

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

PHARMACY BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

18TH MAY, 1893, AT 3 P.M.

Present—The President (Mr. F. E. Grundy), and Messrs. Hill, Hutson, Main, Radcliffe, White, and Young (Registrar). Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Copies of letters sent, read and approved. Letters were received from Messrs. Sadler, Sydney; Carnegie, Victoria; and Commissioner Peterswald. Read and discharged.

Letters were received from Messrs. Trezona, Lowry, and Skewes, all of Port Pirie, in reference to an application for registration accepted by the Board last month. Considerable discussion took place, and the subject was adjourned pending the receipt of further information.

FINANCE.

The Hon. Treasurer's statement was read and adopted.

EXCHANGES.

Received—Examination papers from New Zealand and Pharmaceutical Register of New Zealand. The meeting then closed.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

COUNCIL MEETING, 18TH MAY, 1893.

Present—The President (Mr. W. J. Main), The Vice-President (Mr. C. Radcliffe), Hon. Treasurer (Mr. White), and Messrs. Hudson, Porter, Parker, and Young (Hon. Sec.) Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Copies of letters sent. Read and approved. Letter received:—From Mr. W. J. George White, Victoria. Read and discharged.

COMMITTEE'S REPORTS.

Mr. Young reported as follows:—

PHARMACY CLASSES IN CONNECTION WITH THE UNIVERSITY.

PROGRESS REPORT.

"21st April, 1893. C. R. Hodge, Esq. Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of yours dated the 18th inst., and the same was submitted to my Council. My Council have appointed me to represent them in such arrangements as may be made, and I am, therefore, at liberty to wait upon or receive any officer your Council may be pleased to appoint for the purpose of inquiring into the matter of a Pharmacy Class at the University. Awaiting the favour of an early reply.—I am, yours faithfully, J. H. YOUNG."

The above letter was forwarded to the Registrar of the University. On the 27th April I waited on Professor Rennie and went into detail. Upon our arrangement Professor Rennie has based his report to the University Council which meets on the last Friday in each month. The substance of his report is as follows:—

"Students to be entered by the Society, and the Society asks for same reduction as is granted to the School of Mines. The first year's Chemistry course for M.B. will be suitable for these students and therefore, so far as that course is concerned, no special class is needed. Should any organic chemistry be required, this will form matter for subsequent discussion."

The course referred to in his report is the first year's course of the M.B. degree, here stated:—The non-metallic elements and their more commonly-known compounds.

The following metals and their more commonly-known compounds:—Sodium, potassium, silver, lithium, calcium, strontium, barium, aluminium, magnesium, zinc, cadmium, lead, manganese, iron, cobalt, nickel, chromium, bismuth, copper, gold, mercury, tin, platinum.

Spectrum Analysis.—The elements of chemical theory, the atomic theory and cognate subjects, and the laws of electrolysis.

For this course it is likely the University will charge the reduced fee to students of the Pharmaceutical Society, which means that those who take this course can join the class already provided, but if they are recommended by the Society, the Society will be able to make the course less expensive to the student than if he entered on his own responsibility.

It will be seen there is no organic chemistry in the course, but I am assured by Professor Rennie that, although some organic chemistry could perhaps be pushed into the third term of the course, the pace at which the student would be required to go would be such that he would not recommend it. It was his experience that students who had no previous training in chemistry (and this was generally the case) had as much as they could do to take anything like a hold upon the subject by the end of the second term. Pharmaceutical students could have their attention specially directed, because the circumstances of teaching—each student working by himself and independently of any other—lent themselves to that purpose. In such a way as this the absence of organic chemistry from the set course is partly made up; and again, as Professor Rennie truly puts it, organic chemistry has become so systematised, and its elements so bound up in the theory and practice of inorganic chemistry, that unless a person wished to take the second year's course for B.Sc. there would be no occasion to introduce organic chemistry, but, as before stated, it would be possible to specially direct our students on such organic chemistry as included glycerine, ether, the alcohols, &c. Under these circumstances, I am convinced the course referred to can, with the training and incentive to application which the student must of necessity acquire in the pharmacy, be made broad enough for the Board's present requirements.

It must, however, not be considered that the limit has been reached either by the student or by the University. For a few years the Board will require only a modified examination, and for a few years more a qualifying examination in the proper sense. But, as the standard is likely to "grow," either by variation or necessity, the later student must look further afield, and this he may do by means of—

- (a) A supplementary course on elementary organic chemistry;
- (b) A modified organic chemistry class; or
- (c) Second year's B. Sc. course.

B is by special arrangement and price. It is, I believe, undertaken by an officer of the University privately at the University, which institution receives no other benefit by the transaction than that it retains one-fifth of the fees for use of rooms, &c. A is by recommendation to the University Council. With A and C we will probably have nothing to do. A is a valuable class, but the conditions are that a guaranteed number (ten) of students is required, together with the consent of the Education Committee. B is practical and convenient, though I don't recommend it, for the fundamental principle of our scheme is that there should be a continuity between the apprentice and the pharmacist almost as regular as that between the student and the physician, and therefore, by at once going outside of the facilities which we are agreed are consonant with our purpose, until absolutely forced to, is simply slighting the elements of success.

To show the value of the course, I give here the questions 6, 7, 8, and 9 set for last year for this class:—

"How would you prepare a sample of boric acid in the laboratory? Enumerate its principal properties."

"Describe a practical method of preparing the following substances:—Epsom salts, blue vitriol, corrosive sublimate, lunar caustic, white vitriol, precipitated sulphur, cuprous oxide."

"Compare the hydroxides, carbonates, and sulphates of the metals of the alkalies and of the alkaline earths."

"What is believed to be the nature of bleaching powder? How is it prepared, and what is the action of water and hydrochloric acid on it respectively?"

You will see from this the class I recommend is eminently adapted for Board requirements.

The "Advertiser" 21 " 8 " 95.

A special meeting of the Schools' Association was held in the Victoria Hall on Saturday evening, when all the chief colleges and schools were represented. The meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the forthcoming preliminary examination and receiving a communication from the University authorities with regard to the same. A letter was read from the registrar (Mr. C. P. Hodge) stating that on account of the epidemic of measles, which was so largely affecting the attendances at the schools, it was probable that a supplementary examination would be held some little time after the ordinary one, so that those scholars who were prevented from entering the latter on account of illness would not have to wait until next year. A long discussion took place with regard to the examiners appointed by the University for the preliminary examination, and disapproval was expressed at the selection made by the authorities. It was resolved that those present should form a deputation to wait upon the Chancellor of the University (his Honor Chief Justice Way) this morning to lay before him their views as to the time when the examination should take place and the appointment of examiners.