

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF PHARMACEUTICAL FACULTIES

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—It seems to be a growing belief among laymen, and even among practical druggists, that one of the chief functions of a College of Pharmacy should be to produce practical and safe compounders of drugs and distributors of poisons. So thoroughly did the citizens of Virginia believe in this, that the thought of the people crystallized into the form of a law, which was enacted by the legislature of that state two years ago. The passage of that law placed immediate responsibility for producing the proper type of dispensers upon the one College within the State, the School of Pharmacy, of the Medical College of Virginia. In order to show how this institution is meeting the situation we are printing in this issue an article by Professor W. G. Crockett of the teaching staff. Every Conference school, as well as every Board of Pharmacy, will do well to follow closely the Virginia experiment. If the Medical College of Virginia makes good at the task given it by its legislature, it means the death knell to store experience, which all of us know, and most of us are willing to say, is an anachronism. If the Medical College of Virginia shows that it can make capable and safe dispensers, without store experience, there is no reason why the rest of us cannot if we use the same effort. The paper along similar lines by Dean W. J. Teeters of Iowa, is a fitting companion to Professor Crockett's, and the one by Dean Spease of Cleveland (p. 146, February JOURNAL A. PH. A.) again points out what should be accomplished in the training of the Pharmacist. This thought cannot be too often repeated.

R. A. LYMAN, *Chairman, Executive Committee and Conference Editor.*]

DISPENSARY AND HOSPITAL TEACHING IN THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF VIRGINIA.*

BY W. G. CROCKETT.*

Many of you are familiar, undoubtedly, with the law which went into effect in Virginia recently making it possible for a high school graduate, who has in turn graduated from a recognized school of pharmacy, to apply for registration without having had any previous drug store experience. The legislature of Virginia passed this law on its own initiative, basing its action on the fact that no such preceptorial training is required of physicians and dentists. Since studying the question closely, we in Virginia have become convinced of the wisdom of such action on the part of our law-making body.

We as educators in pharmacy have two well defined functions to perform. First, we must so train our students that they will be of greatest service to the public. Second, we must strive to the utmost to ameliorate working conditions within our ranks, and thus attract the more worthy young men and women into our profession.

In seeking to attain this object, if good judgment dictates that we discard certain teaching and preceptorial methods which may have been of inestimable value in the past, we should yield them willingly and adopt others which more nearly suit conditions rather than retain them for their traditional associations.

The apprenticeship system, although it has been of great value in the past, does not fulfil its mission at present because it militates against the future prestige of pharmacy by repelling from our profession promising young men and women who should be attracted to it. This is a day of specialization. Opportunity for service, financial reward, working conditions, educational and preceptorial re-

* School of Pharmacy, Medical College of Virginia.