

American Pharmaceutical Association.

The American Pharmaceutical Association will hold its forty-third annual meeting August, 14th to 21st, at Denver, Col. The Committee on Education and Legislation has prepared its set of queries, which bear on the educational and legal status of pharmacy in America. Here are the queries:

POISON LEGISLATION.

(1) The legal restrictions on the practice of pharmacy of English-speaking countries are primarily based upon the principle of protecting the public against the indiscriminate sale and use of poisons.

It is desirable to have a collective report of the poison laws of the States, including separate acts as well as the poison sections of the various pharmacy laws, the important provisions, with suggestions for their codification, to be presented in tabulated form.

(2) Present a list of proprietary articles containing poisons; medicinal, antiseptic, insecticidal, or of general or popular use, giving the character of the poisonous ingredients and approximately their proportion; also state whether or not the packages contain any reference to or caution against the dangerous character of the contents.

(3) The committee of this section desires to present a statistical report on the number of deaths and percentage of death rate occurring during a stated period (one or more years) from the use of poison, stating (1) kind of poison, (2) in the form used, (3) accidental, (4) suicidal, or (5) homicidal.

This information may be obtained from the coroners, and should be transmitted to the secretary of this section.

REGISTRATION STATISTICS.

This committee desires to present a collective report embracing the following information from every pharmacy board in North America, based upon the year 1894:

(4) Registration of Pharmacists or Licentiates.

(a) The total number of candidates for registration as registered pharmacists or licentiates.

(b) The total number of registered pharmacists or licentiates.

(c) The number of graduate candidates.

(d) The number of graduates registered on diploma.

(e) The number rejected on diploma.

(f) The number of graduates registered by examination.

(g) The number rejected by examination.

(h) The number of non-graduates registered by examination.

(5) Registration of Assistants.

(i) The total number of candidates for registration.

(k) The total number of persons registered as assistants during the year 1894.

(l) The number of graduate candidates.

(m) The number of graduates registered on diploma.

(n) The number rejected.

(o) The number of non-graduates registered by examination.

(6) Registration of apprentices.

(p) The number of apprentices registered.

(r) The educational requirements.

(s) The age.

COLLEGE ATTENDANCE.

It is asserted that the great multiplication of drug stores is, in a measure, owing to the large number of graduates turned out by the pharmaceutical schools and colleges.

(7) Present statistics showing the number of students in attendance at the pharmaceutical schools and colleges in North America. Also the number graduated during the same period. To attain uniformity in the proportion of graduates to students, the period covered by one school year, 1893-94, should be taken.

(8) Should scholastic education be required preliminary to entrance into pharmaceutical schools or colleges? If so, in what degree is it practicable of enforcement? Should such education be a requirement for registration of apprentices by the State boards of pharmacy preliminary to eligibility for examination as assistant and pharmacist?

(9) Present an exhibit of practical experience requirements of all the pharmacy laws. What should be the minimum period required for the respective grades of registrations, and how can this be defined as applied to practical experience in a pharmacy or "drug store"?

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.

(10) What States recognize more than one grade of licentiates, and by what titles are the several grades distinguished? When two grades of licentiates are recognized, what are the age requirements?

(a) For the higher or pharmacist's grade?

(b) For the lower or assistant's grade?

(11) In what States is it customary to present the same list of questions to candidates for both grades, the grade or certificate granted depending upon the percentage of correct answers returned by the candidates? What are the advantages and defects of this method?

(12) To what extent is it customary for pharmacy boards to require candidates to demonstrate by practical work their fitness for registration? Is it possible under existing circumstances to greatly extend the principle of practical examinations?

(13) Where experience is a requirement for graduation or registration, should a distinction be made between experience gained in a city pharmacy and that obtained in a country drug store, and what should be the ground of such a distinction when made? Also, to what extent, if any, should menial service in a drug store, unconnected with compounding, be taken as experience?

(14) What pharmacy boards and what institutions teaching pharmacy make any of the above-named distinctions as to what constitutes "experience in a drug store"?

The section on scientific papers is also out with its list of queries. Here it is:

(1) Is the thin, green, wild-cherry bark really more valuable therapeutically than the older and thicker brown bark? Make comparative assays.

(2) Do all the well-known brands of quinine sulphate conform to the tests of the U.S.P., 1890?

(3) Devise a method of assaying digitalis that yields the true amount of the one or more active principles of the drug.

(4) Separate, purify, and describe the various active ingredients of digitalis.

(5) Is English digitalis as superior to the German as the difference in price would indicate?

(6) What percentage of the U.S.P. pep-sins of the market come up to the Pharmacopeial requirements?

(7) Determine in case of such drugs as can be secured whether they yield products of greater value therapeutically when percolated in the fresh than in the dried state.

(8) Compare all the well-known methods of assaying belladonna leaves, belladonna root, and henbane leaves, applying titration by volumetric acid solution to each, and determine which method extracts the most alkaloid from the drug.

(9) Do the same for coca leaves and ipecac.

(10) Determine the relative value of western and southern senega.

(11) What is the quantity of calcium sulphide dispensed by pharmacists?

(12) In what cases can acetic acid be advantageously substituted for alcohol in the exhaustion of the drug?

(13) Is Alexandria senna superior to Tinnevely senna?

(14) Give an account of the various nostrums that depend for their efficacy and value upon acetanilide, and, if possible, give their analysis.

(15) Is the decidedly different yield of pilocarpine due to two species of pilocarpus? If so, what are the species and what are their relative contents of alkaloids? If not, why has pilocarpine been so scarce?

(16) Do ignatia beans possess any superiority over nux vomica buttons?

(17) Give the relative alkaloidal value, i.e., percentage of cornutine of Keller, of Spanish, German, and Russian ergot.

(18) Examine and report upon the various kinds of quinine sulphate pills dispensed by pharmacists. Do they contain the claimed amount of quinine sulphate, and do any of them contain cinchonidine sulphate?

(19) Honduras sarsaparilla is said to be superior to Mexican; is this supported by facts? If so, demonstrate it.

(20) What is the quality of oil of peppermint dispensed by pharmacists?