

"*The Druggists Circular* through the activities of its Associate Editor, Mr. R. W. Rodman, conducted an interesting experiment to determine how well seniors in colleges of pharmacy are informed on up-to-date matters. In fact, it might be said that the one purpose of the experiment was to determine whether these seniors read the drug journals or not. I take it that every college of pharmacy has plenty of drug journals available for the use of the students and that it is a question of whether these students are assigned reading in these journals or are in some other way required to peruse them. The result of this experiment, as shown in the following paper by Mr. Rodman, is enlightening to say the least. The Editor has no defense to make for colleges of pharmacy in this regard. I wish to point out, however, that the trade journals are only a small part of the journals that a good college of pharmacy makes available for the use of its students, and the teachers of the different subjects in colleges of pharmacy will naturally assign reading in the journals that treat more completely of the subject that the instructor is teaching. It therefore remains primarily for the teachers of pharmacy, and especially the teachers of commercial pharmacy, to cover the field that Mr. Rodman so well indicates is not covered. I believe this experiment would have been more interesting had it not been limited to subjects that were found primarily in trade journals. I would urge Deans of colleges of pharmacy to carefully read Mr. Rodman's paper."—C. B. JORDAN, *Editor*.

### CONTEMPORARY PHARMACY AND THE STUDENT.\*

BY ROBERT WILLIAM RODMAN, ASSOCIATE EDITOR, THE DRUGGISTS CIRCULAR.

What does the future hold for pharmacy? Will the pharmacist of to-morrow be in a more advantageous position than the pharmacist finds himself in to-day?

For many years these and similar questions have been propounded on the floors of our national conventions and have appeared in the pages of our drug journals. We have heard it said that the future is what we make it and many of us, no doubt, have taken that statement as more or less bromidic without stopping to realize what we actually can do as individuals and collectively to advance the interests of our profession, particularly as they apply to the future.

Pharmacy has suffered from a number of ills in recent years but I can conceive of none perhaps more basic than the lack of interest, enthusiasm and organization of its members. In my opinion, conditions in the profession which we are unable to correct at the present time will never be rectified until the day dawns when a majority of the pharmacists of the country take a greater interest in their solution. Many projects which have been launched in recent years and which would be of inestimable benefit to the pharmacist have suffered primarily because the man whom they were intended to benefit most knew the least about them and consequently was the least interested in them. Membership in our national and state associations is far from what it should be and the financial status of some of the smaller associations at the present time reflect this condition.

Encouraging the interest and enthusiasm of retail druggists and stimulating them to greater activity is certainly a most important fundamental in not only safeguarding the future of the profession, but also in providing for its present welfare. Assuredly it is one necessity which should be studied at the first opportunity.

A few months ago I undertook to survey the knowledge and interest of the senior students of six of our colleges of pharmacy pertaining to national affairs. How much did the new crop of pharmacists entering the profession know of what

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was going on in the field about them? I believe the results give us a key to the solution of our problem.

The students were asked ten questions:

1. Who is president of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION?
2. Who is president of the National Association of Retail Druggists?
3. Who is chairman of the United States Pharmacopœia Revision Committee?
4. Who is chairman of the National Formulary Revision Committee?
5. What is the Seligman Report?
6. Who is W. Bruce Philip?
7. What is the Capper-Kelly Bill?
8. What important work has been in progress in St. Louis, Mo., during the past year?
9. What is the Druggists' Research Bureau and what is its function?
10. Who is Wroe Alderson?

Of 394 senior students in five of the colleges surveyed:

0 knew the name of the president of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION,  
 0 knew the name of the president of the National Association of Retail Druggists,  
 4 knew the name of the chairman of the National Formulary Revision Committee,  
 24 knew who Wroe Alderson is,  
 25 were familiar with the Seligman Report,  
 40 could identify W. Bruce Philip,  
 94 knew the name of the chairman of the United States Pharmacopœial Revision Committee,  
 109 knew something about the functions of the Druggists' Research Bureau,  
 206 were familiar with the National Drug Store Survey at St. Louis, and  
 306 could identify the Capper-Kelly Bill.

