

# THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF PHARMACY

*President*, W. M. Hankins, Daytona, Fla. *J. W. Gayle, Treasurer*, Frankfort, Ky. *Chairman of Executive Committee*, A. C. Taylor, Washington, D. C. *Secretary*, H. C. Christensen, 130 N. Wells St., Chicago, Ill.

## ACTIVE MEMBER STATES.

Alabama	Indiana	Montana	Rhode Island
Alaska	Iowa	Nebraska	South Carolina
Arizona	Kansas	Nevada	South Dakota
Arkansas	Kentucky	New Hampshire	Tennessee
Colorado	Louisiana	New Jersey	Texas
Connecticut	Maine	New Mexico	Utah
Delaware	Maryland	North Carolina	Vermont
D. of Columbia	Massachusetts	North Dakota	Virginia
Florida	Michigan	Ohio	Washington
Georgia	Minnesota	Oklahoma	West Virginia
Idaho	Mississippi	Oregon	Wisconsin
Illinois	Missouri	Pennsylvania	Wyoming
		Porto Rico	

## ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF PHARMACY.\*

BY W. M. HANKINS, PRESIDENT.

*Mr. Chairman, Fellow Members of the Association and Friends:*

The honor of greeting you as your president on this occasion, the twenty-eighth annual convention of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, is one of which I am keenly sensible. To me it is a happy as well as a responsible function to address you, for you scarcely need to be reminded that this is the second time in the history of our Association and the first time in twenty years that the president has had the privilege of presiding at a convention in his home state. The other instance was when E. O. Engstrom of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, presided at the Boston meeting in 1911. It is my added pleasure, therefore, to greet you in the name of my native commonwealth and of this city which is your host.

It was fitting, when you chose to hold your annual convention in Florida, that you should have elected the great and truly remarkable city of Miami as the place of your meeting. Here you will find true expression of that which is Florida—a nation's playground, a workshop of happiness, all that calls upon the spirit of

youth and robust achievement in a man or a country. Miami, little more than three decades old and youngest of Florida's three chief cities, typifies the joyous



WM. M. HANKINS.

\* Miami, Florida, July 27, 1931.

efflorescence that rewards the energy of nature and of man in this southern frontier of our nation. While you are here this week, the hospitable people of this city will afford you many an opportunity of observing and enjoying the semi-tropical wonders of Miami and its environs. The committee in charge of the entertainment program has spared nothing in planning to make your stay happy as well as profitable. The people of this city appreciate the honor of your official visit, and I know, from past experience of their hospitality, that you will be welcomed and made to feel at home wherever you go.

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#### IN MEMORIAM.

It is appropriate now, before we proceed with the more material affairs of our convention, that we should pause here to honor the memory of those of our beloved members who have been taken in death since last we met together. They are nine in number, two being past-presidents. I shall read their names:

Mason G. Beebe, Vermont	Wm. Mittelbach, Missouri
A. E. Carlson, Nebraska	President 1912-13
J. Fuller Frames, Maryland	Ralph C. Root, Vermont
Charles Gietner, Missouri	L. Schockey, Colorado
President 1920-21	H. H. Turritin, Nevada
	Jos. F. Voight, Tennessee

The passing of these men has left us bereaved and filled with regret. Our Association already feels the loss in their departure and will continue to do so through the years to come. At one of the later sessions of this convention, opportunity will be given some of their colleagues, who knew them well, to render more particular tribute to the memory of these departed. For the present, that we may be made more mindful of the inevitable end that awaits us all, and thus strengthen ourselves anew to perform faithfully and well our allotted tasks while life remains, allow me to quote these impressive lines:

"Death is the universal tragedy of Nature. We see it in the falling leaves and in the withering flowers; we feel it in the deepening shadows of the fading day—hear its moan in every wintry wind; but, it is only when this tragedy is brought home to us by a vacancy in the heart or at the hearthstone that we are reminded of man's mortality, and admonished that friendship's hour is fleeting."

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#### AFFAIRS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy is, of course, a non-profit taking organization. Nevertheless, we must have funds to carry on our work and therefore we are keenly interested in our financial statements, as these are the measure of our activities. Our budget is limited according to income.

