

KOSMET KLUB
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TECHNICAL TRAINING

VALUE OF THOROUGH EDUCATION FOR YOUNG PHARMACISTS.

ADVANTAGES OF CHEMISTRY

Article Written by H. L. Thompson—

"The Better You Are Prepared
the Larger the Opportunity."

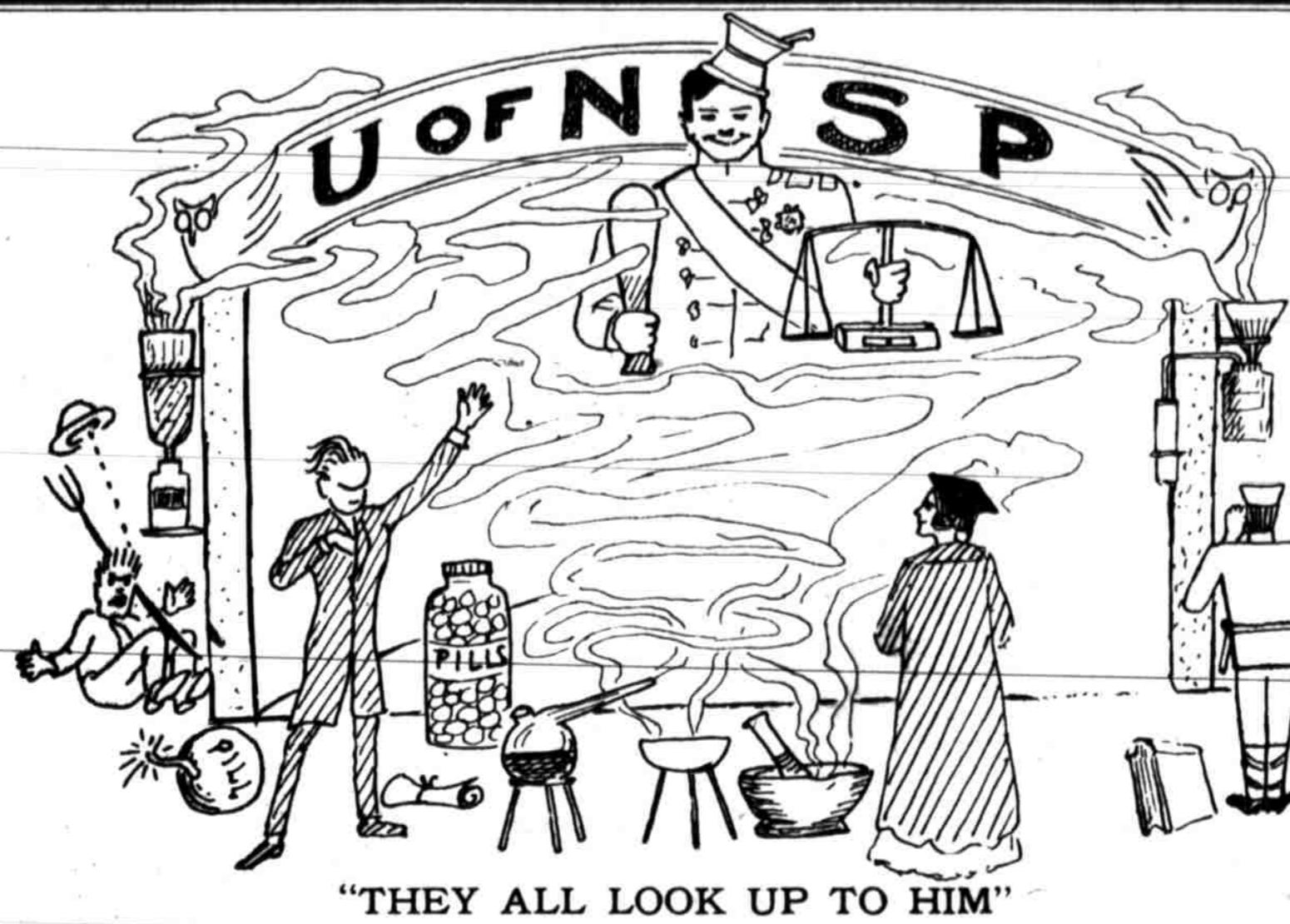
When the law providing for the licensing of druggists in Nebraska went into effect it provided that druggists then in business should be granted a license without the formality of an examination. Had all such druggists been required, as now, to pass a satisfactory examination in the various subjects, many doubtless would have been forced to seek other employment. Like the old-time doctors, they had learned their trade by serving a certain apprenticeship, but with little or no scientific training. Few druggists are now produced by the old-time apprenticeship method alone, although the practical experience is still an important factor.

