THE CINCINNATI COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

by Reginald C. McGrane

In September 1954 the one hundred and three year old Cincinnati College of Pharmacy, the oldest institution of its kind west of the Alleghenies, became an integral unit of the University of Cincinnati; and on November 26 the new home of the College on the University campus, located in a wing of the Biological Building, was formally dedicated. For a decade after 1887 the College was affiliated with the University of Cincinnati; and for a while after 1902 it was affiliated with Ohio University. Today it is a constituent part of the University of Cincinnati family.

The merger of the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy with the University of Cincinnati is in accord with the universal trend that pharmacists should be trained thoroughly in both the theoretical and practical aspects of their profession. It is an indication of the great strides which the profession of pharmacy has made within the last century.

Residents of Cincinnati should be particularly interested in the history of the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy. It is one of the oldest educational institutions in the city; its origin and development mark the growing importance of Cincinnati as a medical and scientific center; its founders reflect the initiative and civic mindedness of the people of Cincinnati; and among its graduates are many of the prominent cultural and business leaders of the community.

The development of the profession of pharmacy, like that of medicine, had many obstacles to surmount before it gained respectability and public approval. The early pharmacist lacked the necessary scientific training to enable him to perform his duties competently. He learned how to become a druggist, as many a physician learned his profession, by the apprentice system. Moreover, there was no particular need for apothecaries in the early settlements. When physicians were not available, the pioneers relied upon certain household medical books to give them the necessary information to treat their ailments. Such books as the Reverend William Dailey’s The Family Practice of Medicine, or the Domestic Physician; Gunn’s Domestic Medicine or the Poor Man’s Friend, and books of a similar character were con-
sidered household necessities. Besides, every pioneer doctor was his own pharmacist. He dispensed his own medicines, or he instructed his patients how to prepare potions from indigenous or cultivated herbs or roots. The physician made his own pills and tinctures and compounded all his own medicines. The early practitioners of medicine wrote few prescriptions; and when they did begin to do so they often complained that the apothecary used impure drugs in their preparation. The medical profession accused the druggist of prescribing over the counter for his patients and of selling quack nostrums to them at exorbitant prices. The early pharmacist also labored under the handicap of working with crude and cumbersome tools. Roots and herbs were ground in a hand mill and pulverized in large iron mortars. The coarser particles were separated from the finer ones by passing them through different sized meshes. Ointments, salves and plasters were prepared on thin leather strips.1

It was to remedy some of these conditions and to raise the standards of the profession that the first schools of pharmacy were established. In 1821 the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science was founded; two years later (1823) the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy at Boston was established; seven years later (1829) the College of Pharmacy of the City and County of New York; in 1838 the College of Pharmacy of Tulane University at New Orleans; and in 1840 the College of Pharmacy of the University of Maryland at Baltimore. These early schools were started mainly in order to set the standards for drugs and to protect the education of the pharmacist from being controlled by the medical schools. In fact the Philadelphia College was organized because the medical faculty of the University of Pennsylvania decided to give the degree of Master of Pharmacy. This move aroused the strenuous opposition of the druggists; and re-

sulted in the pharmacists organizing and starting their own college.2

Few Westerners possessed either the means or had a desire to attend one of these pharmaceutical colleges in the East. Yet as early as 1813 there was considerable interest in pharmacy in Cincinnati. In that year Peter Smith of Cincinnati wrote and published The Indian Doctor's Dispensatory, which gave the descriptions and uses of various plants and suggested simple remedies for certain ailments. This was the first book on materia medica written and published in the United States west of the Alleghanies.3 By 1840 Germans predominated in the drug business in Cincinnati, and to a large extent in Evansville, and St. Louis. The first German pharmacist in Cincinnati was G. A. Hiller, who had a store on Lower Market Street. In 1831 William Karrmann emigrated from Germany and entered the drug business in Cincinnati. He later became a well-known connoisseur of art and was instrumental in founding the Cincinnati Art Museum. In 1850 Adolphus Fennel who had been employed as a chemist and pharmacist in Germany and Switzerland came to Cincinnati and located at the southwest corner of Eighth and Vine Streets.4