Our cash assets on July 1, 1930, were \$12,588.81; at the close of this year, June 30, 1931, \$11,638.97, showing a net decrease of \$949.84, but as the sum of \$648 is due from the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION for traveling expenses, this will be cut to \$301.84. Our income and expense accounts balanced in so far as

current expenses were involved; in fact, there was a surplus, but this was not sufficient to cover the appropriation for the Department of Education, the sum of \$2333 having been expended during the year for publication of the bulletins. As details are given in other reports, I shall not burden you with further statistics here other than to say that we are most fortunate in having our reciprocity income remain at approximately \$21,000 both last year and this. Prior to the increase in fee, our annual income averaged about \$16,000 and we were faced with a considerable annual deficit as our budget totalled \$20,000. The past year has proved most conclusively that we can definitely count on our income in hard times as well as in prosperous eras. The demand for reciprocity seems to be stable. Therefore, I believe that so long as we limit our total annual expenditures to \$20,000 we shall not run into any financial difficulties.

#### LEGISLATION.

This was a very active legislative year with at least forty state assemblies in session. Pharmacy bills were introduced in a considerable number of states: measures some of which were good, some bad, others indifferent. However, as Chairman Winne of the Legislative Committee has a detailed report ready for you, I shall not intrude upon his province.

But I do wish to say that there was a considerable amount of agitation in non-prerequisite states for the college requirement, which is most encouraging. The honors go to South Dakota and Maine for enacting such laws. Massachusetts and Missouri made noble attempts which did not meet with success in their legislatures. Another prerequisite bill is now pending in the Georgia legislature that seems to have a splendid chance of being enacted. We hope that the remaining states without college requirements will make similar attempts when their legislatures convene again so that two years hence we can report that pharmacy is on a 100% college basis.

#### TWENTY YEARS AGO.

Just as newspapers find it interesting to print daily a short synopsis of the news of "Twenty Years Ago," we may find it interesting to look back to 1911 and compare the entrance standard in pharmacy of that year with the requirements in 1931. This retrospect will show just what we have accomplished by our legislative program. The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy does not take credit for all the work accomplished in that period, for a considerable portion of it has been done by the state pharmaceutical associations. Nevertheless, the N. A. B. P. has furnished the inspiration and encouragement necessary to have secured these higher standards and it has always been prepared to lend a helping hand.

*Preliminary Education.*—In 1911, twenty-three states required absolutely no evidence of any preliminary education, not even graduation from grammar school. To-day, only one state is in that class. Nine states in 1911 were requiring graduation from high school and eight were requiring one or more years of high school. This year, forty-six states require high school graduation and two states require high school attendance.

*College Requirements.*—Here the gulf is wider. Only three states, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and New York, were requiring college graduation in 1911.

In 1931, we find thirty-eight states requiring college attendance, and, in all but three of them, graduation is compulsory.

*Experience.*—Whereas one could write examination on experience alone in some forty-five states in 1911, this figure has dwindled down to eleven states at present.

I think we have reason to be proud of this record of progress. When we read our annual legislative report and hear that but one or two states have enacted the college prerequisite, or that another state has adopted the high school requirement, we are likely to feel discouraged at the slowness of favorable change and wonder whether the effort put forth is worthwhile. An occasional retrospect, like the one which I have just sketched for you, is necessary to properly evaluate this important activity of the N. A. B. P.

#### THE FOUR-YEAR COURSE.

The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy has always taken a forward-looking attitude toward matters educational. In keeping with this policy, our Association in 1927 recommended the adoption of the four-year course as the minimum standard not later than 1932. The College Association did not approve the four-year standard until the following year, 1928, and then its decision was considerably influenced by the fact that the N. A. B. P. had already set the standard. I am emphasizing this fact for the reason that there has been some agitation against the four-year course from pharmacists, from the pharmaceutical press, and even from colleges of pharmacy. These objectors are only a small minority and it is well for us to remember that we, as an association, have taken a position in this matter which we should be prepared to defend, if called upon to do so.

