

stands ready to retire in favor of any one deemed better able to correctly appraise and properly express its purposes.

According to a resolution adopted at the Richmond convention, and as yet not formally repealed, "editorials shall be limited to synoptical references to the current JOURNAL, and on stated questions must be confined to the attitude of the Association."

This resolution, or so much of it as is understandable, would, if literally interpreted, reduce editorial utterances to mere perfunctory expressions which might as well be left unexpressed. The editor will presume, therefore, to adopt a somewhat more liberal construction, and will proceed upon the theory that he is to have "reasonable latitude of action," always acknowledging full responsibility to the Association for the manner in which he shall exercise his discretion.

In some respects the editing of a journal is like the stirring of a soft coal fire—the average onlooker feels that he could perform the operation somewhat more efficiently than the individual who has the poker—an opinion which in the present case will doubtless be frequently justified by the facts. The editor does not, therefore, expect to escape criticism, or even to avoid giving just cause for it, but would call the attention of his critics to the tolerant spirit of the notice said to have been posted in a frontier concert hall, "Please don't shoot the man at the piano; he's doing the best he knows how."

J. H. BEAL.



#### THE OPPORTUNITY OF AMERICAN PHARMACY.

The pharmacist is coming into his own. His light is no longer to be hid under a bushel. His profession is now regarded as a learned one and the pharmacist is recognized as having a place in the society of scholars.

The progress in pharmaceutical education and the raising of the standard of pharmaceutical efforts have been the leading causes in the development of pharmacy as it stands today.

The time has long gone by when any man, no matter whether he had the training or not, commanding a few hundred dollars, could open a corner drug store, without leave or license. In nearly every state the laws regulating the practice of pharmacy are now rigid, and when properly enforced, restrict the practice of this profession to those qualified to follow it. At the same time the colleges of pharmacy have raised their standards of entrance and stiffened their requirements of graduation to such a degree that the young graduate may with some right claim the title "doctor."

Another step in the direction of the greater dignity of the profession has been the enactment of state and national laws securing to the pharmacist a degree of certainty that he is handling the articles which bear the names. It must be a great satisfaction to the honest, upright and ambitious pharmacist that he is absolutely certain of the wares in which he deals. This certainty to some degree assists in eliminating unfair competition which has been the stumbling block over which so many well meaning pharmacists have fallen.

Further, the publicity which has been given in the last two or three years to the enormous frauds which have been practiced in certain patented and pro-

proprietary articles has turned the gaze of the public with great expectancy towards the re-established drug store.

The people are beginning to understand that they have been deceived by the false and sometimes criminal misleading claims of virtues which are wholly mythical. The many millions of dollars which during the last few years have been wasted on crude, imperfect and useless remedies may and will soon be saved to the public, and a great part of this will be turned into legitimate pharmaceutical channels.

It is utterly unfair to the pharmacist to require him to undergo long years of preparation and pass the most rigid examinations to practice his profession and then for him to meet at every point the unjust competition of Dr. Quack, who has never taken a degree or passed an examination. The most efficient control of the proprietary medicine trade directly to the public, would be to require every maker or vendor of these make-believes to pass a rigid examination for pharmacy and medicine in every locality where his wares are offered for sale, through the newspapers or otherwise.

Great help is coming in this line also by the awakening of ethics in the press. Many magazines and newspapers are now carefully studying the character of the advertisements for healing articles which are offered them, with a view to the exclusion of those which are false and misleading.

The registered pharmacist, in my opinion, will be rid, in the near future, of this unjust and dangerous competition.

Pharmacy is also soon to have the advantage of the best Pharmacopoeia which has ever been published in any land. All over this country are found devoted scholars and competent specialists who are giving freely of their time and efforts to the most careful and painstaking revision of this important standard. While it is not expected that the new book will be absolutely perfect or complete in scope it will undoubtedly be the greatest aid to the pharmacist, from the scientific point of view, which has ever been put into his hands.

The people of this country are beginning finally to appreciate pharmacy as a profession which has their best interests at heart. They are beginning to look upon the pharmacist as a man of learning and one devoted to his duties. They will soon appreciate the fact that the only safe place to get a real remedy is at the near by drug store.

HARVEY W. WILEY.