

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF REGISTRATION
IN PHARMACY.

FOR THE YEAR 1889.

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1890.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT.

To His Excellency OLIVER AMES, Governor of the Commonwealth.

SIR:—The condition of pharmacy in the State is slowly but certainly improving, so far as an increased practical knowledge and experience replaces some of those registered under the law without an examination. It has been the purpose of the Board to issue certificates only to those who by study, practical experience and familiarity with drugs, doses and antidotes, have made themselves competent to serve the people, as compounders and dispensers of articles of which the consumer has little knowledge. That there are now some registered who were “in business on their own account,” or who had “had three consecutive years of practical experience,” who are absolutely incompetent, is a lamentable fact; that a few of these continue to use the name of pharmacist or apothecary solely for the purpose of conducting an illegitimate business, is also true. There are some in almost every city who violate the law by leaving their drug stores for days in charge of unregistered and incompetent assistants; and this is a source of frequent complaint. For neighbors or competitors to enter a formal complaint in such cases can hardly be expected, and the Board have not funds or authority to employ assistance and enforce the law; in fact, the income does not meet, even with the most rigid economy, the necessary expenses. We therefore respectfully call your attention to the greater good that could be accomplished, so far as the safety, health and protection of the people are concerned, by a judicious en-

forcement of the provisions of the law ; and we urgently ask for such aid and assistance in our work as the Legislature may decide will be in the interests of the public. That a necessity exists for some action, will be apparent by a careful consideration of a few of the questions and answers received at examinations during the past year : —

Q. What is Blue Mass or Blue Pill? A. It is made of Aloes, Scammony and one other thing.

Q. What is the source of Tartaric Acid? A. Citric Acid.

Q. What is the source of Phosphorus? A. It is from metal.

This applicant claimed to have had over three years' experience. One claiming to have had six years' experience repeatedly asserted that Blue Mass "was mercury rubbed up with Opium ; and that Blue Ointment contained one per cent. of mercury."

The proprietor of a drug store, who was desirous of securing a sixth-class liquor license in his own name, came up May 17 for examination ; age, twenty-six ; two years' experience as proprietor of a store.

Q. How many drops in a fluid drachm? A. Eight.

Q. How many grains in an ounce? A. Two hundred and forty.

Q. How much Cocaine would you use in making two drachms of a four per cent. solution? A. Four ounces.

Another, who was in business on his own account, and claimed to have had twenty-three years' experience, when asked to interpret Na. Br., said, "That's a sticker ; it may be Nebraska or New Brunswick."

These two cases are cited to show the wisdom of the Legislature at its last session, in providing that sixth-class or druggist's licenses should be granted only to registered pharmacists in active business on their own account. We submit the rejection of such applicants for registration and license to conduct drug stores is simply in the line of progress, good morals and safety ; and to compel the few ignorant and reckless defiers of the statute to retire from the business, or comply with the law, is the desire of all good and law-abiding citizens.

The law requires the Board to hold three regular meetings each year; but the demands during the past year have made it imperative to hold twenty-two sessions, as follows, at 13 Beacon Street:—

Oct. 2, 1888, four members present; organized by the election of H. M. Whitney president, and F. H. Butler secretary.

		Members Present.	Examined.	Passed.	Rejected.
1888.					
Oct.	2,	4	17	6	11
	3,	4	13	5	8
	30,	4	0	0	0
	31,	4	16	5	11
Nov.	20,	5	15	9	6
1889.					
Jan.	1,	2	0	0	0
	8,	5	12	6	6
	9,	5	16	4	12
Feb.	12,	5	11	5	6
	13,	5	16	6	10
March	12,	5	11	7	4
	13,	5	15	12	3
May	7,	5	14	9	5
	8,	4	15	7	8
	9,	4	16	8	8
	15,	5	12	6	6
	16,	5	13	8	5
	17,	4	12	7	5
June	20,	3	12	7	5
	21,	3	15	8	7
Aug.	2,	3	12	5	7
Sept.	17,	4	13	5	8

Whole number examined during the year, 276. Certificates issued, 135; rejected, 141.

The work of the Board has steadily increased from the date of its organization.

	Examined.	Rejected
First year,	101	79
Second year,	167	97
Third year,	213	124
Fourth year,	276	141

We have no desire to magnify or proclaim the importance and beneficial results of our work; we may be pardoned,

however, if we express our appreciation of the hearty indorsement and encouraging words received from so many and varied sources. It is evident the people of this Commonwealth are in full accord and sympathy with the efforts of the Board of Registration in Pharmacy; and, should the Board receive sufficient authority and aid from the Legislature, more marked, speedy and healthful results would follow.

The examination of applicants for registration does not embrace all the duties of the Board; and complaints were so frequent and so much beyond the limit of our income, that the attached circular was sent to all reported to us as violating the law, and a personal interview by a committee of the Board was held with many. Good results followed in some cases; but, as suggested, a judicious enforcement by prosecution of some bad cases would doubtless prove more effective.

The Board have also been called upon for, and have furnished to many of the cities and towns of the State, a list of those who were registered pharmacists, and therefore entitled to a sixth-class license, if any.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Oct. 1, 1888, cash in hands of State Treasurer,		\$0 95
Received during the year for 165 examinations, at \$5,	\$825 00	
Received during the year for 110 re-examinations at \$3,	330 00	
Received during the year for 1 examination (having paid \$10 for two previous examinations), at \$1,	1 00	
Received for duplicate certificates, at 50 cents,	4 50	
Total income,		<u>1,160 50</u>

(This amount has been paid to the State Treasurer, as required by law.)

Grand total,		\$1,161 45
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Drafts upon the State Treasurer as follows:—

	Services.	Expenses.
H. M. Whitney,	\$110 00	\$55 23
F. H. Butler,	247 50	115 75
H. A. Estabrook,	77 50	58 15
J. H. Manning,	90 00	116 85
John Larrabee,	107 50	25 74
	<u>\$632 50</u>	<u>\$371 72</u>

Total expenses of the Board,		\$1,004 22
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T. T. Bailey, services, as monitor,	§23 88
Addison Lane, services, as monitor,	29 00
“Vox Populi,” for printing,	36 00
Winkley, Dresser & Co. (stationery),	12 50
Wright & Potter (printing);	8 90
J. H. Daniels, printing certificates,	45 00
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Total incidental expenses paid,	\$155 28
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Total paid out,	§1,159 50
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Leaving balance in hands of State Treasurer,	\$1 95

BILLS UNPAID.

H. M. Whitney,	§21 75
F. H. Butler,	40 35
H. A. Estabrook,	25 95
John Larrabee,	13 36
G. C. Cannon,	4 05
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Leaving a net indebtedness of	§103 51

All of which is respectfully submitted.

H. M. WHITNEY.
 HENRY A. ESTABROOK.
 JOHN H. MANNING.
 F. H. BUTLER.
 JOHN LARRABEE.

BOSTON, Oct. 1, 1889.