On the basis of these results the five colleges would be graded at 14 per cent, 19 per cent, 25 per cent, 26 per cent and 29 per cent correct, respectively, and the group as a whole at 28 per cent. All the papers were carefully graded and a student who demonstrated the slightest familiarity with any question was given full credit.

I feel sure that you will agree with me that the results show a need in our college curriculum for some form of instruction along the lines of contemporary pharmacy.

The interests of the profession of pharmacy will undoubtedly be best served by men who are cognizant of national issues and problems affecting the trade. I believe the future of our associations are largely dependent upon this consideration as well.

The comment that there is plenty of time after the student is graduated by a college for him to become active in affairs beyond the limits of his own drug store if he is interested in so doing may possibly be advanced. If that is the judgment of the majority I fear we are losing an exceptional opportunity to encourage and supervise the men which is essential to the work. If students in colleges of pharmacy are required or encouraged to keep abreast of the times, if they participate in discussions of national affairs in the class room under the competent guidance which I am sure their professors are in a position to offer, they will not only develop the ability to intelligently read and understand information pertaining to problems facing the profession but will be stimulated to do so and to take an active part in meeting such problems wisely and to the best interests of pharmacy.

The inclusion of instruction in contemporary pharmacy in the college curriculum is not only possible but has actually materialized in some colleges, I believe.

The questionnaire which I distributed revealed the fact that at least one institution is following such a course.

In submitting these questionnaires I assured the deans of the various colleges that in presenting the results I would not identify the institutions which so generously coöperated in the study. The results from one college, however, were so significant that I asked its Dean to relieve me of that obligation in order that I might pass along to you something of his method of dealing with the subject and he assented.

The students of the School of Pharmacy of the University of Maryland made a record of 77 per cent on the questionnaire and when I asked Dean DuMez for information concerning the course as given at his college he replied as follows:

"We do not attempt to teach contemporary pharmacy in a special course, but each teacher is expected to take up that phase of contemporary pharmacy which applies to the subject he is teaching. By so doing, the professors in pharmaceutical chemistry will naturally bring to the student's attention contemporary workers in the field of pharmaceutical chemistry and the work which they are doing. The same holds true for the professors in pharmaceutical botany and pharmacognosy, professors in pharmacy, professors in commercial pharmacy, and professors in pharmacology and therapeutics. By this system the whole field is fairly well covered and covered from the viewpoint of the different teachers.

"Most of our teachers make definite library assignments so that all of our students are compelled to make use of drug journals frequently throughout their course. Another reason why our students have made such a good showing may be due to the fact that our journals are most accessible to them. Our library is located on the first floor of the pharmacy building and the students use the reading room constantly for study purposes. All of the domestic and the more important foreign pharmaceutical journals are stored openly on shelves in this reading room, and there are practically no restrictions placed upon their use by the students so long as they do not take them out.

"Most of our teachers, I am sure, do make a special effort to impress upon the students the value of pharmaceutical associations and the necessity for knowing what is going on in the drug field if they are going to keep up-to-date and be successful when they begin practicing."

Undoubtedly the results of Dean DuMez' work will be reflected in the future development of graduates of his college and their ability to cope with situations with which they will be faced.

I believe that the results of such instruction as I have in mind would be achieved only if it were based upon a well-rounded-out selection of magazines, including as many different journals as possible in order to receive the editorial opinions and interpretations of as many minds as possible.

May I, in closing, express with propriety, the suggestion that the development of an outline for a course in contemporary pharmacy that could be used as a guide by those who realize the importance of this phase of modern education might be advantageous. If members of the pharmaceutical press can lend any assistance to you in your efforts now or at a later date, I feel sure you will find them ready and eager to serve.

The profession of pharmacy needs the assistance of you gentlemen in developing generations of intelligent, alert and responsive pharmacists of wide vision and ready initiative.

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