

EDITORIAL

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AN AWAKENING OF STERNER IDEALS, AND AN URGE FOR "MILITANT OPTIMISM."

THERE is a conflict now going on between "easy-going" modern life and the older discipline which had much to do with making our country great, laid the foundation for American ideals, and determination for a "square deal." It would be well if more of the self-control and sense of responsibility to the community and the State, which were elements in the Pilgrims' practice, were brought into present-day life. Thus, the celebration of the Pilgrim centenary has awakened thought on these things.

In applying lessons of the war to education, Dean West, of Princeton, said:

"In our education, as in the war, the immortal conflict is now on. It is great to be a true American; it is greater to be a true man or woman here or anywhere. 'That all men everywhere may be free' was Lincoln's prayer. Can we not lay aside all prejudices and then read our lesson in the fiery light around us? That lesson is that no freedom is won or held without struggle and without self-denial. That lesson is that mental and moral freedom is not won or held by any human being in any land without whole-minded training in the fundamentals of knowledge, be they pleasant or unpleasant at first, whole-souled obedience to duty, 'interesting' or uninteresting, and whole-hearted devotion to the truth won and held by hard effort, not for money, place or power, but for the sake of living decently in a decent world, made fit to be free."

The centenary of John Tyndall has recently been celebrated, and for our purpose we refer briefly to his writings and works. In a sketch of Michael Faraday, Tyndall said:

"He had but to will to raise his income in 1832, to five thousand pounds a year. In 1836, the sum might have been doubled. Yet this son of a blacksmith, this journeyman bookbinder, with his proud and sensitive soul, rejecting the splendid opportunity open to him—refusing even to think them splendid in presence of his higher aims—cheerfully accepted from the Trinity House a pittance of two hundred pounds a year."

Before Tyndall came to Queenswood College, Robert Owen was asked whether Tyndall was a skilled and educated teacher. "Better than that," replied Owen, "he is a regular firebrand of enthusiasm." Tyndall held, that to educate a people they must have a genuine desire for education, that the value of it depends largely on the struggle to get it, and, that if too much is done for people they will do little or nothing for themselves. He visited the United States in 1872. A statement in one of his lectures, applicable to this subject—that "the prayer of persistent efforts is the only prayer that is answered"—met with a challenge, and evolved "The Tyndall Prayer Test." His debates on Darwinism netted Tyndall \$13,000.00, which amount he donated as a fund to be used for the advancement of natural science in America. Incidentally, the fund, after it had largely grown, was di-

vided equally between Columbia, Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania, and is now, we understand, used in supporting foreign scholarships for the benefit of students who show a special aptitude in scientific research.

We quote from an editorial by ex-President George M. Beringer in the December number of the *American Journal of Pharmacy*: "Let each also give thought to what has been the influence of this Association upon his own career; the inspiration and the value of the example of the fathers of pharmacy who through its agency have added much to the development of our vocation. * * * In turn, the present generation has the moral responsibility of upholding their ideals and traditions, of maintaining the faith, of continuing the upbuilding of the profession upon the sound principles that have been transmitted to us."

In the experiences of the past few years there was much that caused men to disregard the sterner virtues that made the United States great, but vision enables us to see continued, greater progress. We may look into the past for instructions for the present and monitors for the future. Dr. C. H. Nelms struck a keynote when he said in an address before the Philadelphia Rotarians that the watchword for 1921 should be "militant optimism." In our Association the work has been carried on with a purpose to serve pharmacy and the members. Those who would condemn should study the history of the Association, and also the difficulties other bodies have had to contend with, and how they met them. Complimenting them on the results, that of the management of our own Association does not suffer by comparison. Few associations can say that the past year has been the best in their history, but it is gratifying that the higher costs of publication of the American Pharmaceutical Association have been met by correspondingly more income; many of its members are earnestly engaged in revising the Official Standards, and its representatives take an active part in all affairs concerning pharmacy and the drug business. We urge during 1921 a "militant optimism" that implies a stalwart faith, a healthy state of mind that stimulates us to hope and strive for the best.

E. G. E.

DRUG TRADE CLEANING ITS OWN HOUSE.

IN a timely editorial of the *Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter* of December 20th, references are made to the actions of various drug trade associations in restricting the sale of narcotics, and formulating laws for the same purpose. The editorial was called forth by an accusation at a congressional hearing that the wholesale drug trade was inimical to anti-narcotic laws. The writer is considerate in saying that "perhaps the action of the accuser can be explained only by assuming that he did not know what he was talking about." The editorial continues:

"That professional reformers and agitators find it desirable to rail against almost anybody who is not of their cult is to be expected. Members of Congress are supposed to be more judicious. The professional reformers and agitators go to Washington with half-baked ideas and accuse right and left, while proposing

measures of relief which show them to be unversed in the subjects on which they essay to give instruction to others.

"As the public conscience becomes aroused by the growth of narcotic menace, the conscience of druggists, as a part of the public, is equally aroused. Indeed, as druggists are in closer touch with the situation they usually are the first to propose action. Associations of druggists were discussing ways and means of curtailing the opium evil a generation or more ago when many of the present-day agitators had not been born and others among them were school children. It amuses these older and inside workers for better conditions to witness the vauntings of those who have just now awakened to the fact that laws to curb the traffic in narcotics are desirable. Still, the agitators may perform a service by calling the attention of a larger proportion of the public to the need for legislation, thereby strengthening a sentiment which upholds the hands of druggists in their efforts for the betterment of conditions among themselves."

It seems unnecessary to speak in these columns of the deep concern of drug trade associations in regulating, not only the sale of narcotic drugs, but of alcoholics; being the first to recognize the evil results, they have invariably been the first to study and propose methods for control. The same spirit has actuated druggists in restricting other sales from which they might derive profit. Accusations and reflections against the drug trade meet the eyes in the public press, in one column or another, and there should be a way of correcting such misrepresentations.

E. G. E.

PROGRESS OF THE PHARMACOPŒIAL REVISION.

BY E. FULLERTON COOK.*

About six months having passed since the Pharmacopœial Convention in Washington and the election of the Committee of Revision, a brief outline of the work of the Committee during this period is presented, carrying out the idea of publicity, which is a well-defined policy of the work of revision.

The personnel of the Revision Committee was fully reported at the time of the Convention and also the fact that in the personal conferences which immediately followed the election of the Committee, an organization was perfected which permitted the immediate start of the revision.

The Sub-committees with their chairmen differ slightly from those of the last Revision, two new Sub-committees being created and other Sub-committees consolidated.

The Sub-committees on Bio-Assays and on Reagents and Test Solutions, formerly taken care of as the work of other Sub-committees, were considered important enough to be established as new divisions of the work.

The appointment of the Sub-committees,¹ their organization and election of chairmen and the appointment of these chairmen as the members of the Executive Committee during the Washington conferences, were subsequently approved by the

* Chairman of Revision Committee, U. S. P. X.

¹ The Executive Committee is composed of the Chairman of the Revision Committee and the Chairman of the Sub-Committee. The list was printed in June issue, 1920, of *THIS JOURNAL*, pp. 657-659. The list of members of Sub-committee 9 is incomplete; the names of H. V. Army and A. H. Clark should be added. General principles to be followed in revision will be found on pp. 740-743, July issue, 1920, *THIS JOURNAL*.