THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES OF PHARMACY

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THE VISION OF any professional group must be an ever-expanding one if that profession hopes to hold a place in the world of service. Well does the writer remember when the field of pharmacy was looked upon as a one department field and a college of pharmacy as a one department college comparable to a "College of Chemistry." When the writer of this introduction first insisted that physiology was a basic pharmaceutical science he was dubbed as visionary and bordering on *dementia præcox*. It took a Commonwealth study to justify the position of physiology in the pharmaceutical group. Bacteriology was a later addition to the basic science group. It has had to feel its way in, in the form of one- or two- or three-hour lecture courses. The time has come when a druggist without a laboratory knowledge of bacteriology can easily be a menace to a community, for without that knowledge he can neither conduct a sanitary drug store nor appreciate the care that is necessary to preserve the potency of a multitude of instruments of precision that are necessary in the scientific treatment of disease. In the paper which follows, Dr. George Reddish has stated in a most convincing way the value of bacteriological knowledge to both the student and practitioner of pharmacy.—*The Editor.*

THE TEACHING OF BACTERIOLOGY TO PHARMACY STUDENTS.

BY GEORGE F. REDDISH.*

Bacteriology, as an independent subject, is a newcomer to the curriculum of many pharmacy schools. In some schools materia medica courses have in the past included some instruction in bacteriology and immunology, while in others short separate courses covering these subjects have been offered. In still others full courses in bacteriology have been given for a long time. With the general acceptance of the four-year course in pharmacy, more schools have recently added separate departments devoted to the teaching of bacteriology entirely. This recognition of the importance of this subject to pharmacy students and to pharmacists is another indication of the progress made by schools of pharmacy within recent years.

Whether bacteriology is as important to the pharmacist as chemistry, pharmacognosy, pharmacology and the various courses included under the general heading of pharmacy, is perhaps beside the point, but it is, nevertheless, a valuable addition to the pharmacy school curriculum. Students do obtain additional training in this course which enables them to become even better pharmacists than they would be without it. Many practicing pharmacists to-day recognize the need of more fundamental knowledge of this subject, and have encouraged the establishment of separate bacteriology departments in our pharmacy schools.

It will be of interest to discuss the teaching of bacteriology to pharmacy students in the light of its subsequent value to them as practicing pharmacists. It is not my intention to outline a course in bacteriology for pharmacy students, nor to attempt to state exactly how such a course should be taught. I shall confine myself to pointing out the value of bacteriology to the pharmacist with the suggestion

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