The principal argument advanced against the four-year course is that the opportunities in pharmacy do not warrant it. This may be true of the present. However, we must not overlook the fact that we can enlarge the opportunities in pharmacy, and we can do so only by raising our educational standards to such a degree that we can command professional recognition. This is not idle theory; other professions have done the same. Recently I saw a letter from a well-known authority in medicine, whose name I do not feel at liberty to disclose without his permission, in which he said that pharmacy is now faced by the same problems that confronted medicine some years ago. "These problems," he said, "can be solved by pharmacy, just as they were by medicine, if the state examining boards will demand a proper standard of pharmaceutical education. The responsibility is ours."

That the adoption of the four-year course is bringing professional recognition to pharmacy is already evident. I am informed that the central office was requested to edit two monographs on "Pharmacy as a Career," during the month of June. One is being published by no less an authority than the Bureau of Education of the Department of the Interior of the United States Government, and the other is being prepared by the Institute for Research, headed by Drs. John A. Lapp and George F. Zook. These pamphlets will be circulated among students by high schools, colleges and libraries, and will be of tremendous help in interesting the right type of students in considering the adoption of pharmacy as their life work. The fact that we have not been given this professional recognition heretofore, and that now it is being won, is ample proof of what the four-year course will do for pharmacy.

As the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy has already adopted the four-year minimum, the only remaining duty is for member boards to adopt such rulings or make such amendments to the pharmacy law as may be necessary to enforce the four-year course requirement. In many states such action will be entirely unnecessary as the change is automatic, for the reason that graduation from a generally "recognized" college of pharmacy is specified in the law. Where such measures are necessary, however, let me urge that such steps be taken immediately. Even though the first four-year class will not graduate until 1936 and though three-year graduates who matriculated prior to 1932 will be admitted to board examination, the adoption of definite standards by the Board will discourage colleges from offering other than the nationally recognized curriculum, and thus students will be saved from a useless waste of time and money in taking a pharmacy course that cannot be given board recognition.

#### DISTRICT MEETINGS.

I need not dwell on the value of our joint district meetings with the college faculties, as the enthusiasm with which our members look forward to these meetings is ample proof of their importance. Five district meetings were held this year—the same number as last year—the honors going to Districts Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6. In our annual conventions, we have such a mass of important business to transact in a short period of time that there is small opportunity of getting personally acquainted and talking over individual problems with board members from neighboring states. That can be done at district meetings, and there, too, you can learn what some of our college friends think of the board examination questions you have been preparing, and they likewise will be glad to listen to your suggestions for improving curriculum, teaching methods, etc. The criticism is most impersonal and enlightening. My only regret is that the great distances in the West have made it impossible to hold district meetings in that part of the country due to the time and expense involved and the limited budgets of the Boards of Pharmacy. I hope that some day we shall find a way of overcoming this handicap, possibly through legislation that will permit annual renewal fees on Certificates of Registration sufficient to enable the individual board members to attend, not only district meetings, but our annual conventions as well.

#### CONTACT WITH BOARD MEMBERS.

As I glance over the attendance records of previous conventions and district meetings, I note that out of our membership of forty-nine boards, there are but thirty-five at most that take an active part in the meetings of the Association. We have about fifteen member boards that have little contact with the work of the National Association, and I believe it is our duty to find a way of reaching them. The non-attendance of these states is due, not to a lack of interest but to a lack of funds necessary for sending a delegate to the annual convention.

This year, Secretary Christensen has done some valuable work toward the solution of this problem by attending the meetings of the State Pharmaceutical Associations in the Western States as President of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

I wish it were possible for us to make a friendly call at least once each year on every board that has not participated in either the national convention or the district meeting. I realize that our budget will not at present permit this expenditure, as our \$3000 appropriation for travelling cost must cover the expenses of the district chairmen, the officers of the Association, the Executive Committee and delegates to special functions or meetings at which we should be represented. However, this suggested activity is one that should have first consideration when our exchequer accumulates funds.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS.

I wish to call your attention to the need of improvement in the method of handling our resolutions. Often, so little time is available at the convention that resolutions are not always placed before us in a comprehensive and definite form. This is not necessarily the fault of the members of the committee, but is due rather to the fact that rush of business makes it impossible to give resolutions adequate consideration.

Therefore, I recommend that our constitution be amended to authorize the creation of a Standing Committee, to be known as the Committee on Resolutions, with the term of one member expiring each year and whose successor shall be nominated and elected by the same procedure that controls election of members of other standing committees. By creation of this permanent committee, resolutions may be submitted through the entire year and thus the committee members will be enabled to complete most of their report before the convention meets, thereby obviating duplications and confusion.

