

EDITORIAL

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EXTENDING THE SERVICE OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

ALTHOUGH the attendance was smaller than usual, the New Orleans convention of the American Pharmaceutical Association will be numbered, from the standpoint of things accomplished and progress made in the development of organization plans, as one of the most important in the long list of its annual meetings. There was evidenced a willingness to face conditions as they are, and to do, after full consideration, what is necessary in reorganizing the American Pharmaceutical Association to make it the truly national organization of our country, properly equipped to serve pharmacy and pharmacists of every class and location, in coöperation with the organizations already in existence.

Two transactions stand out as of the greatest importance and are presented here in some detail, as they relate directly or indirectly to the House of Delegates. First, the enlargements of the functions of the House of Delegates, making it a real clearing house for the state pharmaceutical associations. Second, the instruction to the Executive Committee of the Association to carefully study the reorganization of the American Pharmaceutical Association and to present a comprehensive report at the next annual meeting, in Cleveland, upon which definite action can be taken.

To make clear the first, a brief review of the history of the House of Delegates is necessary. The American Pharmaceutical Association was responsible for the establishment of the state pharmaceutical associations to represent pharmacy within the states, as the parent body did nationally, but unfortunately, no means of coöperation was provided for between the state associations themselves or between them and the American Pharmaceutical Association, with the result that pharmacy had a good national organization and good state organizations, but no means of coördinating them.

In 1912, the House of Delegates was established by the American Pharmaceutical Association for this purpose, but its functions were limited to the consideration of resolutions presented either to the general meeting and referred to it, or to it by the states' representatives. In other words, the House of Delegates, made up of three delegates from each state association, was in reality only a committee on resolutions, whose decisions were reviewed later by the general meeting. This situation, and the fact that only once annually were the state associations brought into direct contact with the national association, is responsible for the lack of interest shown by the former. To remedy this situation, the Chairman of the House of Delegates in his annual address proposed a reorganization of the House of Delegates with a consequent reorganization of the American Pharmaceutical Association (discussed later), involving, if adopted, changes in the Constitution and By-Laws that could not be made effective for another year at the earliest. To make the House of Delegates more effective in the meantime, Secretary Jeannot Hostmann suggested a plan providing, first, that the Secretary be given such stenographic assistance, etc., as would enable him to collect and have available

information as to the organization and work of each state association; to furnish information and such assistance to the associations through weekly communications addressed to their officers; and to cooperate in all ways possible with the state associations; second, that a legal representative and reporter be employed, with headquarters in Washington, whose duties it shall be to keep the state associations informed, through the Secretary of the House of Delegates, of all national legislative activities, and to represent, in conjunction with the National Legislative Committee, the American Pharmaceutical Association before all committees, departments and bureaus of the National Government. This plan was endorsed by the delegates representing the majority of the states and was later adopted by the American Pharmaceutical Association.

To provide the necessary funds, the American Pharmaceutical Association contributed \$500.00 for organization purposes, and the state associations are to be requested to contribute annually \$100.00 each to carry on the work as suggested. This arrangement relieves the state associations of any expense for preliminary activities and provides for the use of their contributions solely for the work of the House of Delegates that is of direct benefit to them. It is unnecessary to dwell upon the desirability of these two agencies or upon the real assistance they can render to the A. Ph. A., to the state associations, to pharmacy in general, and to the public.

No criticism of this plan was voiced at the meeting, but it has been stated that this work, while desirable, is a duplication of that now done through the divisional national organizations. Even so, the American Pharmaceutical Association can represent American pharmacy and the state associations can supplement the work of other organizations in many ways not practicable for them to undertake or complete. In addition, pharmacy cannot be too strongly represented in national matters.

Minutes of the meeting will be supplied to each state association, and it is hoped that they will make full use of the agencies referred to. The enthusiasm and unanimity in final action of the Association represented at the New Orleans meeting gives assurance of determined cooperation in bringing about an affiliation of more than 30,000 pharmacists of all classes, and no comment is required on the influence it can exert.

As heretofore stated, the Executive Committee was instructed by the Association to study the desirability of reorganizing the American Pharmaceutical Association, and to submit a plan or plans at the next annual meeting that will bring this long-discussed matter to a head. The question, broadly stated, is:

Shall the American Pharmaceutical Association continue as heretofore, with a limited membership, only loosely affiliated with the state associations, concerning itself mainly with the scientific and professional aspects of pharmacy, and leaving all other pharmaceutical matters entirely to the attention of the divisional organization affected, or shall the American Pharmaceutical Association be reorganized completely, with the state associations as the component units—all members of the state associations being members of the American Pharmaceutical Association, governed by a House of Delegates, made up of representatives of the state associations, concerning itself with everything pharmaceutical—a compact, virile organi-

zation of all classes of pharmacy, representing American pharmacy nationally and within the states, somewhat as the American Medical Association represents American medicine and the American Chemical Society represents American chemistry, working in close accord with the divisional organizations?

This is a very vital question for American pharmacists, and it is earnestly hoped that the Executive Committee will have the benefit of the advice and counsel of all pharmacists, and that the state associations will give the matter careful consideration; the latter proposal opens a door for them to enter and become controlling units in the American Pharmaceutical Association.

It is the general practice among sciences, professions and vocations to have a national organization embracing in its membership all classes, and, in addition, divisional organizations affiliated with the national body to represent each class of membership in matters of interest to that particular class only. It seems reasonable to assume that plans along these general lines will receive consideration, with the purpose in view of adopting the one best suited for pharmacy. F. G. E.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AS AN ENTRANCE PREREQUISITE TO COLLEGES OF PHARMACY.

THE annual meetings of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties can usually be referred to by some special action taken, something done; a corner-stone, so to speak, from which to measure progress. The recent meeting at New Orleans will no doubt be remembered by the so-called "New York incident," although no mention of this matter came up for discussion at any of the meetings. A bomb, so to speak, had been thrown into the camp of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties by the recent published statement of the Assistant Commissioner and Director of Professional Education of the University of the State of New York, stating among other things, "But I have no hesitation in voicing my opposition to the suggestion—that the completion of four years of high school study shall be a prerequisite to pharmaceutical registration after 1923," also the following, "First, I am clear in the opinion that such requirements (*i. e.*, four years of high school study as a prerequisite after 1923), if honestly administered, would place any State of the Union in a class by itself—there would be no applicants for registration in that State after that date for some years, if not forever." The above statements were made in protest to the vote of the Conference to require high school graduation beginning September 1923.

The published letters of many Deans of Conference schools in the *Druggists' Circular* of September 1921, if they are a fair representation of the colleges as a whole, would indicate that the Conference action in regard to graduation from high school for entrance to our pharmacy colleges will be carried out as planned. Some of the statements made by the Assistant Commissioner seem to have been made without a thorough investigation as to general facts. At first thought, this might seem to have been a great misfortune, but as it has developed, it may be possible that the Assistant Commissioner of Education of New York has thereby aided pharmaceutical education in the United States. It is safe to say that the Assistant Commissioner's statements thoroughly aroused the Conference col-