pavement near a house with an open window on the street floor; they were handwritten pages. The boy thought a while, then pulled the string of that house bell. A stately gentleman appeared at the door; the chap inquired whether these papers belonged to him and were wanted. The man readily enough recognized his own handwriting and the pages as part of his finished manuscript of the *Commentary on the United States Pharmacopœia*, which had been disturbed by a gust of wind reaching his desk. He placed his hand upon the head of the boy, saying with tender devotion: "I trust that you might add luster to this work which has engaged me for a life time." The author was Dr. George B. Wood, the lad our Joseph P. Remington. A true incident in the life of two leaders, related to me by the nephew of Dr. George B. Wood.



DR. GEORGE B. WOOD.

It is a fitting memorial to a man to have his work survive him. If the foundation be right, the partitions of the upper structure may be torn out and replaced by others—even the building may be changed, enlarged in size, increased in height. Dr. Wood deserves lasting credit that he, 100 years ago, took the initiative and established in the revision of the *Pharmacopœia* the scope, imbued it with his spirit and left the imprint of his broad training,

* Section on Historical Pharmacy, A. PH. A., Baltimore meeting, 1930.

thinking and acting. He happily met the physiological need (therapeutic value) with a number of suitable drugs, crude and prepared, according to the best pharmaceutical knowledge of his time.

George B. Wood—a Quaker, eager, ambitious, trained in medicine, graduating in 1818 as D.Med., teaching medical students for years in Dr. Parrish's private school, teaching chemistry to pharmacy students of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy from 1822; materia medica from 1831, and materia medica and pharmacy to medical students at Pennsylvania University from 1835—was eminently qualified to represent the Philadelphia College of Physicians at the Pharmacopœial Convention in Washington, in 1830. For nine months, with the aid of Dr. Bache, his colleague and successor in the chair of chemistry of P. C. P., Wood revised the U. S. Pharmacopœia, almost completely rewriting it, two or three times, in some portions, by hand. "Nine months' labor, without recompense, other than consciousness of duty performed and public benefit conferred."

Wood and Bache were the delegates from the College of Physicians to the Pharmacopœial convention in Washington. Only eight delegates were present; an organization was effected, the Philadelphia report was adopted and referred to a number of physicians in different parts of the country, preparatory to publication. The apothecary or pharmacist of that period had no hand in giving form or scope to the work, except in so far as Wood and Bache were able to put the pharmaceutical stamp on it. They deplored the want of such counsel and assistance. "Any one who considers for a moment the nature and purpose of the Pharmacopœia—that all the formulæ are for the guidance of the apothecary and that he, much better than the physician, as a general rule, understands their principles and modes of execution—must see at a glance, if free from prejudice, how unjust and at the same time impolite was this exclusiveness." The U. S. Pharmacopœia immediately won a reputation for scientific accuracy, establishing a national authority for drugs. It became a standard morally and obligatory upon both professions as if it had been brought forth under the sanction of law." Wood, in 1840, represented the University of Pennsylvania at the Convention. In the same year he formally asked the president of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy for suggestions in relation to amendments, additions or omissions. He ventured to hope that the "interest which the pharmaceutical and medical professions feel in the object will induce the college to lend the valuable aid of their practical experience and skill in the revision of the book." Needless to say this help was enthusiastically given.

Dr. Wood possessed comprehensive knowledge in the medical, pharmaceutical and chemical field. He was a writer, both in prose and verse, the editor through fourteen editions of the United States Dispensatory, of the commentary of the U. S. Pharmacopœia, the public advocate of higher standards and professional conduct, responsible for the credit pharmacy justly claims in the Pharmacopœia, an untiring, resourceful, creative worker.

Would that we—to-day—had more men like Dr. George B. Wood, bridging the gap, artificial though it is, between medicine and pharmacy—in the interest of a still better pharmacopœia and of medicine at large!
