

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES OF PHARMACY

C. B. JORDAN—CHAIRMAN OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, A. A. C. P., EDITOR OF THIS
DEPARTMENT.

Editor's Note: "The timely subject of Prof. Eby's paper, which follows, is of great interest to all engaged in teaching in colleges of pharmacy. He has covered the visual aids in pharmacognosy, giving information regarding different types and makes of apparatus, in a way that will be helpful to all teachers of the subject. The Editor hopes that similar papers on visual aids in other subjects will be presented at our Teachers' Conference.—C. B. JORDAN, *Editor.*"

VISUAL INSTRUCTION IN PHARMACOGNOSY.

BY FRANK H. EBY.*

During the last few years visual instruction has commanded the attention of many educators, and many institutions have made careful studies on this form of instruction and its value as an aid in teaching. Instructors in the field of science have long recognized its value and many consider it one of the most important educational forces at their command. Where careful studies have been made to determine its value, results indicate that there is a definite increase in learning for students who have the advantages of visual instruction as compared to the learning of students having the ordinary forms of class room instruction. Recently a number of educational institutions have established departments of Visual Education which are equipped with all types of projection apparatus and slide and film libraries. In most cases these departments have been established only after careful studies have indicated that visual instruction is a sound educational practice. Improvements in projection devices and the application of new and improved methods in photography have been responsible for much of the progress which we have witnessed in this field.

The importance of visual instruction has been emphasized very definitely during the last few years; however, this form of instruction has been an important part of the educational program in many professional schools for a long time. The many developments which have taken place in this field would seem to justify a brief review of the possible applications of visual instruction in the teaching of Pharmacognosy.

Most teachers of Pharmacognosy are using visual aids but they have been confronted with the problem of preparing or securing suitable material. Very few if any of the organizations which sell or rent visual aids offer satisfactory material for this course and in order to develop good collections of slides and films, instructors have found it necessary to prepare most of the material which they use. In many cases instructors have used their personal photographic and other equipment in preparing material for visual instruction. This condition has been relieved since photographers' supply houses are offering their services for the preparation of slides and films, a service that is very valuable to the instructor who, through lack of time or facilities cannot prepare his own material.

The instructor of Pharmacognosy occupies a position in which there are many

* Temple University.