In 1849 the Cincinnati Pharmaceutical Association was organized by a group of druggists.5 It is claimed the meeting of the American Medical Association in Cincinnati in 1850 gave an impetus to the efforts of this Association to place pharmacy on a comparable basis to that of its allied profession of medicine.6 On March 23, 1850, the General Assembly of the State of Ohio incorporated the Cincinnati Pharmaceutical Association and gave it the legal power for thirty years to operate a college of pharmacy.7 The primary objectives of the incorporators were set forth in Article 1 of the By-Laws: “The cultivation, improvement, and diffusion of the science and art of Pharmacy and its collateral branches by instituting and maintaining a School of Pharmacy;

---

3Peter Smith, op. cit., passim.
5Harold C. Freking, Gleanings from the Early History of the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy, a paper read before the American Pharmaceutical Association, August 28, 1947, passim. Unpublished manuscript in the Lloyd Library.
6Acts of a Local Nature passed by the 48th General Assembly of the State of Ohio (Columbus, 1850), pp. 634, 635.
by the acquisition of a library and a suitable cabinet of specimens illustrative of Materia Medica, Chemistry, and Pharmacy; by the promotion of good fellowship and the interchange of knowledge among its members and the profession in general; by the discouragement of the sale and use of inferior medicines; by endeavoring to restrict the dispensing of medicines to properly educated pharmacists; and by the dissemination of pharmaceutical education.”

Those who were prominent in the establishment of the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy were: William B. Chapman; Adolphus Fennel; William J. M. Gordon; Charles Augustus Smith; and Edward S. Wayne. Chapman was a graduate of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and the Medical College of Ohio. He had a drugstore at the southwest corner of Sixth and Vine which was regarded as one of the show places of the city, especially its modern soda fountain. In 1852 the American Pharmaceutical Association was organized; and two years later Chapman was elected President of the Association. He was the inventor of Chapman’s suppository mould, the first of its kind on the American market. Fennel was an eminent analytical chemist. William J. M. Gordon was a prominent pharmacist. Charles Augustus Smith was the first Vice-President of the American Pharmaceutical Association. Wayne was a man of recognized scientific attainments, who at different times was a member of the faculty of the Medical College of Ohio and the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery. He was the chief chemist of the drug establishment of Suire and Eckstein and drew a salary of $7000 a year, which was the largest paid to any chemist at that time in the country. He was known as the Beau Brummel of the profession in Cincinnati because of his faultless attire and courtly manners.

The first quarters of the College were in Gordon’s Hall, which was above Gordon’s drugstore at Eighth and Western Row (now Central Avenue). Here the College vegetated for a few years;
but with the outbreak of the Civil War both the Cincinnati Pharmaceutical Association and the College ceased to exist.\textsuperscript{14}

Early in the 1870’s efforts were made to revive the College. The too frequent occurrences of mistakes in compounding prescriptions, either from carelessness or ignorance, created an increasing demand upon the part of both physicians and druggists for more competent and educated pharmacists.\textsuperscript{15} A call was issued to the druggists of Cincinnati to attend a meeting at the Dental College on College Street on October 20, 1871 “for the purpose of organizing a society and considering the expediency of having a College of Pharmacy.”\textsuperscript{16} On that evening fifty druggists met; and E. S. Wayne was elected President of the Cincinnati Pharmaceutical Association. When it was learned that all the records and property of the old Cincinnati College of Pharmacy had been destroyed by fire, it was decided to start a new institution under the old name, and a new constitution and set of By-Laws were adopted.\textsuperscript{17}

The Cincinnati College of Pharmacy has been in continuous existence from its reorganization in 1871. On December 4, 1871, the first class of thirty-two students met in a room in the old Cincinnati College Building at 257–261 Walnut Street. The first faculty consisted of Edward S. Wayne, Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacy; J. F. Judge, Professor of Chemistry; F. H. Renz, Professor of Botany; and Adolphus Fennel, Professor of Analytical Chemistry. The next year W. B. Chapman was appointed Professor of Pharmacy. The leading medical journal in Cincinnati, the \textit{Cincinnati Lancet and Observer}, noted with pleasure the organization of the College and prophesied its success.\textsuperscript{18}

