

If we were to summarize the advantages of such a correspondence course we would say that it provides many opportunities for those who could not attend the University. Among them are: (1) Home-study courses for persons who contemplate the vocation of pharmacy, but lack some of the entrance requirements exacted by the State Board of Pharmacy; (2) means of becoming a registered assistant pharmacist; (3) means of preparing for registered pharmacist's examination; (4) means of keeping abreast of the times in those subjects applicable to the practice of pharmacy, in which science is making additions to our knowledge.

For those who are interested in the details of correspondence courses, we might cite as an example one of the courses in *Materia Medica*. This one embraces classification, physical description, and chemical constitution of crude drugs and their physiological properties, methods of dispensing them, their action, and their physiological relationships.

As previously stated, it depends on the point of view whether one may favor or oppose such courses. No one will deny that the ideal course in pharmacy is the one which is known as the regular course, as offered in a well-established curriculum approved by the trained educators of the Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties. No one who is an advocate of correspondence school work should be considered as inconsistent if he enthusiastically urges the necessity of such ideal courses for the proper training of pharmacists. On the other hand, if one takes the point of view as above referred to—that of striving to reach those who can ill afford, and hence will not attend a systematic course and receive its superior training, one is compelled to take the position of advocating most strongly such courses as are offered by Extension Departments.

AN IMPROVED METHOD FOR ENFORCING PHARMACY LAWS.

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As we are constantly reminded that the present system of conducting examinations, supervision of pharmacies (as to whether or not competent persons are in charge) and prompt prosecution of violations, are not as satisfactory as they might be; having had nine years' experience as a member of the Board of Pharmacy as at present constructed, the writer has come to the conclusion that a radical change in the general order of boards would be highly beneficial in more fully protecting the public from incompetency on the part of those engaged in conducting stores, and would also elevate pharmacy in the eyes of the public.

It would no doubt be better if the present system of a board consisting of five were entirely abolished and in its stead created a Commission of Pharmacy, into whose hands should be given all matters pertaining to pharmacy in the state, namely, the enforcement of the pharmacy laws, poison and anti-narcotic laws, pure drug laws, and any others that might be enacted, to protect the public against incompetency on the part of those engaged in pharmacies or the sale of

impure, deteriorated or inferior drugs. This commissioner should be a retail pharmacist actively engaged in the business, and having had at least ten years' experience as proprietor of a pharmacy, being such at the time of his appointment; he should be required to give at least eight hours per diem to his official duties, be required to visit either, personally, or through one of his agents, every pharmacy in the state at least four times annually, at least one visit being made by himself; he should be provided with an office and necessary office force; also a properly equipped laboratory, and laboratory force, competent to make necessary examinations of drugs, not only as to their purity but in the case of so-called patent or proprietary medicines, as to their contents, so as to be able to state whether they are safe for general medication or not; one month prior to the time of examination of candidates for registration, in conjunction with the dean of the school of pharmacy of the state (if recognized as such by the Conference of Faculties) or where there are two or more such schools, the one nearest his headquarters; or in states where there is no such school, with the President and Secretary of the State Pharmaceutical Association, he should select five retail pharmacists in actual practice, who, in conjunction with himself, should select the questions for the ensuing examination and conduct the same, together with such assistants as might be necessary, giving at least two days of eight hours each to the examination, one day, or more if necessary, being given to a thorough test of the candidates' ability to recognize and identify drugs and chemicals, according to the tests set forth in the U. S. P., the preparing of official preparations and compounding of prescriptions; five days or less after the last day of the examinations, the names of the successful candidates should be published, in one or more of the leading newspapers of the state; and each candidate receive a notice as to whether he was successful or not, from the office of the commissioner, whose name should appear on all certificates issued.

The commissioner should be appointed for a period of five years, and besides all expenses of his office and official duties, such as traveling expenses, etc., receive a salary commensurate with his work; those chosen to conduct the examinations should be paid at the rate of \$5 per day, the time not to exceed ten days at any one time of examination.

SCIENCE AND THE SCIENCES.*

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We are beginning to see that democracy is not, as was thought at the beginning of the last century, the condition of society or organization of government which would secure the greatest good of the greatest number; the greatest good of all is now our ideal. We are no longer content with the splendid definition of political democracy enunciated by President Lincoln, "a government of the people, by the people, and for the people." We want something more than po-

*Abstract of a lecture delivered before the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, Boston, May 15, 1913.