

Federation. Copy of the letter from the Secretary, The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, is herein appended for your information.

Yours faithfully,  
A. LAZARUS,  
Secretary,  
Pharmaceutical Society of India.

(True Copy)

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF  
GREAT BRITAIN

PATRON: HIS MAJESTY THE KING  
17, Bloomsbury Square, London  
28th March, 1946

JCT/HNL.

DEAR MR. LAZARUS,

We have been doing our best to revive the International Pharmaceutical Federation, which was doing excellent work before the war in promoting professional friendship between pharmacists of different countries. The President, Dr. Madsen of Copenhagen, and the Secretary, Dr. Potjewijd of Winschoten, Holland, are both alive and well and have resumed their offices, and most of the funds (I think some two or three thousand Dutch florins altogether) were saved from the Germans.

We held a meeting of the Executive Committee in London at the end of last year, which four members managed to attend, and we made provisional plans for a further meeting probably next year. We do not feel that we can call a general assembly by reason of travel difficulties.

At the recent meeting I was invited to act as one of the vice-presidents pending confirmation at a meeting of the assembly, and I was asked particularly to do what I could to arouse the interest of English-speaking pharmaceutical societies in the Federation. I am accordingly writing to invite the Pharmaceutical Society of India to join the Federation. It would be a great encouragement to the Federation in these difficult days of reconstruction.

Subscriptions to the Federation are calculated on the basis of 50 Dutch florins per delegate, and the number of delegates to which an association is entitled is:—

Associations having a membership of—		
less than 500	..	.. 1 delegate
500-1,000	..	.. 2 delegates
1,000-1,500	..	.. 3 "
1,500-2,500	..	.. 4 "
2,500-5,000	..	.. 6 "
more than 5,000	..	.. 8 "

The Secretary's address is: Dr. T. Potjewijd, Winschoten, 9c Boschplein, Holland. If, as I hope, your society can see its way to join, will you kindly send to Dr. Potjewijd the following information: the names and addresses of the President and Secretary, the names of persons who could be regarded provisionally as delegates in the event of an assembly being arranged (although obviously in present circumstances there could be no obligation upon them to attend) and if possible the subscription for the year 1946.

Yours sincerely,  
(Sd.) HUGH N. LINSTED, O.B.E.

PHARMACY BILL

SIR,—Your circular letter dated 29th April mysteriously reached me just the other day and I hasten to reply.

In the light of the preamble adumbrated in the opening sentences of the Bill, the word 'Pharmacist' envisages two types: (1) the scientifically trained person with a knowledge of a branch of chemistry involved in the manufacture of potent therapeutic substances and (2) the person who is skilled in dispensing with just a working knowledge of the action

dose and use of the therapeutic substances. The former may not be skilled in the requirements of the latter and vice versa. The Bill therefore does not clearly categorize the different zones of activity of the two groups.

Again in chapter IV, section 31, qualifications are specified for entry on first and subsequent registers in (1), (2), (3) and (4). In all the above classes except (1) the main qualification is knowledge of the art-cum-science of dispensing prescriptions. One feels that class (1) should also have knowledge of dispensing. A medical graduate is also prescribed this training in dispensing which forms part of his university examination. It is therefore suggested that either there be two categories in the register of pharmacists, i.e. (1) the industrial or manufacturing pharmaceutical chemist and (2) the dispensing chemist whose basic knowledge is of an inferior grade or that the industrial or manufacturing chemist who is the holder of a degree in pharmaceutical chemistry be given the facility to apply his scientific knowledge to the art-cum-science of dispensing. A practical course in a dispensary should be insisted.

Some provision must be made for raising the standard of the dispenser or compounder to bring him into line with the holder of the Diploma of Pharmacy.

The 'high-browed' manufacturing chemist unfortunately in some quarters seems to feel that the medical man is too interfering and dictatorial. Does he realize that the profession of pharmacy primarily exists to cater to the needs of a medical man and that therefore the medical man is perfectly within his bounds in expecting from or insisting on, or dictating to, the pharmacist? Let him turn back and have a glance at the attitude of Bertheim the chemist working in Paul Ehrlich's laboratory at the time of the production of '606'. Ehrlich was not much of a chemist but he passed his ideas '... atoxyl can be changed. Now my dear Bertheim, we can change it into a hundred, a thousand new compounds of arsenic. . . .'. A medical man's interest in the profession of pharmacy is a most natural thing. Arguments when they reach a stage of denouncing that interest in the words '... people (meaning medical men and pharmacologists) who should have nothing to do with it (the Pharmacy Bill) are opposing it' reveal that something is rotten in the state of . . .

In view therefore of the scope of the Bill it is expedient for the degree-holder in pharmaceutical chemistry, before he is entitled to get himself registered, to have a short course or practical training in an approved dispensary. If an analogy is warranted, it is that of a civilian official who during his probation has to learn a work of a kind from the village official (the Karnam) or the police official from the traffic constable in street crossings.

ANDHRA MEDICAL COLLEGE,  
VIZAGAPATAM.

V. ISWARIAH,  
B.A., M.B., M.R.C.P.

PHARMACY BILL

SIR,—I fail to understand the urgency of the Pharmacy Bill published in the February issue of the *Indian Medical Gazette*, its main object, as stated in the resolution, is to eradicate the danger of compounding and dispensing medicines by unqualified persons. Its aim, no doubt, seems to be a laudable one but I have every doubt if its object will ever be fulfilled in the practical field even if we have so many high sounding councils all over the country, as we have the sad experiences of observing how the provincial State Medical Faculties (at least I can speak of my own provincial Faculty) safeguard the interests of the public, as well as the medical practitioners, by doing nothing so far to remove quackery which is none the less dangerous than the unqualified dispensers and compounders.

I firmly believe the profession of pharmacy is certainly not going to be a bit improved or benefited by