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Public Document

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
DIRECTOR OF REGISTRATION  
FOR THE  
Year Ending November 30, 1932.

*There* DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE AND REGISTRATION  
DIVISION OF REGISTRATION



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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

### DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE AND REGISTRATION

#### Annual Report of the Director of Registration

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:*

GENTLEMEN:— The Division of Registration, Department of Civil Service and Registration, respectfully submits to you its 13th annual report. As in previous years the reports of the various Boards in this Division, the Board of Registration in Medicine, The Board of Dental Examiners, the Board of Registration in Pharmacy, the Board of Registration in Embalming, the Board of Registration in Nurses, the Board of Registration in Veterinary Medicine, the Board of Registration of Certified Public Accountants, the State Examiners of Electricians, the Board of Registration in Optometry and the State Examiners of Plumbers, are submitted to the Director and will be printed in separate pamphlets.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Since there are in the United States medical schools which are legally chartered and empowered to confer degrees in medicine, which schools are deemed unworthy of approval by competent evaluating bodies, the Board of Registration in Medicine asks that it be given power of approval of medical schools legally chartered and empowered to confer degrees in medicine, of which the graduates appear before the Board for examination, as now provided by law. As in the Federal jurisdictions and in every State jurisdiction in the United States (except Massachusetts), the Board of Registration in Medicine has some discretionary power of approval, and as in Massachusetts every Board of Registration in the Division of Registration which accepts candidates from a school, except the Board of Registration in Medicine, has some discretionary power of approval of the school, the Board of Registration in Medicine asks that it be given this power commensurate with the importance of its services to the Commonwealth.

1. The qualification "which gives full four years' course of instruction of not less than thirty-six weeks in each year" does not now give protection, and would be included under the more comprehensive term, "which is approved by the Board."

2. Explicit approval by the Board, is the wording most frequently found in statutes of other jurisdictions, and especially in the most recent legislation.

3. The exemption of students in actual attendance in medical schools now eligible is reasonable and just.

For some time the Board of Registration in Optometry has realized the necessity for certain changes in the law relating to the practice of Optometry and is therefore recommending changes in Chapter 13 and also 112 of the General Laws. The reasons for these changes in the opinion of the Board are as follows:

1. The law at present does not specifically provide for the appointment of members to fill unexpired terms.

2. It has been found difficult to meet on the second Tuesday of October in each year. The annual meeting should be held in the month of October, but other meetings should be held as the Board determines, or upon call of the chairman.

3. The definition of the practice of Optometry should be made more specific and definite.

4. The power of the Board to make rules and regulations should be extended to apply to the practice of Optometry. Such rules to be in keeping and not inconsistent with the provision of the law governing the practice of Optometry.

5. It is necessary that the educational requirements be raised in conformity to the standards required by other states and advances made in professional, optometric education.

6. There should be more specific regulations in regard to the recording of certificates of registration, in order that the location of registered optometrists may be definitely determined at all times.

I, therefore, recommend that the law relative to the qualifications of applicants for registration as qualified physicians be amended. I also recommend that the law relating to the practice of optometry be amended.

The attention of the legislature of last year was directed to the violations of the practice of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy, by men fraudulently licensed and totally unqualified for such practice both in education and training. We have an agent who covers the field of pharmacy, but in medicine and optometry, we have practically no inspection other than the occasional employment of an officer from the Department of Public Safety to investigate complaints of flagrant, illegal and criminal practice received by the various boards from time to time. I renew my recommendation of last year that an inspector be appointed to devote his time to the investigation of questionable practitioners in these two professions.

Respectfully submitted,

W. F. Craig,

Director, Division of Registration.

November 30, 1932.