#### N. A. B. P. HEADQUARTERS.

Only those of us who have visited the "Home Office" in Chicago realize the tremendous amount of detail work demanded each and every day of the year in taking care of the multiplicity of inquiries, or comprehend how blessed we are with a most efficient organization. Those of you who have not had this opportunity will find it a genuine pleasure and source of enlightenment to visit our national headquarters and see how well the affairs of the Association are handled—how complete and accessible are the files and what an assuring and pleasing atmosphere has been created by the organization.

Secretary Christensen and his assistants are to be commended for the splendid efficiency with which our national affairs are managed, and I am certain that they are always delighted to have a member visit them during a sojourn in Chicago.

#### CONCLUSION.

It seems to me that our Association, to assure continued and progressive success, should concentrate on the problem of securing increased attendance at each successive convention. This problem in my opinion should have the undivided and unremitting attention of the Association. The expense necessarily incurred by those compelled to travel the greater distances is so great that some of the board members deem it prohibitive. We cannot very well prescribe any method of solution that would be applicable in every case, for the problem of each state is unique within itself. Nevertheless, the importance of solving this problem still remains

before us as an ever-present reality, and I consider it a prerequisite to our continued success that we set before ourselves its solution as an objective to be finally attained with the ultimate result of 100 per cent representation of state boards at our national conventions.

If greater interest could be aroused in our district meetings I am sure the natural sequence would be increased interest in the national convention. This being the case, I think it would be well for the chairmen of the several districts to lay greater emphasis on the conferences during the coming year and thus see if their efforts in the districts will not bring about increased attendance at the national convention a year hence.

At this time I wish to express my appreciation to all officers, committeemen, members and the Editor of the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION for the assistance that they have rendered during my administration. Though all of our committees have done everything that could be asked of them, I wish to make special mention of the outstanding contribution of the committee in charge of the Department of Education. The work done by this committee speaks well for pharmacy, and indicates to kindred professions that we are in step with progress of to-day.

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### PLANT SCIENCE SEMINAR.\*

BY EARL B. FISCHER, COLLEGE OF PHARMACY, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA.

The Plant Science Seminar, a national organization, affiliated with the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, opened its ninth annual convention in Gainesville, on July 20, 1931, the sessions being held in the Chemistry-Pharmacy building on the campus of the University of Florida. The opening address of welcome was made by Dr. Townes R. Leigh, dean of the College of Pharmacy. Dr. B. V. Christensen, Chairman of the Seminar, presented a splendid address on "Research in Pharmacognosy." It follows:

#### ADDRESS OF THE CHAIRMAN PLANT SCIENCE SEMINAR.\*\*

##### RESEARCH IN PHARMACOGNOSY.

BY B. V. CHRISTENSEN.<sup>1</sup>

Pharmacists are interested in plants as sources of crude drugs and because of the substances in them which give them physiological activity or medicinal value. Dragendorff states that anything that is of vegetable growth that is used in medicine is a medicinal plant. It has been estimated that about 75 per cent of the materials prescribed daily by the physician or purchased directly from the druggist for the relief or cure of the various ailments of mankind, are derived from the vegetable kingdom (1); yet it appears to be the general opinion that vegetable drugs have been largely displaced by medicochemical remedies. It appears also to be the opinion of many that pure chemical products are better and more effective medicinal agents than crude vegetable preparations, with their "superfluous inactive constituents or plant dirt."

An editorial in a recent issue of *J. A. M. A.* (2) explains this situation rather aptly. "The popularity of endocrine, vitamin and diverse synthetic medicinal products in recent years has tended to obscure the significance of active constituents derived from the plant kingdom. The greater number of dependable and useful substances of natural origin in the therapeutic armamentarium may be forgotten because of the emphasis placed on synthetic products offered by the

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\* Report of Proceedings of the Ninth Annual Meeting, College of Pharmacy, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

\*\* Ninth Annual Session of Plant Science Seminar, Gainesville, Fla.

<sup>1</sup> Professor of Pharmacognosy and Pharmacology, University of Florida.