The question naturally arises in the minds of the younger students of pharmacy whether all this technical training is really worth while, and whether all these weeks and months of toll in class room and in the laboratory is not, after all, a useless expenditure of time and money. Is it not merely a means of passing the state examining board and then to be forgotten in the rush of business life? If this preparation has for its goal only the passing of a satisfactory examination it would not be strange that the student should hesitate. On the contrary, the skill and technical knowledge acquired in school should become a real asset to the future career of the pharmacist. Let us take the subject of chemistry and notice its application.

First, in what way will a knowledge of chemistry help in filling prescriptions. If the physician should hand you a prescription, to be filled while he waits, would you not feel a bit uneasy in compounding it without some knowledge of the chemical reactions taking place, and even if you succeeded, without serious accident, in getting the ingredients mixed, but obtained an unsightly product instead of an attractive preparation, would you not feel self-condemned to have your certificate framed for the inspection of such physicians. But modern pharmacy does not consist in the mere filling of prescriptions from stock bottles put up by pharmaceutical houses and sold to the druggist at fancy prices. The trained druggist will use his chemical knowledge in making such preparations himself and also in testing such as he cannot make to see that they meet the requirements of the U. S. P. He may thus avoid the mistakes, which so often result fatally, when stock bottles are not properly labeled.

There is an ever widening field of activity and profit for the properly prepared pharmacist who uses his time and knowledge wisely. Druggists are too prone to complain that the physicians are unsympathetic and patronize patent medicine concerns to the detriment of the official preparations. Careful investigation will doubtless show that the druggists are

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THE MORAL EFFECT OF DRUG STORE ON A COMMUNITY.

See yonder man tottering down the street, bleared and bloated face, disheveled hair, shuffling step, a wreck of a human being. Who is responsible for such lives as these? Ask yourself the question, my dear brother druggist, are you? Ponder over the matter a while. What about that patent medicine? Did it contain morphine or cocaine? Yes, it did; and yet you sold it to that man. What about the soothing syrup you sold to that mother or nurse to feed to the poor innocent babe? Did she know that she was giving the child a habit forming drug? Yes, it is true; it was present in small quantities, but remember a child is very susceptible to habit forming drugs. Beware of that "pain killer" that contains morphine, too. The pain will be greater than you can bear when the habit is formed. Why not bear a little pain now, or place the responsibility in the hands of a competent physician?

The catarrh cure also contains cocaine, but you did not warn the patient of his danger. Is it any wonder that we have cocaine fiends, when there are so many dangerous catarrh cures on the market?

Now the drug store is looked to as a kind of a social center. People come and go a place where they are always welcome at any hour of the day or day of the week. Very much like the poor, them you have with you always. But after all, is it not a greater blessing to be useful and helpful to the brother in need than to be richer in dollars?

Do not misunderstand me. There are drugs in the hands of a good, moral, judicious physician are of the greatest value and are very necessary, but not so when dealt out to the public in forms of patent medicines, bitters, tonics, and remedies of various kinds.

Be judicious, be a counsellor, a helper to the buyer in choosing only the healing and helpful drugs. Make it your aim to cure and not to cure humanity. And you who buy, be careful the headache tablets and bromides. Be temperate in the use of drugs. Do not form habits, but go to one you can trust, and remember there are many cures as well as cures.

WHAT ARE THEY?

Phenyldisulphavintetroxydiamonio-
arsenobenzine
or
Dimethylaminophenylidemethyl-
pyrazon.

THE NEW PHARMACEUTICAL LABORATORY.

