

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF REGISTRATION
IN PHARMACY.

FOR THE YEAR 1893.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT.

BOSTON, 13 BEACON STREET, Oct. 5, 1893.

To His Excellency WILLIAM E. RUSSELL,
Governor of the Commonwealth.

SIR:—As required by section 6 of the pharmacy law, the following report of the official acts, receipts and disbursements of the Board are respectfully submitted.

Oct. 4, 1892, the Board met at their rooms, 13 Beacon Street, and organized by the election of H. M. Whitney, president, and F. H. Butler, secretary. The law requires “three regular meetings in each year, one on the first Tuesday of January, one on the first Tuesday of May, and one on the first Tuesday of October; and such additional meetings, at such times and places, as they may determine.” During this, the eighth year, ending Oct. 1, 1893, forty meetings have been held.

At thirty-nine of these meetings five hundred and forty-four applicants were examined, orally and alone, by two or more members of the Board; by a written reply to twenty printed questions, involving about one hundred answers; and by an examination of twenty samples of drugs, simples and compounds. It has been the purpose of the Board to require of each applicant such knowledge, experience and familiarity with drugs old and new, common and specific names, use, dose, antidotes of the ordinary poisons, etc., as shall satisfy us that he is entitled to registration, and is fairly up to the requirements of the day. We desire, at as early a day as possible, to apply the additional test of some practical pharmaceutical work.

As the new Pharmacopœia, in all its preparations, gives the weights and measures in the metric system, a thorough familiarity with it will be required after Jan. 1, 1894.

That we may have granted registration to some who were incompetent is possible; but the following table, exhibiting

results of our examinations, will show an effort at least to do our work fearlessly, and in the interests of the people whom we represent : —

DATE.		Members Present.	Examined.	Passed.	Rejected.
1892.					
October	4,	4	11	4	7
	5,	4	13	1	12
	6,	4	16	4	12
November	15,	3	9	2	7
	16,	3	15	4	11
	17,	3	16	4	12
December	6,	4	10	2	8
	7,	4	15	5	10
	8,	4	15	5	10
1893.					
January	3,	4	11	—	11
	4,	4	14	4	10
	5,	4	15	2	13
February	7,	4	11	4	7
	8,	4	15	2	13
	9,	4	16	3	13
March	14,	3	15	3	12
	15,	4	15	2	13
	16,	4	14	5	9
April	3,	4	13	1	12
	4,	4	15	4	11
	5,	4	15	4	11
	18,	4	11	2	9
	19,	4	15	3	12
	20,	4	15	5	10
May	2,	4	14	—	14
	3,	4	14	1	13
	4,	4	15	5	10
	16,	3	16	5	11
	17,	4	10	1	9
	18,	4	16	4	12
	31,	4	15	2	13
June	1,	3	16	5	11
	2,	3	14	5	9
	13,	4	12	2	10
	14,	4	15	5	10
	15,	4	15	6	9
September	12,	5	12	7	5
	13,	5	15	2	13
	14,	5	15	4	11
			544	129	415

September 12, special meeting, 7.30 to 11 P.M., 1
Sessions for examinations, 39
Total sessions, 40

Of the above 544 examinations, 208 are original or first examinations.

Passed on the first examination,	51
Passed on the second examination,	36
Passed on the third examination,	16
Passed on the fourth examination,	11
Passed on the fifth examination,	3
Passed on the sixth examination,	6
Passed on the seventh examination,	2
Passed on the eighth examination,	2
Passed on the ninth examination,	2
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Total passed for the year (about 24 per cent.),	129
Total rejections for the year,	415
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Total examinations,	544

A brief summary of the eight years' examinations exhibits the increasing work of the Board:—

	Examined.	Rejected.
First year,	101	79
Second year,	167	97
Third year,	213	124
Fourth year,	276	141
Fifth year,	279	156
Sixth year,	315	200
Seventh year,	488	341
Eighth year,	544	415
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	2,383	1,553

Total passed (nearly 29 per cent.), 830

We regret the necessity which compels us, in making up this report, to record, as in former years, the astonishing ignorance of some who seek to become registered pharmacists, as exhibited by the following answers:—

Proto- and deuto-iodide of mercury are the same.

Hypo, per and sub all mean strong.

Hoffman's anodyne is sweet spirits of nitre. Another said it was tincture of iodine.

Camphor comes from the earth.

Spirit of mindererus is made from acetate of soda and liquor ammonia.

Vinum album fortior contains ninety-four per cent. of alcohol.

Bismuth is an herb, and so is subnitrate.

Simple ointment is pure vaseline.

Simple cerate is pure wax.