The first classes met in the evenings; and the method of instruction was known as the “Round Table Discussion.” The professor and the class sat together about a round table and discussed informally the theoretical and practical problems connected with the evening’s subject. Near by was a raised bench on which to carry out the experiments and display the specimens.\textsuperscript{19}

\textsuperscript{14}Juettner, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 91.
\textsuperscript{16}The Graduate, 1925, p. 24.
\textsuperscript{17}Freking, \textit{op. cit.}, passim.
JOHN URI LLOYD

Distinguished Alumnus of
the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy
Among the early matriculates in these informal discussions was John Uri Lloyd, one of America’s greatest and most versatile pharmacists. Lloyd began his apprenticeship in the drug business working ten hours a day as a clerk of W. J. M. Gordon at a salary of $1.50 per week. He later became the chief chemist for the firm of Merrell and Thorpe. He was Professor of Pharmacy from 1883 to 1887 in the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy; and in the latter year was elected President of the American Pharmaceutical Association. For twenty years he was Professor of Chemistry in the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati. During his long and distinguished career of scientist, pharmaceutical manufacturer, teacher, and author of numerous scientific and popular books he received six honorary degrees, three gold medals, and founded the Lloyd Library. That Library today contains more than 150,000 volumes and about 90,000 pamphlets written in more than sixty languages covering the fields of pharmacy, botany, eclectic medicine, natural history and allied subjects. Lloyd never failed to express his deep admiration for the men who composed the first faculty of the College and the inspiration he derived from their Socratic method of instruction.\(^{20}\)

The recognized ability of each member of the faculty soon began to attract students. Fifty-one students attended the second series of lectures, coming from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, and one from Canada. Six lectures were delivered each week by each of the professors during the term from October to March. In addition, practical laboratory instruction was given by the faculty. Professor Judge donated the nucleus of a library; and scientific apparatus was either purchased or donated.\(^{21}\)

On March 12, 1873, the first commencement exercises were held in the “old College Building” on Walnut Street. President Judge delivered an address in which he traced the development of pharmacy and pointed out how the druggist by relieving the physician of preparing and prescribing his medicines enabled the doctor to devote more of his time to the investigation of such subjects as pathology and therapeutics. The degree of Graduate


in Pharmacy was conferred on a class of ten young men. Judge John B. Stallo delivered the principal address. He stressed the importance in local communities of druggists and their need for specialized training. He complimented the College on receiving no aid from the state or the city. The College owed its origin to the initiative and necessities of the people of Cincinnati. Joseph H. Feemster, a member of the graduating class, delivered the valedictory address. The Germania Band was in attendance and "filled in the intervals very acceptably to the audience." 22

During the next decade the College made steady progress. The curriculum was broadened; the personnel of the faculty was increased; and the standards for graduation were raised. The recognized ability and the standing of the faculty in the community and in the profession helped materially to attract students. Professor J. F. Judge was the first President of the Ohio Pharmaceutical Association. 23 In 1884 the Ohio legislature passed an act creating a State Board of Pharmacy and requiring the examination and registration of all pharmacists in the state. Professor E. S. Wayne was appointed by Governor George Hoadly a member of the original Board. 24 The many educational advantages of Cincinnati also attracted students to the city. Its free public school system was considered one of the best in the country. The Cincinnati Public Library was known to possess an excellent collection of medical and scientific books. The medical, law, and theological schools in the city had an enviable reputation. Besides these educational opportunities the College in the 1870's called attention to the low cost of living in Cincinnati. Board and lodging could be obtained from $3.00 per week upward. Furnished rooms rented from $5.00 to $10.00 per month, and students by clubbing together, two to four to a room, could economize considerably. Very good day boarding was procurable at $3.00 to $3.50 per week.25

There were many evidences of the progress of the College during this period. In 1874 the College moved to the Murdoch Building at 195 West Fifth Street; and three years later to the southwest corner of Fifth and John Streets. The new lecture

