

HISTORY OF SCIENCE

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A Brief History of the Pharmacy College of Butler University

K. L. KAUFMAN, Dean

This college traces its origin to the religious group known as the Winona Assembly and Summer School Association. It was decided about 1902 that the organization should sponsor agriculture and technical schools. It was further envisioned that the agricultural department of the school should be established at Winona Lake and the technical departments at Indianapolis. During the year 1903 there was further discussion and planning for the trade school portions of the Institute, and on March 16, 1904, the supporters of the movement purchased the grounds of the United States Arsenal on East Michigan Street. This property was made available by the government at relatively low cost with the proviso that it must be used for educational purposes. Incorporation papers were filed on April 7, 1904, under the name of Winona



Figure 1

Technical Institute (see Fig. 1). The property included more than seventy-six acres, partly forested and part under cultivation. There were numerous brick buildings easily convertible to teaching uses.

Money for this operation was raised almost entirely in Indianapolis from then well-known individuals. A total of \$350,000 was secured, although no provision was made for endowment of the Institute. All of the major donors became trustees, so that the original group not

only had a large number, but the list read like a roster of "Who's Who." Among these well-known names were A. C. Atkins of the saw company, Allison, whose name survives in one of the major divisions of General Motors, Mr. Burdsall of the paint family, Mr. Hanna of the Atlas Engineering Company, Mr. Holliday and Mr. Jordan of the Trust Companies. Mr. Smith of the Indianapolis News, and the creator of the Indianapolis Foundation was another, and H. J. Heinz of pickle fame also participated, while John Studebaker was another well-known name on the list.

The Institute opened its doors for its first students on September 6, 1904. Departments of pharmacy, chemistry and electrical wiring were among those originally operated. A little later, lithography and house and sign painting, were added to the list. In addition to these, departments of printing, carpentry, molding, tile setting, machinery, applied sciences and brick laying came into operation two or three years later.

A total of 80 students were enrolled the first year, of which twelve were studying pharmacy. The first director of pharmacy was Professor John A. Gertler, who came to the school from Ohio Northern University. In the second year, 50 students were in the pharmacy program. During the school year of 1907 and 1908, the total enrollment reached 500 students. More than two hundred pharmacy students had enrolled by 1909, and 125 had been graduated. In that period, the college "year" was only twenty-six weeks in length, and two such terms sufficed to earn the Ph.G. (Pharmaceutical Graduate) degree. If the student chose to attend an additional ten weeks each year, he could receive the Ph.C. (Pharmaceutical Chemist) degree.

In 1910 the Pharmacy department was moved to the main building because of its growth. Professor Gertler met an accidental death in 1911 and was succeeded by Professor A. F. Haller, one of his classmates from Ohio Northern University. He also died in an accident in 1912 and was succeeded by F. A. Mueller, who continued as Dean until 1921. During the first four years of operation, many improvements were made upon the substantial buildings which had been bought from the Government, and a new building added for use of the foundry school. In 1908-09, the management of the Institute claimed in its catalogue that the property was admirably adapted to the needs of the school.

By 1908 or 1909, the Institute had fallen upon hard times. Some few alumni with which the writer has discussed the early history of the organization, indicate that some of the funds were believed to have been stolen. At any rate, the Pharmacy department was the only part of the Institute which had prospered. By 1913, debts accumulated, litigation ensued, and the Indianapolis School System took over the property.

The Pharmacy department, stimulated by the needs of the community's pharmacists and by the major pharmaceutical manufacturing operations in the area, secured some financial support specifically for its own use and proceeded to move to the 7th floor of the Century Building at Maryland and South Pennsylvania Streets and continue operations. A new charter was obtained in 1914, and Professor Ferdinand A. Mueller became President and Dean. Mr. Mueller was a brother of the original Mueller of the Mooney-Mueller-Ward Company, wholesale druggists. The Treasurer of the College and a teacher at this time was

John Fritz, elder brother of Albert C. Fritz, who will be mentioned later. The College changed its name to The Indianapolis College of Pharmacy and remained completely independent of other affiliations for about thirty-seven years. It should be noted that Charles Bookwalter, the city's Mayor, exerted great influence to acquire funds and space to assist the College.

