

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: Could we confine our attention to the medicinals and preparations that are official in the U. S. P. and N. F., our teaching would be very much lightened. It is disappointing to the young graduate to go into a prescription pharmacy and find that a great deal that he had learned about U. S. P. and N. F. medicinals will be of little use to him because of the infrequent calls for them on prescriptions. There is no question but that it has become incumbent upon our colleges of pharmacy to give considerable attention to non-official medicinals if we wish our students to be successful in the prescription department. It is difficult to determine just how much time should be given to a study of these preparations. It is impossible to cover the total number thoroughly and the teacher must select for the purpose of study those that he thinks are most important. The following papers by Professors Andrews and Clark will be of interest to those who are confronted with this problem.—C. B. JORDAN, *Editor*.

THE PLACE OF SYNTHETICS AND PROPRIETARY REMEDIES IN THE CURRICULUM OF A COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

BY A. H. CLARK.*

In the recent Prescription Ingredient Survey by Gathercoal, it is shown that about one-third of all the different items occurring in prescriptions are proprietary. When we consider that the average pharmacist sells many proprietaries that are never prescribed, it is safe to say that half the number of items sold are proprietary. If we add to this a number of items that are listed in the Survey mentioned above as U. S. P. or N. F. and which are really "synthetic" remedies, and the great number of synthetics that are used in hospitals and otherwise, and are not official in either the United States Pharmacopœia or National Formulary, the importance of a knowledge of these two classes of medicaments cannot be denied.

Granting, then, its importance, how can such a subject be best handled in a college of pharmacy? There are no doubt various ways that will prove satisfactory, and no doubt the method must vary with varying conditions in the different institutions. The writer wishes to express his views in the hope that some may have their interest stimulated to such a point that they will undertake to give instructions in this line, and that the manner in which the subject is handled by him may prove helpful to others.

The prime purpose of such a course should be to give the student an opportunity to acquire some knowledge of synthetic and proprietary remedies. There are two ways to attain this end, the first one being to discuss all such medicaments in the regular courses in organic chemistry where they fit in with the subject matter of such a course. Anything like a thorough treatment of proprietaries and synthetics greatly increases the hours devoted to the regular courses, which is objectionable in many cases. Such a method is impractical in some cases, since the regular courses in organic chemistry are given by teachers unfamiliar with the special pharmaceutical aspects of the subject. Furthermore, such a method does not

* Professor of Chemistry, University of Illinois School of Pharmacy.