Source of pepsin is the gall of a hog.

Lactic acid is used in ulcers.

Hirudo means "hurry."

Fusion is evaporating a substance.

Secale cornutum is hemlock. Another said it was the tops and leaves of some herb.

Solution of persulphate of iron is used as a carminative.

Solution of subsulphate of iron is a weaker preparation.

Lanoline comes from lard. Another said it was from suet.

To detect calomel from corrosive sublimate, drop some of the powder in water, and if it is calomel it will dissolve right off.

Citrine ointment is made by infusing nitrate of lead with nitric acid. Another said it was a mixture of hydrargyri chloridi citras, one-half drachm, with petrolatum, one and one-half ounces.

One applicant, aged forty-six, and claiming to be a physician and pharmacist of fifteen years' experience, when asked what he would do in case of poisoning from nitrate of silver, said he would send for an undertaker. When pressed for an answer as a physician, said he would give an emetic of sulphate of zinc. He also said:—

Perchloride of mercury is calomel.

Deuto-iodide of mercury is red precipitate.

Tincture of aconite, drops and minims are the same.

Secundum artem is two ounces.

If there has ever been an objection to the Pharmacy Board, the above answers to simple questions ought to satisfy any honest person that the "condition of pharmacy in Massachusetts" would not improve without a Pharmacy Board to protect the people from the hazard of such fearful ignorance, by refusing registration unless better qualified.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Oct. 1, 1892, cash in hands of State treasurer,		\$401 52
Received during the year from applications,	\$2,146 00	
Received during the year from six duplicate certificates,	3 00	
Total receipts for the year,	<u>2,149 00</u>	
Total amount in hands of State treasurer,		\$2,550 52

Drafts have been as follows:—

	Services.	Expenses.	
H. M. Whitney,	\$290 00	\$148 25	
F. H. Butler,	570 00	299 10	
John Larrabee,	15 00	3 54	
A. K. Tilden,	167 50	12 75	
John A. Rice,	180 00	218 36	
Total,	<u>\$1,222 50</u>	<u>\$682 00</u>	\$1,904 50
T. T. Bailey, services as monitor,		\$117 00	
Winkley, Dresser & Co., stationery,		12 45	
“Vox Populi Press,” stamped envelopes, cards and printing,		92 25	
C. F. Hatch & Co., rolls for certificates,		2 00	
Damrell & Upham, dispensatory,		6 00	
G. C. Cannon, engrossing certificates,		6 12	
American Publishing Company, printing ques- tions,		13 00	
Balance,			<u>248 82</u>
			397 20
			<u>\$2,550 52</u>
Balance in hands of State treasurer,			\$397 20

LIABILITIES.

Examinations not made (from previous years),	\$81 00		
Examinations not made (from this year),	282 00		
H. M. Whitney,	23 25		
F. H. Butler,	26 30		
G. C. Cannon,	5 16		
		<u>\$417 71</u>	
Leaving a net indebtedness of		20 51	
			<u>\$397 20</u>

The ever-annoying, pestilential evil of liquor selling, occupying so much time of the Legislature, was, during the past year, heroically met, so far as the registered pharmacists are concerned, by the amendments to the pharmacy law, which seem to meet the hearty approval of the people. This legislation was not desired by this Board as a Board of Pharmacy, but as pharmacists and citizens we unhesitatingly say it was wise and timely.

At a meeting of the Board, June 14, 1893, the following resolutions were offered, and after careful consideration were unanimously adopted:—

Whereas, The Massachusetts State Pharmaceutical Association, at the eleventh annual meeting, held at Springfield, Sept. 6, 7 and 8, 1892, by unanimous vote, instructed its committee on legislation to petition the next session of the Legislature for an act to correct the abuse of, and fraud in securing, the sixth-class liquor license; and

Whereas, The Legislature has passed such an act, making it the duty of this Board to investigate complaints and enforce the law, thus expressing confidence in the discretion of the Board; and believing the General Court have voiced the desire of the people of the Commonwealth and all reputable pharmacists of the State; it is therefore

Resolved, That, while the new and additional labors thus laid upon us greatly increase our responsibility and duties, and while, as members of the Board, we regret the burdens, yet we recognize the apparently almost unanimous desire of the people and the demand of our fellow pharmacists; and, as the Legislature has ordered, we must accept the trust.

Resolved, That four thousand copies of the pharmacy law, with recent amendments, and other acts affecting pharmacists, be printed, and ready for distribution at the next annual meeting of the Massachusetts State Pharmaceutical Association, and to other applicants interested.

