

Dan Bomitto

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION

VOL. X MARCH 1921 NO. 3

DANIEL B. SMITH.

The first officers elected by the American Pharmaceutical Association were: Daniel B. Smith, of Philadelphia, as President; George W. Andrews, of Baltimore, Samuel M. Colcord, of Boston, and C. Augustus Smith, of Cincinnati, Vice-Presidents; George D. Coggeshall, of New York, Recording Secretary; and William Procter, Jr., of Philadelphia, Corresponding Secretary. All of the officers chosen were active in the organization of the schools of pharmacy in the cities named. A history of their lives is part of that of the earlier schools; they had vision, their interests were concerned with uplifting and upbuilding; all were possessed with the desire to advance the standards of pharmacy, and serve their respective communities, not only in their chosen profession, but in the performance of other duties, as citizens. The history of the states in which they resided is incomplete without records of their lives, and the Proceedings of the American Pharmaceutical Association give an account of their activities in the Association.

Reference is made to Samuel M. Colcord in an article of this issue of the JOURNAL by ex-President E. L. Patch, and a brief sketch of Daniel B. Smith is prompted by the celebration on February 23d of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, of which he was the first secretary, and as he was the first president of the American Pharmaceutical Association about thirty years thereafter, his name is closely linked with that of early American pharmacy. Although nearly thirty years old when the institution referred to was founded, and he had reached three score at the time of the organization of the American Pharmaceutical Association, he gave them, in reverse order, the number of years of service represented by his age, for the College had passed the sixty-year mark, and the Association that of thirty, when this veteran pharmacist passed away March 29, 1883, aged ninety. It is a matter worthy of note that the records of both organizations are complete from the dates of their beginnings; in fact, as part of the centennial ceremonies in Carpenter's Hall, the transactions of several of the first meetings were read from the old minute books; there were also present descendants of the founders.

Daniel B. Smith, the son of Benjamin and Deborah (Morris) Smith, was born in Philadelphia July 14, 1792. He received his early education at the school of John Griscom, Burlington, N. J., who, it is said, was the first teacher to include chemistry in the curriculum of common schools in New Jersey. His apprenticeship was served in the store of John Biddle, Philadelphia, and after the conclusion of these years he became a partner in the business. In 1819 he opened a pharmacy on his own account at 6th and Arch Streets, which later, after various

changes, was purchased by two apprentices, Charles Bullock and Edmund A. Crenshaw.

As an index of Daniel Smith's turn of mind, we find him interested in extending opportunities for self-culture in the founding of the Apprentices' Library in 1820; a year later by his activities in the organization of the "College of Apothecaries." He was one of the incorporators of the Philadelphia Savings Fund and a corporator of "The House of Refuge." He became a member of the Franklin Institute at the first meeting after its organization; was one of the inaugurators of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and its first corresponding secretary; a member of the American Philosophical Society, and of the Academy of Natural Sciences.

For twelve years, 1834–1846, the subject of this sketch held the chair of Moral Philosophy, English Literature and Chemistry in Haverford College, during which period he wrote "The Principles of Chemistry," a textbook that went through two revisions. He was the first editor of the "forerunner" of the American Journal of Pharmacy, and a contributor to the first edition of the United States Dispensatory. Daniel B. Smith was secretary of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy for seven years, and for twenty-five years its president. As already stated, he was the first president of the American Pharmaceutical Association and elected an honorary member in 1856.

E. G. E.

COURT OF THE "TWO SISTERS," NEW ORLEANS, LA.

This quaint courtyard is only one of the many, many scenes in the so-called "French Quarter" of old New Orleans to which the glamor of an interesting past still clings. It is in the rear of a house once occupied by two sisters, whose pride in the old courtyard amounted almost to



obsession. The entrance from the street is through a long alleyway, which runs the entire length of the house. The building at the left which adjoins the main residence at right angles was set aside as quarters for negro slaves.

The American Pharmaceutical Association will meet in New Orleans during the week of September 5, 1921.