

These statements are not theories or suppositions, but cold facts, easily ascertained by the most cursory investigation. Why, then, should we waste time in discussing whether pharmacy should be divided into the professional and the business branches, and the need for different educational requirements in the two divisions. Most of us are agreed that we need better trained professional pharmacists. Is there any less need of more education for the commercial pharmacist if he is to keep up with the progress of modern business?

The man who enters commercial pharmacy to-day finds that the responsibilities are much greater and his business relations more complex than twenty or even ten years ago. If he is to make himself a success rather than join the ranks of the thirty-five percent of retail druggists in this country who are eking out a mere livelihood, he must have a broader business training. This is necessary not only for the commercial pharmacist but for the professional man as well, if he is to realize on the full value of his professional education.

There are some who argue that the colleges should make their courses as practical as possible. This is a good thing, but within limits. It is not the function of a college or university to train men in the petty details of business or of a profession but to give them a thorough schooling in the fundamentals of business science, or of their profession, which they can apply to detail problems as they meet them. The student of medicine must spend his period of internship after his graduation from a school of medicine. Why do we not realize that the year or two which a man spends in store, wholesale establishment, manufacturing house, or laboratory after his graduation from a college of pharmacy, is his period of internship? It is not possible or desirable that a student should spring, full-grown, from the loins of his alma mater into a waiting position and immediately begin to function as though he had years of practical experience behind him.

We must realize that if the man in pharmaceutical work in the future is to measure up to the business man and the professional man in other lines, and to meet them as an equal, he must have a broader viewpoint of his own particular subject, and of the world in general. The problem of our colleges of pharmacy, then, is to give their students the wider training which business and professional students in other branches are getting, and not merely to give them more "practical" training as the term is generally understood.

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THE NEED OF ORGANIZATION AND COÖPERATION IN AMERICAN PHARMACY.

THE great need of American pharmacy to-day is organization and coöperation. To the student of political and social economy who might have the patience to investigate it, the situation of American pharmacy would present a

very interesting study; this situation would also explain why pharmacy means so little to the general public and particularly to the law makers and law enforcers. He would be particularly impressed with the fact that during the time that organization or confederation is the order of the day, American pharmacy is not nationally organized except as to its divisions or phases. It is, of course, the fact that American pharmacy was nationally organized in the early fifties in the American Pharmaceutical Association, but that this organization, through its failure to realize and meet the emergencies arising, permitted the formation of divisional organizations unaffiliated with itself, and now, because of these divisional organizations, is unable to function as a national organization. It is equally true that no one of these divisional organizations can function as a national organization for pharmacy, and they are also experiencing the usual difficulty of such organizations in again amalgamating, through fear that each will lose some peculiar advantage. To complicate the situation even more and to further emphasize the need for a real national organization, the divisional organizations and the American Pharmaceutical Association are working together, as effectively as can be done under the conditions, in the American Drug Trade Conference.

The other interesting phase to such a student would be that while we have failed to develop a national organization, we have developed state organizations, embracing within their membership or by affiliation all phases of pharmacy—the retail pharmacist, the wholesale pharmacist, the manufacturing pharmacist, the teacher, the salesman and others, harmonizing these interests and functioning quite effectively as a general association for the state. They find themselves, however, very much in the position of the political units of this Republic before the adoption of the Constitution—as effective geographical units, but unable to function in a national way because of no national association.

Those who study the situation must realize that American pharmacy will again become nationally organized in the American Pharmaceutical Association, either in its present form or suitably modified, when the American pharmacists realize through education or through enough of such sad and humiliating experiences as were undergone during the late war, or through burdensome legislation, that a national organization to represent them is absolutely necessary; in other words, when American pharmacists become class conscious, or, if the reader is sensitive, professionally conscious. The American lawyer, physician, chemist, dentist, and others are class conscious, and as a result we have such effective national organizations as the American Bar Association and American Medical Association.

Some far-seeing thinkers have become convinced that the most effective way to again reestablish the American Pharmaceutical Association is to confederate

with it in some way these state organizations. The American Pharmaceutical Association has, to bring this about, provided for a House of Delegates as one of its two main divisions, the House of Delegates being made up of delegates from the state associations only; the other division, the Council, at present having members elected by the Association and by its local branches. If this confederation can be brought about, the local branches would become units of the state organizations, and consequently, the Council members would be elected in part by the latter.

This is not only a statement of self-evident facts, but it is in the main a call to the state pharmaceutical associations, as strong as it can be made, to take advantage of this opportunity to again form a national organization for pharmacy, with which the divisional organizations could become affiliated, which affiliation, it should be emphasized, need not in any way affect the value of such divisional organizations as the National Association of Retail Druggists, National Wholesale Druggists' Association, and others. If anyone doubts that this is a possibility, he need only be referred to the divisional organizations within the American Medical Association, the American Chemical Society, or if it is preferred to take an example outside of the professional field, the effective work of the Railroad Brotherhoods within the American Federation of Labor may be studied. At present the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy and the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties meet at the same time and place with the American Pharmaceutical Association, and there is close accord and very effective coöperation between the three.

The financial difficulty presented in the dues to be paid to the national organization is constantly emphasized as the great difficulty in the way of the confederation. If this is admitted, it is certainly possible for American pharmacy to handle this difficulty as American chemists, or American physicians, or any other class of business or professional men have done—by establishing a joint fee, which will make the payments lighter upon the various phases of pharmacy, and give us more efficient service at less cost.

The need for a national organization is insistent; and all who have faith in American pharmacy and its possibility of service in the future must realize the gain of time and effort in going along with and not in opposition to a natural movement leading to national organization and coöperation. So let us make a start by making the House of Delegates a clearing house for the state associations.

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