24Freking, op. cit., passim.
25Announcement of the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy, 1879.
The Cincinnati College of Pharmacy

rooms were capacious, well lighted and ventilated and in every way better suited to the requirements of the College. During this period the annual course of instruction consisted of six lectures each week on the subjects of Pharmacy, Materia Medica and Botany, and Chemistry. Each professor delivered two lectures each week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings respectively, from 7:30 to 9:30. Laboratory instruction was given on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday afternoons from two to five o'clock. Often the instruction was given at the private homes of the faculty; and in order to stimulate interest each of the professors offered a gold medal to the student passing the best examination in his subject. The degree of Graduate in Pharmacy was conferred upon those students "of good moral character," who had attained the age of twenty-one years; had attended two full courses of lectures from October to March; had at least four years experience in a retail drug store; and had passed satisfactory examinations in the course they took. Certificates of Proficiency in Chemistry, Materia Medica, and Pharmacy were granted to those persons who took courses in these subjects and had served several years in the wholesale drug or chemical manufacturing business. When they had acquired at least two years experience
in the retail drug business they were entitled to take the exa-
minations required of candidates for a degree; and if they passed them
satisfactorily they received the diploma of the College. The fees
were: $5.00 for matriculation; $10.00 for each of the professor's
course of lectures and $10.00 graduation fee. 26 In 1876 the College
was placed upon the approved list of Colleges of Pharmacy in
the United States. 27 Three years later (1879) the College an-
nounced a new requirement for graduation. Applicants for gradu-
ation had to submit "an original, well-written thesis, on some sub-
ject pertaining to Pharmacy." 28

In 1880 women were admitted for the first time to the class
rooms; and the same year a new course on Toxicology was added
to the curriculum. 29 The next year a new course on Field Botany
was introduced and the instruction was given by the Custodian
of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History. 30

In 1883 John Uri Lloyd joined the faculty as Professor of the
Theory and Practice of Pharmacy. The same year radical changes
were made in the curriculum. In place of a Junior and a Senior
examination, with a repetition of the same lectures each year,
the course was divided into an elementary (Junior) and a more
advanced (Senior) course. Although this important change
doubled the labors of the faculty and increased the expenses of
the College, it enabled the professors to give more attention in the
Junior course to Botany, Chemical Physics, and other elementary
subjects, and enabled the student to pursue more profitably the
advanced studies of the Senior course. These increased facilities
were offered to the student in the hope of elevating the standard
of qualification in the profession "so that instead of the pharma-
cist, as formerly, being subordinate to the physician," he would
be recognized "as his co-laborer in the advancement of pharma-
ceutical science." 31

In 1884 the first woman graduated from the College, Mrs. A.
H. Merrell; and four years later Cora Dow, the founder of the
Dow Drug Company, graduated. 32

26Ibid., 1874, 1877, passim.
27Ibid., 1877.
28Ibid., 1879.
29Ibid., 1888; 1880.
30Ibid., 1884; 1889.
The year 1884 brought to the college a great loss in the death of one of its founders, Adolphus Fennel. He was succeeded the next year by his son, Charles T. P. Fennel, who had graduated in 1882 with the highest honors. C. T. P. Fennel was appointed Professor of Practical Pharmacy and Instructor in the Pharmaceutical Laboratory. Two years later he became Director of the Laboratory.\[33\]

The year 1887 marked the beginning of a new era in the history of the College. In that year the College became the Department of Pharmacy in the University of Cincinnati; and at the same time acquired a building of its own at 614–618 Court Street, near Wesley Avenue. The new College Building and grounds were purchased for $12,000; and over $3,000 was spent on new equipment. This significant move was made possible by obtaining a loan and by generous contributions from Cincinnati pharmacists. The College remained at this location until 1928 when it moved to 423 West Eighth Street, which was directly across the street from where the College had its first home in Gordon’s Hall.\[34\]

