

CLASSIC ARTICLES IN THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY

In March 1821, apothecaries and wholesale druggists in Philadelphia came together and formed the College of Apothecaries, the first pharmacy organization in the United States. Their plan for professional advancement was ambitious and included the establishment of the first American school of pharmacy. A year later, the state of Pennsylvania recognized its status as a corporation under a new name, the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. From its beginnings in 1821 up to the present, the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy has remained prominent in the progress of the profession.

Reproduced below is an early announcement for the College, written by some of its primary founders. It shows how the College was established as a local pharmacy association with broad goals and high aspirations. Threatened by the prospect of a University of Pennsylvania program (run by physicians) to certify master apothecaries, the elite of Philadelphia pharmacy acted quickly to meet the challenge and set the scene for professional development nationally.—G. H.

Announcement of the Founding of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy*

College of Apothecaries.—At a meeting of the druggists and apothecaries of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, held March 13, 1821, the following report and constitution, prepared by a committee appointed at a previous meeting, were considered and adopted: viz.

A very general impression appears to have prevailed amongst the druggists and apothecaries of this city for some time past, that from a concurrence of various circumstances, a departure from the correct customs and established principles of the drug and apothecary business has in some instances taken place. As the consequent effect the deterioration of many drugs and medicines in constant use and of great importance in practice, and medicines of inferior or sophisticated qualities are too often introduced into the shops. The want of proper pharmacological information on the part of some druggists and apothecaries who vend, and of physicians who buy, have mainly tended to the production of these irregularities.

The mischiefs that are necessarily atten-

dant upon such a state of things have frequently attracted the attention of those interested in the trade, and means to remedy them have repeatedly been in agitation. All attempts heretofore made in relation to effecting more amendment having proved abortive, a number of the druggists and apothecaries, at the suggestion of one of the Faculty of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, directed the attention of the Trustees of that Institution to the subject, and in consequence, they have created a degree of Master in Pharmacy, to be conferred on those, who on examination, and having complied with certain requisites, may be found possessing the necessary qualifications and information.

The motives and views of the Trustees in this proceeding are highly commendable, and as far as their plan extends will be useful. But as must be apparent to those most conversant with the species of abuses that exist in the business and require correction, the plan of the trustees will not reach them, and what ever benefits may be derived from it must be prospective and slow in operation.

This measure of the University has had, however, the happy effect of recalling to the sub-

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ject the attention of the druggists and apothecaries. It has roused them to a sense of the propriety of placing their business on the respectable footing it ought to possess as a branch of the science of medicine, by eradicating from it all present, and preventing a recurrence of future injurious practices; by creating the means of easily acquiring a perfect and scientific knowledge of drugs and medicines and the most approved mode of preparing them; and obtaining an acquaintance with sciences connected with their profession. These are important and highly desirable objects, and can only be effectually obtained by the interposition and active agency of the druggists and apothecaries themselves.

The establishment of a College of Apothecaries, the attention of which will constantly [be] directed to the qualities of articles brought into the drug market; in which subjects relating to their business and its objects can be discussed, and information beneficial and interesting to the trade communicated; and the erection of a school of Pharmacy, where lectures written expressly for the information and instruction of druggists and apothecaries will be delivered, as appear to the committee the best adapted to effectuate the reformation generally desired in the business, and obtain the advantages which have been the objects of much solicitude.

They therefore recommend to this meeting, an association to be formed by the druggists and apothecaries of this city, on the plan and for the objects above suggested, and with this view beg leave to offer the following constitution for such an association to its consideration.

Preamble.—Pharmacy is an important branch of the science of medicine. Deposited by the division of the science in the hands of the apothecary, it requires, on his part, intelligence, skill and integrity, to prepare and compound medicines for administration to the sick; to distinguish and select those drugs that are of the best quality, and possessed of those virtues, on whose efficacy reliance is placed to cure diseases; and to deal in no others. On the qualifications of the apothecary in these respects must depend, in no small measure, the success of the physician in his practice, and often the lives of his patients. The business, therefore, to be conducted correctly and with safety to the community, renders varied, extended, and peculiar information necessary, not easily acquired without a regular course of studies and practical education;

without which, mistakes are liable to occur, involving health and life.

The different modes in which medicines can be prepared, differing in strength and consequently in their powers; the ease with which mixtures and sophistications totally destroying their virtues can be made and which are difficult of detection, offer great incitements to cupidity, and open a wide door to abuses that experience teaches, are inevitably introduced by an unregulated competition. More injuries have been sustained by society from such a competition, than benefits have been conferred; for the reduction of price has chiefly been effected by a deterioration of quality. The existence of a state of things so pregnant with evils of great magnitude, must bring the profession into disrepute, and loudly calls for a timely and effectual remedy upon those who feel an interest in maintaining its respectability.

