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**PHARMACISTS AS PROFESSIONAL
MEN.**

Are we as pharmacists professional men? We maintain that we are. However, quoting a few passages from the speech of the late Wm. M. Searby of the College of Pharmacy of the University of California, before the American Pharmaceutical Association at Hot Springs, Ark., in September, 1908, in which he defines the status of the pharmacist, we can readily understand why we are not considered as such, generally.

"A professional man is a man of culture and attainments and only such are regarded as professionals. Measured by this standard, 50,000 druggists in the United States, as a class, can hardly claim to be professional men, nor will they be so recognized as long as the majority of the pharmacy graduates have only a grammar school preliminary education, followed by a two year course in a college of pharmacy, while thousands are being registered as licentiates in pharmacy without any college instruction, and still other thousands of drug clerks are confining their scientific studies to a vigorous cramming by teachers who are experts in the art of fooling the state board. Now, pharmacy is a profession, and there are many in this country whose right to be classed as professional men cannot be called into question. Some of these have not had the benefit of high and classical courses, but have by study and effort made good and attained a degree of culture which entitles them to rank with those whose opportunities were greater. Why, then, if many pharmacists are truly professional men, does not the world at large so recognize them as a body? Because of the other large number who are dragging us down by deficient culture, inferior scientific attainments and unethical practices. It is my conviction that the status of the pharmacist today is kept down more by the practice of druggists than by their deficiencies, whatever these may be, in education and scientific attainments. These latter defects we are rapidly curing. Our colleges are demanding higher entrance requirements and are giving more instruction. The desire among us is almost, if not quite, universal to improve the quality of our drugs and preparations. All of this elevates our standing in the community. But we are sadly hindered in our aspirations for a higher status by an undue prominence given to the trade that is not compatible with the highest ethics and which the public are coming increasingly to condemn."

Since the founding of the School of Pharmacy at the University of Nebraska she has always stood for the higher things in our profession. Not only has she kept abreast of the times in the matter of higher entrance requirements and more thorough scientific and general education, but she has set up a standard for other schools of pharmacy to follow. However, the movement for increasing the requirements for entrance has not been confined to the University of Nebraska alone, but has been general over the United States.

Another fact which has been of importance in improving our status has been the recent national, state and municipal food and drug legislation. With the passage of the National Food and Drug Act of 1906 a better and more thorough training in pharmacy and pharmaceutical chemistry has become an absolute necessity.

The state boards of pharmacy all over the United States are giving more rigid technical and scientific examinations to their applicants for registration, making it almost impossible for an unlettered and unscientific man to successfully pass them.

Therefore, can we not say that a person who has had four years of high school training and graduated from the four-year course of some recog-

nized school or college of pharmacy and has made himself eligible for registration as a licensed pharmacist by having the necessary experience, is in every sense of the word a professional man? The writer maintains that we can. Has not the pharmacist of today a just claim for recognition as a professional man? In my opinion he has. H. F. W.

Taking the State Board Exam.

After weeks of preparation,
Study and deep concentration—
My brain with knowledge packed and stored,
From books until then unexplored—
I come, as meekly as a lamb,
To try to pass the board exam.

'Tis a maddening miasma,
A pharmaceutical phantasma,
That surpasseth calculation—
The state board examination;
Of all its pitfalls I had heard,
But my ambitions had been stirred.

The questions came; we looked them
o'er,

And thought of sneaking out the door;
But pride and fear held us in lash,
So we attempted nothing rash,
All day we struggled steeped with pain.

All night we wrestled with champagne.

Every day was full of troubles;
Every night was filled with bubbles,
Until my brain was in a whirl;
A flood of thoughts did seeth and swirl

In the recesses of my head;
My pulse was weak, my eyes were red.

But like all things, this had an end,
And homeward we our ways did wend,
To wait in silence and suspense
In agony deep and tense,
For the report we feared to see;
Each day seemed an eternity.

The postman came on dreary morn,
When all the world appeared forlorn—
Murk, mist and fog, and thunder's boom

Denoted it a day of doom—
And left for me a letter scored,
"From the State Pharmic Board."

Taking it with hesitation,
Opening it with trepidation,
I gazed upon the message there,
And read it thru in deep despair;
For it contained no hope, alas!
It said, "Young man, you failed to pass!"

At first I snorted, swore and raved,
Then I swore and roared and caved;
But time passed, I soon became
Comparatively calm and sane.
And I'll come back, once more a lamb,
To take the next state board exam.
—Anonymous contribution to the
Indiana State Board.

The following table gives the proportion of the various elements in the human body:

	Per cent
Oxygen	62.430
Carbon	21.150
Hydrogen	9.865
Nitrogen	3.100
Calcium	1.900
Phosphorous	.946
Sulfur	.230
Chlorin	.162
Sodium	.081
Magnesium	.027
Iron	.014
Flourine	.014

FOR STUDENTS ONLY.

Did you know that
Epsom salts was $MgSO_4$
Calomel was $HgCE$
Rochelle Salts was $NaKC_4H_4O_6$
Salt peter was KNO_3

A NOVEL SIGN.

A local druggist had the following sign in his window this spring:
"With the peep of the robin comes the bark of the sassafras."

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