During the next few years more forward steps were taken. The college year was divided into three terms. A general average of 75, later lowered to 60, was required for graduation. Term examinations were inaugurated;\[35\] and the thesis presented by candidates for a degree had to be not only on subjects pertaining to pharmacy but also based upon experimental work done in the College laboratories.\[36\] New courses in Practical Pharmacy and Therapeutics were introduced. A practical course in microscopy, first given by Joseph H. Feemster, a graduate of the class of 1873, was made obligatory.\[37\] The College pioneered in the movement to obtain pharmacists in hospitals; and finally Christ Hospital agreed to appoint as an intern pharmacist the Junior who made the highest grades. The hospital furnished board and lodging but paid no salary. The faculty were given salary contracts and were required to submit a written synopsis of the material taught in their courses. On February 10, 1891, the honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy was conferred upon Professor Fennel “in recognition of his meritorious services to the College and to

\[33\]Ibid., 1885; 1887.
\[34\]Freking, op. cit., passim; Cincinnati Enquirer, April 23, 1950.
\[35\]Freking, op. cit., passim.
\[36\]Announcement of the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy, 1889.
\[37\]Ibid., 1887; 1888.
pharmacy in general.\textsuperscript{28} Three years later the Alumni Association began the publication of \textit{The Journal}, a periodical devoted to the advancement of pharmaceutical education and to keeping the College's graduates in touch with the institution.\textsuperscript{29} In 1897 Dr. Julius Eichberg became the first Dean of the College.\textsuperscript{30} By 1898 the College was conferring the degrees of Master and Doctor of Pharmacy based upon original research and advanced work in certain fields.\textsuperscript{31}

During the hard times following the panic of 1893 the financial condition of the College became precarious. The College indebtedness rose to nearly $8,000. To meet this indebtedness it was suggested that each member of the corporation be personally assessed $50. This was not acceptable to all the members; and accordingly on March 1, 1898, the College went into voluntary liquidation and each member of the corporation became personally liable for his proportionate share of the debt.

The College, however, was saved from closing by the personal sacrifice of C. T. P. Fennel. He offered to assume personal responsibility for the debts of the College, thereby releasing the other members of the corporation from their liability. This offer was accepted by the corporation. Dr. Fennel assigned in trust his life insurance policy amounting to $5000 to John Ruppert and Alfred De Lang. In return the mortgage on the real estate and private property of the College were turned over to Dr. Fennel. By this action the College became a privately owned institution; but its continuance was assured.

The following year the first degrees of Bachelor of Pharmacy were conferred instead of Graduate in Pharmacy.\textsuperscript{42}

In 1900 the College celebrated in a modest way its sesquicentennial. Among those present was William Karrmann, a graduate of the first class, now seventy-three years old. The first president of the College, William J. M. Gordon, was also present. John Uri Lloyd, the surviving member of the first faculty of the reorganization period, paid high tribute to the pioneers of American pharmacy, Professors E. S. Wayne, A. Fennel, and W. B.

\textsuperscript{28}Freking, \textit{op. cit.}, passim.
\textsuperscript{29}The \textit{Journal} was first a quarterly and then a monthly.
\textsuperscript{30}Ibid., June, 1897.
\textsuperscript{31}Ibid., July, 1898.
\textsuperscript{42}Freking, \textit{op. cit.}, passim.
Chapman. The ceremonies closed with the first banquet of the College alumni.43

The profession of pharmacy has made great strides during the existence of this one hundred and three year old institution. Registered pharmacists now may find opportunities not only in the retail drug business but also in the field of wholesale pharmacy, the manufacture of pharmaceutical products, scientific research and the modern hospital organization. The manifold displays on exhibit at the annual “Open House” of the College, sponsored by the student body, give visitors some idea of the advances made by the profession. But in the modern world more is needed than mere technical training in a specific field. Thus students of the College today study Botany, Bacteriology, Biology, Accounting, Economics, Chemistry, and English, in addition to their specialized courses in the field of pharmacy. As in the past, the educational aim of the College is to keep abreast of and point the way to future scientific advances in pharmacy; but, in addition, it strives to give its students a broader training in other fields so that they may be better fitted to take an active part in the daily life of the communities in which they live.

43The Journal, April, 1900; newspaper clipping Vol. 1, 1900, p. 99 in Cincinnati Public Library.