In order therefore to provide the means of instruction by the establishment of a school of Pharmacy in which shall be taught those branches of knowledge essential to the education of an apothecary; to incite a spirit of pharmaceutical investigation and research and to diffuse information amongst the members of the profession; to guard the drug market from the introduction of spurious, adulterated, deteriorated or otherwise mischievous articles, which are too frequently forced into it, by watching and giving early warning of their appearance; to regulate the business as far as may be practicable and consistent with our social Institutions; to establish such rules as may promote an harmonious intercourse among its members; to remedy many existing abuses; to advance the character and forward the interests of the profession; the undersigned druggists and apothecaries of the city of Philadelphia agree to associate together under the constitution hereunto annexed, to the principles of which they give their earnest support, and by which they will abide.

Article 1. The association shall be styled the Philadelphia College of Apothecaries, and shall consist of those druggists and apothecaries who shall sign these articles, and of those who shall hereafter be admitted under the regulations established by this constitution.

Art. 2. The officers of this college shall be a President, two Vice Presidents, a Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be elected within one month from the adoption of this constitution and subsequently at the meeting held in the month of March

in each year.

Art. 3. The President, two Vice Presidents, and Secretary shall perform the duties of their respective offices at the meetings of the College, and shall sign the certificates of membership and the Diplomas of the Institution. The treasurer shall receive and take care of the funds of the College, giving bond and security if required to the President for the faithful performance of his trust. He shall pay no monies unless on the order of the President of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, countersigned by the respective Secretaries of the College or board as the case may be; and present a statement of his accounts at the meeting in the month of March, or when required by the Board of Trustees.

Art. 4. The stated meetings of the College shall be on the last Tuesdays of the months of March, June, September, and December for the transaction of business, and receiving of essays and communications on subjects connected with pharmacy, materia medica and chemistry. Twenty members shall constitute a quorum.

Art. 5. The affairs of the College shall be transacted by a Board of Trustees, consisting of sixteen members, who shall be elected within one month from the adoption of this constitution; one-half of whom, to be determined by lot among themselves, shall serve till the meeting in September, and who shall subsequently be annually chosen, one-half at the meeting in the month of March, and the other half at the meeting in September. The officers of the College shall be ex-officio members of this board. The board of Trustees shall meet once a month or oftener if necessary, by adjournment or on the call of their chairman, and a majority of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. It shall be the duty of the board of Trustees to establish a school of pharmacy, provide suitable apparatus, and a library, and appoint one or more lecturers as may be deemed expedient on materia medica, chemistry, and pharmacy, and on such branches of natural science as may be useful in the instruction of an apothecary; to appoint a committee of inspection, who shall examine all articles of drugs and medicines brought into the market and submitted to them, and report their character to the board of Trustees, who shall make the same public if required by the interests of the trade and the good of the community; to appoint a committee of equity, to settle any disputes that may arise in the transactions of business by the members of the College, which may be referred to them. They shall be entrusted with the election of mem-

bers of the college, and have power to frame rules and regulations for the examinations and granting of diplomas to those who shall attend the lectures of the school of pharmacy.

Art. 6. Any person who has been regularly educated as a druggist or apothecary, or who has received a diploma from this College, and is of correct, moral deportment, may be proposed for membership, in writing, by two members of the College, at a stated meeting of the Board of Trustees, and balloted for at the next stated meeting. Three-fourths of the votes shall be necessary to an election.

Art. 7. Each person who signs this constitution, and every person on becoming a member, shall pay the sum of five dollars; and to maintain the funds of the College, and annual contribution of five dollars shall be paid by each member. No member who has neglected to pay his installation fee, or is in arrears six months for his annual contribution, shall be entitled to a vote.

Art. 8. Complaints may be preferred against any members of this College to the Board of Trustees, for malpractice and misconduct in his business; and if on investigation it shall appear, that he has been guilty of adulterating or sophisticating any articles of medicine or drugs, or of knowingly vending articles of that character, or of deteriorated qualities, the facts may be reported by the Board of Trustees to a meeting of the College publicly called, when a majority of all members of the College concurring, he may be expelled.

Art. 9. No amendment or alteration of this Constitution shall be made, unless proposed to the College by two members at one stated meeting, considered at the next and adopted by two-thirds of the members present.

At a meeting of the College of Apothecaries, held March 27, 1821, the following persons were elected officers of the Colleges.

President—Charles Marshall.

Vice-Presidents—William Lehman, Stephen North.

Secretary—Daniel B. Smith.

Treasurer—William Heyl.

Trustees.

Charles Allen.	Peter Lehman.
Samuel Jackson.	Samuel P. Wetherhill.
Charles Marshall, jr.	Jeremiah Morris.
Henry M. Zollikoffer.	Thomas Wiltberger.
Daniel Elliot.	Daniel Thatcher.
Henry Troth.	Thomas McClintock.
Samuel Biddle.	Warder Morris.
Peter Williamson.	Frederick Brown.