Resolved, That all complaints properly coming to the notice of any member of the Board must be carefully examined by the agent; and if any case shall appear to be one not requiring a hearing before the Board, it shall be dismissed or delayed for more satisfactory evidence, as it will be the purpose of the Board to avoid unnecessary prosecution.

(Signed) H. M. WHITNEY, *President*.

JOHN LARRABEE.

AMOS K. TILDEN.

JOHN A. RICE.

F. H. BUTLER, *Secretary*.

In this connection we present as a part of our report the following statement, received from our agent, Mr. Vose. It has been impossible to give to every complaint made the time and attention desired; but we submit that, with the sum placed at our disposal, a large amount of work has been accomplished.

AGENT'S REPORT.

LAWRENCE, MASS., Oct. 2, 1893.

To the Board of Registration in Pharmacy.

GENTLEMEN:—I respectfully submit the following report of my labors as agent of your Board for the year ending Sept. 30, 1893.

In October, 1892, I looked over the drug stores in Somerville. A majority of them were complying with the law, although several were not. Four complaints were made for putting up prescriptions without being registered pharmacists, and convictions followed in each case. Three were fined, and one case was put on file. I also visited Worcester in October, and made some investigations upon complaints made to the Board, but could find nothing at that time which would warrant prosecution.

In November I visited the drug stores in Charlestown and Chelsea. Several were found who were not living up to the law, but only one in each place was doing a regular drug business without being registered. Those two were brought into court and convicted. In November I also looked over the drug stores in Wilmington, Woburn, Wakefield and Stoneham. They all seemed to be doing a legitimate business, and no complaints were made.

In December I called at the drug stores in Malden, Melrose, Medford and Everett. They were doing a straight business, with few exceptions, and nothing could be done with any of them criminally. I also finished up some court cases in Somerville and Chelsea, as previously alluded to.

In January, 1893, I went to Lynn and investigated a case, but nothing could be done in the matter. Also went to Boston and New Bedford. At the latter place two complaints were made. The parties were brought into court and convicted. They appealed to the superior court, and their cases are still pending.

In February I went to the superior court in New Bedford, Taunton and Cambridge, and looked after cases which were pending. In Cambridge the party pleaded guilty, and paid his fine. In the other cases further continuance was granted the defendants, and the cases have not as yet been disposed of.

In March I looked over the drug stores in Fitchburg, and found

them all in charge of registered pharmacists. Some of them were apparently doing quite a liquor business; but the police seemed disposed to attend to that, and no complaints were made. I also investigated several complaints in Boston. One man was brought into court, and convicted of doing a drug business without being registered. He was fined, and appealed to the superior court. He changed his location; was brought in later on a similar charge, found guilty, sentenced, and appealed as before. Both cases come before the superior court in Boston some time in October.

In April I investigated cases in Worcester, Palmer, Haverhill and Lowell. Also visited Springfield and Boston. In Palmer a man was found who was running a store for a registered pharmacist in another town. He was not registered himself, and did not claim to be. He was brought into court, found guilty, and paid a fine. In the other places visited no cases could be found which would warrant complaints.

In May I visited the drug stores in Stoughton, Canton and Newton. Also investigated a case in Worcester, which resulted in a conviction. This was the first case for keeping and exposing drugs for sale that had been brought into the courts. The party appealed; but, as nothing has been heard of the case since, he must have withdrawn his appeal and paid his fine. In Newton two stores were found where the real or supposed owner was not registered, and had procured a sixth-class license by taking a registered man into partnership. This case (the Board will remember the special complaint made) was thoroughly considered and discussed. It appearing that the liquor license was granted contrary to the intent of an act approved April 18, 1889 (chapter 270), and if any action were taken by the Board it would appear to be a reflection upon the licensing power, it was a case where the licensing board should correct their own error; and your president so wrote that board. These cases are so common that it would be impossible, even if they had the power, for the Board of Pharmacy, with their limited means, to investigate them. This is a matter which is wholly in the hands of those who grant licenses; and I think more care should be taken in granting licenses to druggists all over the Commonwealth. In Stoughton and Canton everything seemed to be all right as far as the druggists were concerned, with one exception, which was arranged without prosecution.

In June I visited the drug stores in Ayer, Athol, Orange, Greenfield and Turner's Falls. In all of these places the drug business seemed to be conducted very well. There were a few indications of liquor selling, but they were rare. I also visited the drug stores

in Marlborough. Some of them were a disgrace to the calling, but we could do nothing at that time but look them over. Since then one so-called druggist has been brought into court, had his case continued on account of the absence of counsel, and it has not yet been heard.