In the northwest corner of the basement of Nebraska Hall is situated a new laboratory of pharmacy, for the carrying on of pharmaceutical assaying and testing of crude drugs, chemicals and preparations, official in the United States Pharmacopoeia, and used in general in the medical and pharmaceutical professions.

With the removal of the medical physiology to Omaha, the School of Pharmacy was expanded last fall to one more laboratory, in which this distinct line of work could be done. The space was formerly occupied by Dr. A. E. Guenther, now in Omaha, as his private office and research laboratory. When the first semester of the present year began, all there was to be seen were the old pillars of the physics department, and old physiological tables from pharmacology. Today it is a splendid laboratory, with water and gas fixtures and complete.

On entering the physiology laboratory, room 5, and turning to your left, going through the blood pressure room wherein stand the new respiration apparatus and a complete outfit of physiological and pharmacological experiments, you are confronted with a fenced in apartment, a sign over the door reading, "Come in without knocking, go out the same way."

Passing through this gateway, you immediately see block tables, block cases, lockers, and an unusual display of glassware. Shellbach's blue-lined burettes stand here and there against a double-shelved ledge running midway the lengths of the tables, containing flasks and bottles of all description. Along the south wall to your left, stand a black case containing nearly all the volatile oil, fluidextracts and tinctures assayed in pharmacy, and a set of U. S. P. test solutions; a large sink on the left side of which are a Rudorf's sandbath, a water oven, a drying oven, and a Barnstead water still, on the right a large water

Edo Anderson of New York City, Harry Neilson and Edwin Corbin, M. W. Huntington of Liberty, Nebr.; Glen Hoag, W. W. Stowe, L. R. Eby of Hartington; Nell Ward, Mildred Young and Sid O'Bowers will be held this week for the Pharmacy banquet.

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ARIZONA CACTUSES

BURBANK WRONGLY CALLED INVENTOR OF "SPINELESS CACTUS."

A FOOD FOR JACK RABBITS

Stenographic Report of Paper Read Before Meeting of "Nebraska Academy of Sciences," May 8, 1914.

By Charles E. Bessey.

Stenographic report of a paper read before the "Nebraska Academy of Sciences," May 8, 1914.

In a recent visit to southern Arizona I made some studies of the larger of the numerous cactuses which are to be found in that region. Before I discuss the very large cactuses I wish to say a word in regard to the prickly pears (Opuntia) which are so common in that region. They are of interest to us because of the fact that certain ones of these have been spoken of freely as "spineless cactuses," and the impression has been given that these were invented by Mr. Burbank. Now it may be that Mr. Burbank did invent some spineless cactuses, but the fact is well known to the people of Arizona that nature is constantly producing prickly pears that are practically without spines. In traveling over the mesa one finds every little while in a protected place a prickly pear which has no large spines. All prickly pears have minute spicules which are very uncomfortable to the skin and must be somewhat painful for animals, but since they lack the long sharp spines, such cactuses are spoken of as spineless, and in fact are eaten by the hungry animals of the desert. I speak of the spineless cactus today especially because of the fact that my attention has been called to the advertising that certain people are doing in Nebraska with the expectation of selling spineless cactuses to the farmers of this region. I have two objections to having this state exploited by the spineless cactus people. In the first place, spineless cactuses of the southwest are tended things which will not endure the Nebraska winters. We have wild prickly pears of several species in Nebraska, but they are by no means spineless, and probably cannot be made so. It follows, therefore, that any men investing in spineless cactuses are likely to get plants that would kill out during our Nebraska winters.

The spineless cactuses is that no self-respecting cow or ox would care to eat forage of that kind. In the desert all animals are hungry, and they are ready to eat anything. Accordingly in the Arizona deserts the jack rabbits and the cattle and other plant eating animals eat the less spiny cactuses merely because they are so hungry that they must eat them in order to live. Our cattle brought up as they are on succulent grass, clover, alfalfa, etc., could not be induced to eat such crude food as their less fortunate relatives in the desert. So I say to you today, do not invest in spineless cactuses in the hope of getting good forage plants.

Related to the prickly pears are the tall treelike cactuses which occasionally attain a height of fifteen feet or more and which have a trunk of sometimes eight or ten inches in diameter.

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