

THE ONE AND ONLY PHARMACY LIBRARY IN NORTH CAROLINA

By ALICE NOBLE*

The one and only pharmacy library in North Carolina is located at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill in the Howell Hall of Pharmacy. It occupies one fourth of the main floor and includes a well lighted, spacious reading room, extensive stack space, and the librarian's office. All library activities are concentrated in this large and attractive room which is far too small to take care of the rapidly growing collection and to carry on ambitious projects for present and future expansion.

The objectives of the library are to build up constantly a collection of scientific and historical importance; to create interest in the library and to broaden its services and activities; and to render service to the pharmacists of the state as well as to students and faculty of the University. The library tries to make material available and to promote the enjoyment of books and journals as well as to encourage students to build up libraries of their own. Although funds are limited, included each year in the purchases are a few well written authoritative books about the profession of pharmacy, written in the language of the layman, not only to give undergraduates a fuller appreciation of their profession but to stimulate them in research of their own.

History

The library was started in 1897, the year of the present school of pharmacy was founded, although the beginning was modest to say the least. All appropriations in those days were meagre, but we feel sure that the pharmacy library was given the meagrest allotment of them all—just \$3.00 a year for both books and periodicals. It is no wonder that for more than a decade there was a subscription to one periodical only. However, from the very start the library had wonderful friends and annual reports each year record substantial gifts. University catalogues mention that the reading room was inaugurated by the Class of 1897 and in it were a large number of medical and pharmaceutical journals. Annual and special gifts by friends have continued through the years in ever increasing numbers and value.

The pharmacy library is a part of the Division of Health Affairs Library and the Armed Forces Medical Library classification is employed. Additional collections of the Division are located in the North Carolina Memorial Hospital and the School of Nursing. The combined collections total approximately 55,000 volumes specialized in pharmacy, dentistry, medicine, nursing and public health. Cataloging and ordering is done by the central Health Affairs Library, but book selection is the responsibility of the pharmacy librarian and the faculty. The general University Library and fifteen departmental libraries are available to students of pharmacy. (These libraries use the Dewey Decimal System of classification.)

Until September, 1947, there was no pharmacy librarian, although for many years I had given time occasionally to the library as I held a position in Howell Hall. My pharmacy responsibilities enabled me to acquire considerable knowledge of the profession of pharmacy and its personnel. A Tar Heel born and bred and with North Carolina history a hobby, I found it interesting to study about pharmacy and its progress.

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These assets, plus specialized filing training and the successful completion of certain pharmaceutical research, gave me the opportunity to become the School's first librarian. I have been on the job ever since. The work has been fascinating and I am proud of what has been accomplished. The carefully selected collection now numbers more than 8,000 catalogued books and bound volumes of periodicals pertaining to pharmacy and the collateral sciences, exclusive of pamphlet and other collections which are indexed and filed separately. It is a very specialized library and contains a wealth of both modern and historical material.

All books given to the library bear an appropriate gift plate and each gift is recorded carefully in a gift book, a page or more being set aside for each donor. This catalogue of library gifts is not only a means of preserving a permanent record of donations but serves as a medium of expressing appreciation to the donors.

The latest books are prominently displayed and a list of the titles posted on the central bulletin board. Attention is directed to important periodical articles through the bulletin board. From time to time latest acquisitions are listed in the *Carolina Journal of Pharmacy*.

North Carolina Pharmaceutical Research Foundation

Beginning in 1947, the North Carolina Pharmaceutical Research Foundation annually has made a gift of \$500 to the library for materials (books, periodicals, etc.) needed for research. This fund has enabled us to purchase many books that we could not have acquired otherwise.

