

former with remarks concerning the parts that are poisonous, nature of the poisonous effect, and the like. The latter, being strictly a check-list would be of less use to non-residents of the area indicated.

THE HARVARD APPARATUS COMPANY, THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHYSIOLOGY AND DR. W.

T. PORTER

The undersigned, having on the request of W. T. Porter assumed the guidance of the Harvard Apparatus Company, wish to place on record Dr. Porter's unique services to Science. Some forty-five years ago, when there was scant if any laboratory teaching of physiology in our colleges and universities outside the medical schools, and laboratory teaching of physiology in medical schools was just emerging, he saw the probable importance of rendering available to our colleges, universities and medical schools good apparatus at the lowest possible cost for the laboratory teaching of physiology. He started the Harvard Apparatus Company as a private corporation, partly on borrowed funds. This business has been conducted by Dr. Porter in the public interest, and without commercial profit. When there was a modest annual surplus, this was used: (a) to improve production equipment, (b) to provide a pension fund for the Company's employees, (c) and to finance the *W. T. Porter Research Fellowship in Physiology*, administered by the Council of the AMERICAN PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

In 1934 the Harvard Apparatus Company was reorganized as a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Massachusetts "for the promotion of teaching and research in physiology and its allied sciences." Dr. Porter gave to this corporation all property owned by the private Harvard Apparatus Company corporation. He has received no salary for his services to the corporation. We intend to follow Dr. Porter's example, with (we hope) some of his efficiency and vision. In recent years the services to the sciences of functional biology rendered by Dr. Porter within our own borders have been extended to many other countries. The services of the Company can be further extended to the liberal arts colleges, junior colleges, and high schools where experimental physiology has not yet been introduced as an element of a liberal education, a forward step in the education of tomorrow, probably in the cards.

Forty-six years ago Dr. Porter founded *The American Journal of Physiology* (for the publication of research), and for 16 years he

carried the entire financial responsibility and editorial burden for the first 33 volumes, that is, until 1914, when Dr. Porter presented this Journal (including back volumes in stock) as a gift to the AMERICAN PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

These are significant services to science and to our fellow men. They call for more than a passing note, as they echo and amplify the voice of the English chemist, James Smithson of a hundred years ago, whose vision of science, whose faith in man, and whose material wealth established the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."

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Johns Hopkins University
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MAURICE B. VISSCHER,
University of Minnesota

THE FUTURE OF PHARMACY

The war has caused a shortage of pharmacists in every American community, according to a recent survey, and unless more young people are attracted to the profession of pharmacy in the next few years, the services of the neighborhood drug store, for so many years an integral part of American life, will be impaired and, what is more important, public health will suffer. Hospitals, too, are feeling the pinch, along with drug and pharmaceutical manufacture and research.

The primary interest, however, to educators is the situation facing colleges of pharmacy as a result of the shortage. A great many may have to close their doors unless additional students are enrolled. Careful surveys indicate that the shortage of practicing pharmacists can be conservatively estimated at 6,500 by January, 1946, and this estimate is made assuming the return to pharmacy of 10,000 of the 14,000 pharmacists now in the armed services. At present, it cannot be forecast accurately how much greater this shortage will be because of the number that may be required for an expanded Army, a world-wide U. S. Navy or for important work in rehabilitation centers for the wounded. However, the most startling factor of all is the downward trend of replacements. Pharmacy student enrollments have dropped from a normal of 8,800 to 2,700 in the spring of 1944. Only 800 will gradu-

ate in 1944, while between 200 and 300 can be expected to graduate in 1945, and in succeeding years till the war's end.

The practicing pharmacist always occupied a place of special trust in the American community because he is a trained man, and because his profession brings him into personal and often intimate contact with every man, woman and child in his community. Year by year, progress in medical science, sanitation and chemistry broadens the services performed by the profession of pharmacy, and increases the opportunities offered the student. What are these opportunities? The profession of pharmacy requires high school education. It offers the serious and ambitious student many exceptional opportunities in the postwar era. The labor market will be glutted with ex-service men competing for jobs but pharmacy will be free of any overcrowding.

The National Pharmacy Committee, 620 Fifth Avenue, New York 20, N. Y., will gladly supply teachers or educational organizations with information on this subject, and has published an interesting booklet, sent free upon request, "Your Future in Pharmacy."

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