In July a large number of drug stores in Boston were looked over, and some important matters were looked into and arranged satisfactorily without prosecutions. Several cases in Lawrence were also investigated, and three prosecutions for keeping and exposing drugs for sale followed. They were all convicted and fined. One paid his fine and the others appealed.

In August investigations were made in Cambridge, Marlborough and Boston. There were no prosecutions.

In September several places were visited. In Medway and Milford several matters were adjusted without resorting to the courts. In East Boston, where complaints had been frequent, three parties were found who were keeping and exposing drugs for sale contrary to law. They were brought into court, and two of them were convicted and fined. They appealed to the superior court. The other had his case continued until Oct. 7, 1893. In West Acton a man was found who was doing business contrary to law. He was brought into court at Concord, Mass., where he was convicted, and paid a fine. In Charlestown a case was investigated which resulted in the arraignment of a man who kept a drug store, but is no druggist. He was convicted, and paid his fine. This is the second time this party has been convicted, and he has agreed to give up the business.

There have been twenty-one new cases brought before the lower court this year. Nineteen were convicted, and the other two have not been heard. Of this number, eleven have been settled in the lower court, eight have appealed to the superior court and two have been convicted and paid fines in the superior court; leaving six new cases, and one old case which has been continued from last term, to be disposed of in the superior court, and two to be heard in the lower court.

Having severed my connection with the Board of Registration in Pharmacy as their agent Sept. 30, 1893, I wish to thank each and every member of the Board for their kindness and courtesy to me during my time of service, and hope that they may all live to see good results from the labors they have so earnestly engaged in. My sincere thanks are also due to police and court officials for the assistance they have rendered me in the performance of my duties.

CLINTON P. VOSE.

There have been many cases where application is made for duplicate certificates, claiming the original has been lost. These applications give us a great deal of trouble, for we find in some cases it is purely an effort to secure a second certificate, that two or more sixth-class licenses may be obtained. We require a sworn statement from the applicant regarding the loss, and try in every way known to us to avoid fraud. Without any definite legislation upon this point, we strive to act justly to the applicant and to the State.

On Sept. 12, 1893, a special meeting of the Board was held, from 7.30 to 11 P.M. Messrs. Vose and Learned, who have been acting as agents of the Board, were present. Two hours or more were occupied in discussing the existing conditions, and it was the decided opinion of all present that the cases in court must be pushed to a result. As Mr. Vose could not act for us after October 1, Mr. Learned presented a proposition for one year's service. A resolution was offered, that, in view of all the facts presented, the Boston office must be kept open as much as the funds at our command would allow, and one member of the Board must be in attendance. No positive action was taken. On the 13th the records of the special meeting were read, and, upon motion, the proposition and resolution as above, after a second reading, were adopted by a unanimous vote, all members of the Board being present. The member selected could not at that time be induced to undertake the duties; later on, he decided to accept the trust. It is now the purpose of the Board to be at once in a position to receive at its office in Boston all complaints and charges of violation of the pharmacy law; and if after due inquiry it shall appear that the complaint or charge is without malice, and the interests of the people will be conserved, prosecution will follow.

The Board recognize the responsibility laid upon them, and will endeavor to act fearlessly, but with as much discretion and wisdom as they have. In this connection we desire to convey to you and the Legislature our appreciation of an implied confidence in our efforts, and a recognition of our work in the past; and we trust our acts for the coming year will meet with as hearty and encouraging words of approval

from law-abiding citizens as during the year just closed, and that in due time the pharmacists of this State will occupy such a position as their calling demands, and have absolute freedom from the charges now so unjustly made by some, — that all drug stores are liquor saloons.

As has been often stated in our previous reports, the certificates of registration granted in 1885, forms one and two,* are a continual source of annoyance and hinderance to an improved condition of pharmacy in the State. We have upon our books 3,353 registered pharmacists; 1,255 of them are of form one, 1,268 of form two and 830 of form three, or by examination. We unhesitatingly assert that many certificates of forms one and two are used by irresponsible persons for vile and illegitimate purposes. The amendments made to the law this year will enable us to weed out a few; but if some provision for re-registration, granting a renewal to those only who are known to be engaged in a reputable drug business, should be formulated and enacted, decidedly more rapid strides towards improved and reliable pharmacy would follow.

H. M. WHITNEY, *President.*

F. H. BUTLER, *Secretary.*

JOHN LARRABEE.

AMOS K. TILDEN.

JOHN A. RICE.

* Form one was granted, under the law passed in 1885, to persons engaged in the drug business on their own account; form two, to persons employed in the business having three consecutive years of practical experience (this section of the law has since been repealed); form three, to those who have passed the Board by examination.