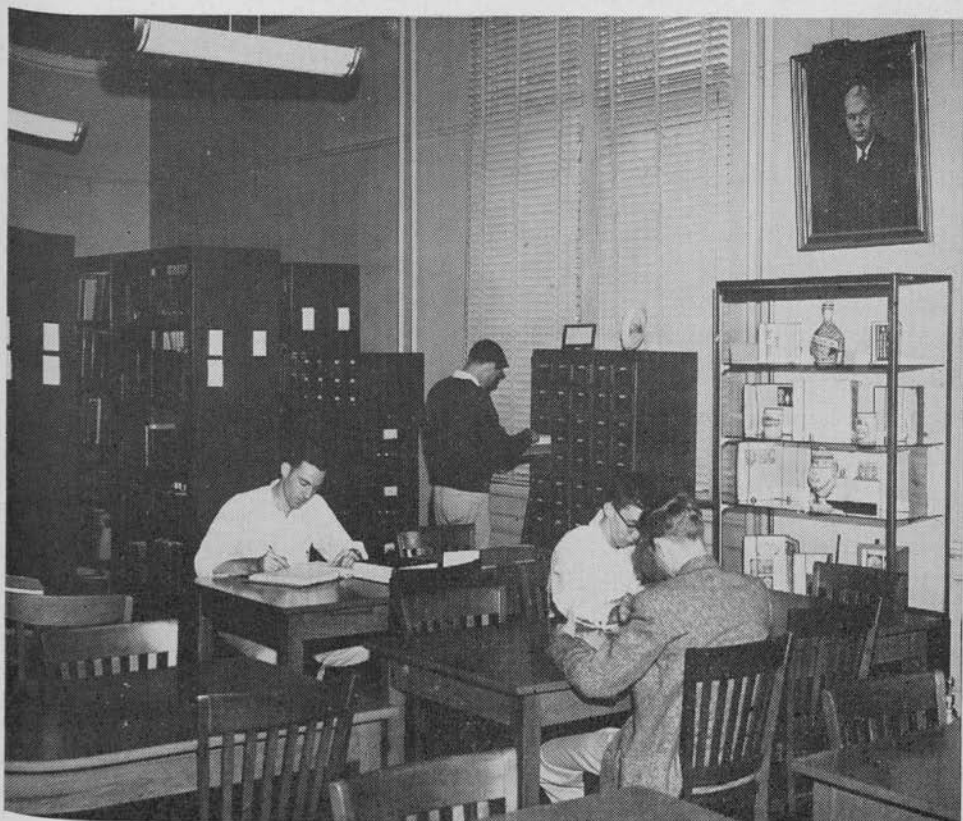
Within the Foundation are a number of memorial funds. An appropriate memorial book has been compiled containing biographical sketches of the pharmacists who have been honored by the establishment of such funds, not only as a matter of record but as an expression of appreciation of their achievements.

Periodicals

It is a far cry from the days when the library could subscribe to only one journal until today when the number of serials currently received has increased to 160. Ten of these periodicals are hospital journals made possible by the gift of a hospital pharmacist; several subscriptions are from friends; and the pharmacy fraternities each contribute a journal. The collection of bound journals is impressive. There are long runs of foreign serials (30 are currently subscribed for).

Reference Files

When I became librarian I realized how difficult it is to find material in journals even with the aid of yearly or cumulative indexes. Moreover, there was no satisfactory index to new drugs. Such an index is difficult to maintain with the great number of new drugs constantly appearing on the market. A card reference to journal material was started in a special catalogue file. There are now 35,000 cards in this "Periodical Reference" file and the number is increasing at the rate of about 150 cards a week. Prime emphasis is laid on subject headings and an effort is made to list the information as



UNC photo by J. B. Clay

Corner of UNC Pharmacy Library

simply as possible. If the article is concerned with more than one subject the necessary number of cards is made. In the upper left-hand corner of the card is listed the subject: Digitalis, Rauwolfia, Pharmacy-Education, etc. In the center of the card is the title of the article and the author. In the lower left-hand corner (usually in three lines) is shown where the reference may be found. These cards provide simple, quick references to no end of subjects and are of inestimable assistance, not only to students and staff, but to pharmacists of the state seeking information on many questions.

Pamphlets form an important part of the collection and this literature has its own separate catalogue. As pamphlets are received they are displayed and lists posted of their availability. Later they are filed in fire resistant cabinets and indexed on cards for the "Pamphlet Catalogue." Emphasis is laid again on subject headings. The pamphlet cards are similar to the "Periodicals References."

A third reference file is concerned with "Trade Literature." Most manufacturers furnish information about their products on 3" x 5" cards. The library has a file for

this literature in which there are now about 4,000 cards. The information is filed alphabetically by the product.

Other reference material includes Government Documents pertaining to drugs, foods, cosmetics, insecticides, etc., and Price Lists of important pharmaceutical manufacturers.

We have made analyses of many volumes which have not been indexed previously in any way. Included in the list are the *Lloyd Library Bulletin* and the *Badger Pharmacist*. These series contain important pharmaceutical information that hitherto was buried literally. The analyses are well worth the time and effort involved.

North Carolina Pharmacy and Pharmacists

The collection of material concerning North Carolina pharmacy and pharmacists is an important activity. A separate card catalogue, containing 8,000 cards, records the name of every pharmacist licensed in this State since the enactment of the First Pharmacy Act of 1881. In addition, fire resistant files preserve (in folders) biographical data about a majority of these pharmacists. In the beginning, data is filed on the "directory" card, but as soon as sufficient material accumulates a folder is made also. The data grows and grows. The record includes a photograph of the subject, his date of license, and as nearly as possible a complete biography including all clippings about the subject that we can find. In the collection are photographs and complete data about all past and present officers of the North Carolina Pharmaceutical Association. It is amazing how voluminous is the data about some of these pharmacists. It would be impossible to estimate the number of clippings in the collection. There are as many as a hundred or more about some of the prominent pharmacists. Wedding invitations are included in the records, announcement of the arrival of babies—all sorts of things, which are interesting and important as references. One pharmacist has sent us each Christmas a snapshot of his children. Now the eldest son is ready for college. Information in these biographical files is sought often and is of increasing importance.

