

# Pharmacist And Lawyer

By FLORA MURRAY

If there's anything that you want to know about the School of Pharmacy of the University of Maryland, Miss B. Olive Cole can tell you. She has at her finger tips information about the school's students, graduates, teachers, courses, equipment, admission requirements, scholarships, history, student organizations and janitors.

A partial explanation of her fund of knowledge is that she has been secretary of the faculty for 27 years, secretary of the Alumni Association for 21 years and associate professor of economics and pharmaceutical law for nineteen years. Moreover, she is a graduate of the college. A more important explanation, however, is her personality.

Miss Cole is one of those persons whom you know very well after five minutes of conversation. She makes friends quickly because she is easy to talk with, good-natured and sincere. Her manner at all times combines straightforwardness and geniality.

## Talent For Housekeeping **JUL 13 1947**

On first glance Miss Cole, who also holds a law degree, looks as though she would be more at home in a home than in a college. A large woman, with white hair and generous features, her housewifely appearance is not wholly deceptive. While she lectures on such topics as pharmaceutical economics, and writes on such subjects as "Monopoly and Competition in Trade-Marked Articles," she likes to cook and sew.

"Well, what do I look like?" she counters in answer to a question about her recreational pursuits. Her attitude implies that that is a silly question, that it should be obvious that she enjoys crocheting, knitting and making jams and jellies.

Miss Cole's main interest, though, is not her home on Beech avenue—it's the School of Pharmacy. She has made it that way. The school is not a classroom and office, not a place ruled by a 9-to-5 time clock; it's a second home, and its people are "family."

Out-of-town alumni returning here invariably drop in to see her in her pharmacy building, on South Greene street. Alumni living here keep in touch with her. Seldom a day passes that she does not renew a friendship that may go back many years.

## Keeps Up With Women Graduates

Because she was one of the early women graduates in pharmacy (1913), Miss Cole has taken an especial interest in other women students. Almost without consulting file or reference source, she can give the names, addresses, occupations and marital status of alumnae.

"Our women make good," she says in determined fashion, blinking her left eye, a movement she makes for emphasis.

Many women graduates, Miss Cole relates, have become hospital pharmacists. Others have worked for manufacturing pharmacists. Still others have gone into drugstore work and still others have married pharmacists. Quite a few Catholic sisters are numbered among the school's graduates, and they have used their training in hospital work.

Why don't more women study pharmacy? Miss Cole thinks that there has been no disproportionate representation of women in this field. Of course there were not many women pharmacists in the past, she says, because "petticoats didn't go places." Today, out of the current enrollment of 214 at the State pharmacy school, 21 are women. Miss Cole considers this ten per cent figure



Miss B. Olive Cole, first woman graduate in law of the University of Maryland, is a teacher, a pharmacist and years ago was a stenographer.

a good average. There might have been more women, she adds, if preference in admission had not been given to veterans.

## Pharmacists Now In Demand **Sun**

Pharmacy is a profession well suited to women, she believes—but no more or less so than to men. There are only two slight disadvantages for women in the field, she remarks. Like men pharmacists, they may have to work long hours, but if a person enjoys his work, hours are secondary. They may be unable to lift five-gallon bottles (or cases of beer) if they are employed in drugstores, but the clever woman should be able to find someone to do the heavy work. Because few pharmacists were trained during the war, they are in demand now, with weekly starting salaries averaging \$75.

To a certain extent, environment was responsible for Miss Cole's study of pharmacy. After being graduated from the Franklin High School, in Reisterstown, she took stenographic training, then became a stenographer for a manufacturing pharmaceutical concern. The next logical step was the School of Pharmacy.

During World War I Miss Cole worked as a pharmacist in Washington, returning here to become secretary of the faculty at the pharmacy school in 1920. That was the year when the State law college decided to admit women.

"It was a challenge to me," Miss Cole recalls, "so I enrolled in the first class."

## University's First Law Graduate

Because, out of the five women in that class, her name came first in the alphabet, she received the first law degree awarded a woman by the University of Maryland.

Though she has never practiced law, Miss Cole has made the legal aspects of pharmacy her special field. One of the courses she teaches at the school, pharmacy laws and regulations, is described in the catalogue as: "Fundamentals of law of importance to pharmacists, with special reference to the regulations of the practice of pharmacy: Federal and State laws and regulations pertaining to the sale of poisons, narcotics, drugs, cosmetics and pharmaceutical preparations."

## Active In Professional Groups

Miss Cole also has studied English, history and economics at the Johns Hopkins University night school, and is the author of several papers on pharmacy. For a number of years she has been active in various pharmaceutical organizations as well as other types of organizations.

Though she has relatively little leisure time, Miss Cole uses her free week ends for trips out of town—often to the Eastern Shore. Any longer holiday and she's in her car, with no particular destination in mind other than to go somewhere different.

Before the war she did a great deal of traveling and on such jaunts accumulated much of her collection of pitchers. Now she has over 300 of them, all shapes, sizes, colors, in silver, china, glass. Some are antiques, some are just nice pitchers.