

THE PALIMPSEST

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VOL. XXX

ISSUED IN MARCH 1949

No. 3

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Three Deans and a College

The history of the College of Pharmacy at the State University of Iowa centers largely around its three Deans — Emil L. Boerner, Wilber J. Teeters, and R. A. Kuever. Although its beginnings were humble, the vision, ability, and energy of these three men, when coupled with the high quality of its faculty and reasonably adequate financial support, have given Iowa one of the finest pharmacy colleges in the nation.

The first movement toward pharmaceutical education in Iowa was the organization of the Iowa State Pharmaceutical Association in 1880. That same year the 18th General Assembly passed a law providing that all persons engaged in the sale of drugs at that time should be entitled to registration as pharmacists, but that any person who subsequently wished to engage in pharmacy should be required to pass an examination before the Commission of Pharmacy.

The enactment of this law created a demand for pharmaceutical education, and although a School

of Pharmacy had been set up in Des Moines in 1882, J. H. Harrison of Davenport and G. H. Schafer of Ft. Madison, representing the Iowa State Pharmaceutical Association, visited Iowa City in 1885 to inquire if the University authorities would be interested in developing a Department of Pharmacy. The University was interested and a group of three men — Emil L. Boerner, Gustavus D. Hinrichs, and Dr. Cassius M. Hobby — was named as the faculty of this Department.

The Department of Pharmacy had its beginning in the basement rooms of the old medical building, and faculty members were paid only the fees received from their students. The school prospered, however, and soon outgrew the space allocated to it. In the fall of 1891 pharmacy was transferred to the new building at the corner of Iowa Avenue and Dubuque Street. This setting was referred to by Dean Boerner as the "commodious and excellently equipped laboratories, especially the pharmaceutical which is *doubtless the largest in the country.*" At the same time the University assumed financial responsibility for the operating expenses of the Department. A representative of the Board of Regents of the University, in commenting upon these changes, said the Department had been "exhumed from its unwholesome quarters in the cellar of the medical building" and had been taken into "full university fellowship." The

name "Department of Pharmacy" was retained until 1900, when the University was divided into a number of colleges, one of which was the "College of Pharmacy."

Emil Louis Boerner, the first Dean of the College, had come to Iowa as a boy of twelve. He was born near Liegen, Westphalia, Prussia, April 21, 1855. His family emigrated to the United States in 1857, sojourning first at Newton, Pennsylvania, later moving to Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, and in 1867 going to Iowa City. Here he received his early education and grew to manhood.

Young Boerner graduated from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 1876 and in April of that year he returned to open a drugstore in Iowa City, a store which he continued to operate for many years. His pharmaceutical interests, however, were not confined to his own pharmacy or to his own community. He became a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1877. In 1880 he was one of the druggists who was active in securing the passage of the pharmacy practice act, and in the organization of a State Pharmaceutical Association. In 1885 he became professor of practical pharmacy and dean of that department at the State University of Iowa.

Dean Boerner continued to serve in an administrative capacity until 1903. At that time he was made professor emeritus, and as such gave occa-

sional lectures out of his wide experiences. Meanwhile, various scholastic and professional honors came to him. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Pharmacy by the State University of Iowa in 1896. He served as secretary of the Iowa State Pharmaceutical Association from 1881 to 1886. He was the first president of the Iowa Veteran Druggists Association organized in 1929, and in 1932 he was made Honorary President for life.

During the last half of the nineteenth century many independent colleges or institutes of pharmacy were established. Frequently these came to be known as "cram" or "plugging" schools — their sole purpose being to prepare candidates to pass examinations for the practice of pharmacy, for a stipulated fee. From the beginning the Department of Pharmacy at the State University of Iowa had a higher aim. It afforded a bona fide two-year course in the science of pharmacy, and its first faculty members were well qualified.

In 1904 Wilber J. Teeters became Dean of the College. Under Teeters' leadership still higher standards were achieved. In 1906 a three-year course in pharmacy was offered. In 1925 three years' study was designated as a minimum for graduation, and in 1932 the minimum was raised to a four-year course, which entitled one to the degree Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy.

Very early in his regime Dean Teeters saw the

advantages of a close connection between the College of Pharmacy and the manufacture and dispensing of medicine for the University hospitals. Since 1907 the College of Pharmacy has performed this work. "The best proof that the system is sound," Dean Teeters asserts, "is the fact that this arrangement has survived six presidents, four medical college deans, and at least a dozen hospital superintendents, with only words of commendation for service" which the College aims to make "as nearly 100 per cent perfect as possible."

The College of Pharmacy continued to occupy its quarters on Dubuque and Iowa Avenue until 1926 when it was removed to the new chemistry building. This marked a "new era" in the history of the College. Laboratories, classrooms, and the library once again were adequate for the work which the College sought to accomplish. There were three laboratories devoted exclusively to pharmaceutical work. The largest of these accommodated 156 students, the second 80 students, and the third was equipped as a manufacturing laboratory. The adoption of a four-year minimum course, and increased manufacturing demands rendered this laboratory inadequate in less than a decade. A new laboratory was built in 1937 and the original one was converted into a stock room and refrigeration room for expansion of the Drug Service Department.

It was in 1937, too, that Professor R. A. Kuever succeeded Wilber J. Teeters as Dean of the College. Mr. Kuever was born at Lowden, Iowa, October 27, 1886. His early education was in the public schools at Lowden and in the Evangelical Zion Academy there. He completed the work for the degree Graduate in Pharmacy (Ph. G.) at the State University of Iowa in 1907, and was awarded the degree Pharmaceutical Chemist (Ph. C.) in 1911.

Kuever became laboratory assistant and hospital pharmacist when he was only twenty-one, thereafter advancing steadily until he was appointed Professor of Pharmacy in 1925. When Wilber J. Teeters retired in 1937, the University authorities named Kuever as Dean of the College.

Dean Kuever has an aptitude for teaching. His courses show a splendid organization of material, presenting both the theoretical and practical aspects of pharmacy in a forceful and interesting manner. His administrative ability is shown in the manner in which he has strengthened courses throughout the College and given a new impetus to graduate study (for the M. S. and Ph. D. degrees) which was inaugurated in 1937. Besides his teaching and administrative duties, Professor Kuever has found time to serve as a consulting chemist and to promote pharmaceutical research.

Although busy with his professional activities,

Dean Kuever has given freely of his time and energy to University committees. He was appointed a member of the Board in Control of Athletics in 1916, serving until 1937. He has been a member of the Committee on Military Affairs at the University since 1918.

Dean Kuever has long been an active member of the American Pharmaceutical Association. He was secretary of the section on Pharmaceutical Legislation from 1914 to 1916, and chairman of that group in 1916-1917. He was vice-chairman of the House of Delegates in 1938-1939 and chairman in 1940. He was president of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy in 1941-1942.

Under the administration of its three Deans the College of Pharmacy has grown and prospered through the years. If the purposes of an institution of higher learning are to promote good teaching, provide professional leadership, and stimulate effective research, the College of Pharmacy at the State University of Iowa has in a large measure met these requirements. Graduates of the College of Pharmacy not only rank high in the nation but they also make a substantial contribution to the communities they serve. The three Deans of the College of Pharmacy have played an important role in making possible such achievements.

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