Whenever a pharmacist visits the library he is asked to autograph his folder if he has not done so already. This practice not only adds to the value of the biographical data, but shows the pharmacist that the School of Pharmacy is interested in him. There has always been a close tie between the pharmacists of the State and the School of Pharmacy and the library takes pride in preserving records about these friends of the School. A card index of the pharmacy alumni is maintained, and there is a separate alphabetical card file of alumni who have served in the armed forces, together with their service records. On file are photographs, properly identified, of each pharmacy class since the School was started. These pictures are of special interest to returning alumni.

Complete historical data about the School of Pharmacy has been assembled and arranged in chronological order. Some day the librarian hopes to write a history of the School.

Scrap books record extensive historical material about the profession of pharmacy both before and after 1881, and a valuable collection of photographs, carefully keyed, provides additional data. Much of this material will form the basis for a history of North Carolina Pharmacy.

Physical Appearance

The physical appearance of the library is most attractive. The walls are painted a soft green and the furniture is of light oak with the exception of matched chairs upholstered in burnished red Castilian leather. The southeast location of the library and large windows fill it with morning sunlight. Fluorescent lighting is used at night. The stacks are arranged perpendicular to the north wall with the several catalogues close by. Reading tables and chairs, accommodating fifty readers, occupy the center of the room. Reference and current periodical shelves are arranged along the west wall. Forty-two inch high counters with storage cabinets underneath form the librarian's office in the southeast corner. The latest dictionaries of all kinds are easily available on shelves under the southern windows. Newest books and primary references are displayed on the counters.

On the walls are portraits of former deans—all gifts. Conscious of the importance of preserving a history of each portrait, an appropriate volume has been compiled with the title, *The Portraits in Howell Hall*. Each portrait is given a section in the book. Included in the record are a photograph of the portrait, an account of the presentation ceremonies, a biographical sketch of the subject, a short summary about the gift, and a sketch of the artist. There is added a memorial tribute to the pharmacist, written by a contemporary, setting forth the aims, ambitions, and service of the subject.

The room is literally filled with gifts. On the counters are handsome brass and copper vases. On top of the reference shelves are rare and beautiful show globes and there is also a huge marble mortar, weighing about 90 pounds, originally used more than a hundred years ago in one of the best known pharmacies in the State. The Greensboro Drug Club Auxiliary has presented a 16" electrically illuminated world globe standing 38½" high.

This fall the Woman's Auxiliary of the N.C.P.A. presented a locked book case for the rarities. In it are deposited the most valuable treasures, the oldest having been printed in 1540. Six of the books were published in the sixteenth century, and nine in the seventeenth. In the collection are such volumes as Schröder's *Pharmacopœia medicale*, Parkinson's *Theatrum botanicum*, Lemery's *Pharmacopœe universelle*, Durante's *Herbario novo*, Charas' *Pharmacopoea Regis, galenica et chymica*, etc.

And last but not least, is the display case presented by an alumnus in memory of his brother, also an alumnus, killed in World War I. This cabinet is used for timely displays of scientific and historical interest. The research for these displays is always fascinating. Such subjects have been featured as "Art and Pharmacy," "Mortars and Pestles," "Prescription Balances and Weights," "Alchemical Symbols," etc. There have been many exhibits commemorating occasions of importance to pharmacy such as the American Pharmaceutical Association Centennial Celebration, the Bicentennial Celebration of Orange County, Golden Anniversary of the N.C.P.A., etc. Frequently the newspapers have featured these displays with accompanying cuts. The display that probably has attracted the greatest interest was arranged for the 1954 Christmas season under the title, "Christ as Apothecary." Included in the display were reproductions of eighteen of the seventy known paintings depicting Christ as Apothecary. The pharmaceutical and lay press featured the exhibit widely and even a year later it was men-

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tioned. Many requests were received from organizations and retail pharmacists for assistance in arranging similar displays. So far as we know this is the only library that has done extensive research on the subject. We are hoping to compile a volume of photographs and reading on this theme.

The School of Pharmacy is hopeful that the next General Assembly will make a long sought for appropriations for a new pharmacy building. The request has top priority on the University list. In plans for this new building convenient and adequate space has been allotted to the pharmacy library. When these dreams become a reality the library will be able to take care of its collection properly and to carry through its ambitions for greater service.