In 1919, a home was purchased for the College at 522 Fletcher Avenue and classes began there in 1920. The property included two brick buildings with about fifteen rooms available for class and laboratory work. By 1922 this facility was outgrown. Finally, in 1924 the old Indiana Veterinary College became bankrupt and offered its property at 802 East Market Street for sale. Dean Niles borrowed approximately \$50,000 from the manufacturers and wholesalers of Indianapolis to acquire this property and some additional equipment. Elderly alumni tell me that this money, while technically made available to him as a loan, was actually considered by the supporters as a gift. They were much surprised when Dean Niles repaid this loan.

In the meantime, the Pharmacy curriculum had been changing from the trade-school style to a true academic and professional program. This change, of course, made the cost of operation much higher and the necessity for increased funds became more pressing. A minimum three year course was adopted in 1925, but the Ph.C. degree was retained. In 1930, the College adopted a minimum four year program, two years before it became mandatory, and was thus one of the first ten schools to enforce this standard. The College was inspected and approved by the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education in 1941. World War II caused the College to adopt the accelerated program as did most others, and it was continued from 1942 until 1946.

It may be noted in passing that it was in the period 1930-1945 that most of the independent colleges of pharmacy across the country, either closed or arranged affiliations with other institutions, as a matter of insuring their survival.

In the late 1930's, informal discussions between Dean Niles and representatives of other institutions began. There were those in the pharmaceutical community who thought that a merger with Indiana University would be desirable, and presumably some who mentioned various other private institutions. Butler University came forward with the most agreeable mutual arrangements, and in September, 1945, the articles of consolidation were executed. An understanding was reached that representatives of the pharmaceutical community would set forth on a program immediately to raise sufficient funds to build and equip a modern College of Pharmacy on the Butler campus.

Mr. Albert C. Fritz, a long-time friend of pharmacy, a graduate of the College, and a community pharmacist of Indianapolis was one co-chairman of a group in charge of raising the funds and Mr. William Mooney, Sr., who was then President of the Mooney-Mueller-Ward wholesale drug firm, was the other co-chairman. These gentlemen, assisted by many friends, obtained gifts from more than 600 sources. With these gifts, plus approximately a quarter million dollars supplied from University funds, the College opened its doors at its new location on the

campus in September, 1951. Ground breaking ceremonies had been held in October, 1949, and the corner stone laying had taken place on June 20, 1950. The University later sold the old property at 802 East Market Street, which had been the home of the College for more than twenty-five years. When the new building was dedicated on May 7, 1952, the library was designated officially as the Edward H. Niles Library in recognition of his long and devoted service to the College. Dean Niles retired at the close of the first year of work at the new building and was succeeded by Dr. Karl L. Kaufman.

The College, since coming to the campus, has turned over most of the basic sciences and all the general education courses to the appropriate departments in Butler's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

A full-time faculty of ten, plus seven part-time teachers take care of the instruction in the professional areas. Nearly all hold the Ph.D. or other doctoral degrees.

Since 1952, the College has conducted a Master of Science program. This program presently embraces major areas of study in Pharmacy, Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacology. Minors may be selected from these same areas or from the basic sciences or business administration. It is anticipated that work in Pharmacognosy and Pharmacy Administration will be added to the graduate program a little later.

The principal sources of the graduate students have been two: 1) employees of local industry who undertake graduate work on a part-time basis, and 2) baccalaureate degree holders of our own College who chose to stay with their old teachers until they had completed the M.Sc. degree, many then going on to doctoral studies at various universities.

In 1956, the College made available an optional program covering five academic years. This curriculum became compulsory in 1960. In keeping with the traditions of Butler University, the College provides a strong background in liberal arts to all students now enrolled.

Butler University should continue its growth and development under a dynamic new administration. As the Holcomb Research Institute, for which the University has received substantial financial support, becomes operational, the faculty looks forward to continued challenge and growth of the College, particularly in its graduate programs.

A Note on Sources

Material for this paper has been obtained primarily from:

1. Old catalogue of Winona Technical Institute.
2. Yearbooks of the Indianapolis College of Pharmacy ("The Mistura")
3. Article by Dr. Niles in "Indiana Pharmacist," and
4. Interviews with Mrs. Niles and Mr. Albert Fritz.