

**MISS COLE RECEIVES ALUMNI MEDAL**



Reading left to right: Joseph Cohen, Executive Secretary, Maryland Pharmaceutical Association, Toastmaster; Miss B. Olive Cole, Francis S. Balassone, past president of the Alumni, making the award.

**ALUMNI MEDAL PRESENTATION TO  
MISS B. OLIVE COLE  
BY  
FRANCIS S. BALASSONE**

Mr. Toastmaster, President Raichlen, Distinguished Guests, Members of the graduating Class, and friends:

In the performance of this chore, I become the envy of hundreds of graduates throughout the country. Happy am I, however, to have been selected by the alumni association of the School of Pharmacy to perform this unique assignment.

One of the great cardinal virtues of that master painter of them all, Michelangelo, was that he knew exactly what to leave out of a picture on canvas. Of equal importance it was to know what

to include in a picture. And so it is with the life of our medal recipient, that she knew what to include in her life which has been studded with gems of pharmaceutical successes, well earned and deserved.

As early as 1902 we read from the class prophecy of Franklin High School written by Miss Ellen Gray that Bessie Olive Cole was destined to become a second Susan B. Anthony.

Her training at the Baltimore Business College provided the entree for work at Sharp and Dohme, whence came her interest in Pharmacy. This interest led to her entrance and graduation from the School of Pharmacy with a degree of Doctor of Pharmacy in 1913. In the words of her classmate, John

Wannenwetsch, she was "always quiet, unassuming and studious."

Her completion of state board examination and licensure officially welcomed her in the field of pharmacy, a profession which at that time could boast of but a few women. As pharmacist in the Solway-Annan Company, she became closely associated with our beloved Kelly, later to become Dean. A little known fact is that in a call to duty she worked in the War Risk Department, Washington.

On invitation in 1920, Miss Cole returned to her Alma Mater as Associate Professor of Botany and Materia Medica. Thus began the uninterrupted service to pharmacy which is so familiar to the most of us.

Despite her many activities at school, she found time to earn a Bachelor of Law degree from the School of Law, University of Maryland. She is a member of the Maryland and Baltimore Bars. We are happy she cast her lot with pharmacy.

Through the years she has achieved distinction in various departments of our school, attaining a full professorship in Pharmacy Administration. In 1948 the alumni association honored her with a presentation of a beautiful portrait to the School of Pharmacy. On accepting it in behalf of the school, Dean Du Mez said "Professor Cole has done much for pharmacy, which has and will continue to redound to her credit and honor."

On October 6th, 1948, Miss Cole was appointed Acting Dean of the school of pharmacy. The steeped in mourning on the sudden death of Dean Du Mez, the pharmacists of Maryland were justly proud of Miss Cole and her capabilities in directing the school during the interim. Dr. Byrd said "Well Done."

In calling on her storehouse of experience and knowledge, appreciative and grateful is Dean Foss for her helpfulness.

One would think that Miss Cole's long

span of association with the school of Pharmacy and her tireless activities in behalf of state and local organizations would by necessity limit her scope of service. Instead, her interests have become national. She has been a contributor on the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education, Maryland Pharmacist, Maryland Alumni Magazine and other journals.

A life member of the A.Ph.A., and has served on the committee of section on Pharmaceutical Administration. Associate member of the Maryland State Pharmaceutical Association. Also serving as Honorary President, Secretary of the alumni association for 27 years.

Charter member of Omicron Chapter of Rho Chi Society.

Charter member of Epsilon Chapter Lamda Kappa Sigma Society.

Charter member of Quota Club of Baltimore.

A summary of the attributes of Miss Cole recalls the words of the famed poet William Wordsworth:

"The reason firm, the temperate will,  
Endurance, foresight, strength and skill,  
A perfect woman, nobly planned,  
To warn, to comfort and command."

Tonite we honor one who has achieved many unique distinctions.

First woman to receive a law degree from School of Law, U. of Md.

First woman to be acting Dean of our School of Pharmacy.

First woman to hold a full professorship at School of Pharmacy, U. of Md.

First woman Honorary President of Maryland Pharmaceutical Association.

First woman Honorary President of Alumni Asso., School of Pharmacy.

First woman to receive the Alumni Medal.

Hail to the lady of many firsts—the first lady of Pharmacy in Maryland. Miss Cole,

Because of your long service and devotion by choice, to pharmacy in

Maryland and particularly to the School of Pharmacy which you have served for 33 years and the Alumni Association for 27 years, I hereby present you with our coveted alumni medal.

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