

EDITORIAL

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POPULARIZING THE PHARMACIST.

CHAIRMAN Robert J. Ruth of the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, A. Ph. A., presented a most interesting address at Buffalo, in which he brought out the importance of adherence to ethics by pharmacists in order to have pharmacy worthy of highest appreciation by the public. The keynotes of the address were calls to loyalty and service. He advocated pharmaceutical legislation that would serve the public, and a deeper interest by pharmacists in that which subserves the health of the people.

He was optimistic in his views of the Pharmacy Headquarters Building which will unite pharmacy under one banner. "All divisions of the drug industry," he said, "had much in common, and public health would be conserved by such coöperation."

In the promotion of publicity for pharmacy, Chairman Ruth pointed out that a "National Pharmaceutical Week" could be inaugurated, and for that purpose articles should be prepared and contributed to newspapers and magazines; speakers should address the various business and social clubs throughout the country and in these addresses public health should be the keynote. He advocated the broadcasting of talks so that the general public might be advised not only of the mission and activities of pharmacy but, specifically, of the progress being made with the fund for A. Ph. A. Headquarters, whereby pharmacists hope to render additional needful public service.

He considered that pharmacists were not taking full advantage of their opportunities to acquaint the public with pharmacy nor did they combine their efforts with those of the laity for bringing about not only a better understanding of the purposes of pharmacy, but also legislation which will serve the public best. The Chairman insisted that hospital pharmacists should contribute to the columns of medical and hospital periodicals as well as to pharmaceutical publications, in order that the service of pharmacy may be better understood and appreciated; articles relating to pharmacy should also be prepared for magazine sections of papers and magazines of national circulation.

In concluding his address, Chairman Ruth advised that pharmacists in all states should follow the example set by Massachusetts, and hold conferences with members of the legal profession so that legislation relating to pharmacy may better serve the intended purposes. There was so much in the address that interested those in attendance at the meeting of this section, that it was voted to give the address the widest possible publicity.

Very striking evidence of publicity opportunities was given in the report, at the Buffalo A. Ph. A. meeting, of Director Robert P. Fischelis of the Drug Trade Bureau of Public Information. The results of three bulletins were shown by clippings from papers of all sections of the country. The press seeks informative items and features educational articles for the readers; the possibilities have been proved and the suggestions referred to are timely, they will serve a useful purpose and benefit pharmacy and the public.

E. G. E.

RESEARCH AT BUFFALO.

ALL persons having doubts in their minds concerning the actuality or the virility of pharmaceutical research should have been at the Buffalo meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association; for there, such doubts were completely dispelled by the splendid demonstration that American pharmacy has research problems, has the men capable and desirous of performing the work, has some means, albeit inadequate, to assist such work and lastly has the operative agencies to facilitate and to encourage such work.

A discussion of a few of the factors testifying to the actuality and virility of pharmaceutical research is all well worth our time.

The third annual meeting of the National Conference on Pharmaceutical Research held on August 23rd and chronicled elsewhere in this issue of the JOURNAL was an inspiring event. The actuality of American pharmaceutical research was demonstrated by the presence at the meeting of delegates from ten pharmaceutical associations or groups, all of which are interested in research. The recognition of American pharmaceutical research was demonstrated by the presence of "observers" from the scientific bureaus of the National Government and from the American Medical Association, the American Chemical Society and the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, all of whom expressed themselves as very favorably impressed by the proceedings. Three years have been spent in perfecting the organization and now, thanks to the Buffalo meeting, the Research Conference has a comprehensive program that is bound to bring results of tremendous value to American pharmacy.

A feature of the 1924 meeting of the Research Conference was the presence as active delegates, of members of the pharmaceutical committees created since 1920 in the three divisions of the National Research Council in which pharmacy has an interest. These persons were not present as official delegates from the Research Council but as delegates from national pharmaceutical bodies. Their presence, however, indicated to those of vision the future relationship of the National Research Council and the National Conference on Pharmaceutical Research. There is absolutely no possibility of friction between the Research Council and the Research Conference since the aims of the two are identical and the methods of operation are sufficiently distinct to prevent working at cross purposes. Those of us who sat at the Buffalo meeting hearing the discussions of the delegates, notably those who are members of the Research Council committees, felt that we were really acting as a Division of Pharmacy, which we pharmacists still hope to see ultimately established in the Research Council. There we saw the pharmaceutical chemists, the pharmaceutical botanists, the Pharmacopœia revisers, the dispensing laboratory men and the statisticians of retail pharmacy conferring on the proper methods of correlating and systemizing their several tasks and passing measures designed to bring their work before the general public.

The National Conference on Pharmaceutical Research, important though its 1924 meeting was, was not the only research factor operating at Buffalo. Immediately preceding A. Ph. A. week, three other research groups gathered at Buffalo for conference and consultation. The Plant Science Seminar, organized so successfully at Minneapolis last year, held a fruitful meeting during one day. During two days,

the instructors in charge of pharmaceutical and dispensing laboratories of colleges of pharmacy held an important series of meetings, which, while at present given to a consideration of teaching and administration methods, will eventually have to turn to the problem of research, the crowning achievement of any laboratory course of instruction. The remarkable work of the Commonwealth Foundation, in studying the knowledge required of the retail pharmacist, is worthy of a special paper. Suffice it here to say that the group in charge of this problem under the leadership of Dr. W. W. Charters and of some of the deans of our pharmacy colleges gave three days to a consideration of the education necessary to the production of a well-equipped practicing pharmacist. Others may differ from the statement that will follow that the statistical work compiled during the past year by those in charge of the work represents research work of the highest type. Nevertheless it is safe to say that a large majority of those present at the Buffalo meeting of the A. Ph. A. did consider the Commonwealth Fund inquiry as one of the best pieces of investigation now being performed for and by American pharmacy.

And lastly, our own American Pharmaceutical Association, for so many years the bearer of the torch of pharmaceutical science, gave a research program worthy of A. Ph. A. traditions. The meetings of the Scientific Section and of the Section on Dispensing were more than ordinarily interesting and at the sessions of these two sections no less than 56 research papers were presented.

A pleasing feature of the sessions of the Scientific Section was the presence of Dr. I. M. Kolthoff of the University of Utrecht, Holland, one of the most fruitful of the world's pharmaceutical research workers, who presented a thoughtful paper on the silver ion concentration of protein silver preparations. The Association honored itself rather than Dr. Kolthoff in electing him an honorary member of the A. Ph. A.

The outstanding feature of the sessions of the Section on Dispensing was the report of Dr. Lascoff on the Recipe Book; the report being in the form of an address with demonstrations of 500 finished preparations and with lantern slide charts. The amount of laboratory investigations made by Dr. Lascoff and his colleagues of the Recipe Book committee is a credit to American pharmaceutical research. In this connection mention must be made of the reports of Chairman Cook of the U. S. P. Revision Committee and of Chairman Scoville of the N. F. Revision Committee, a record of altruistic and impersonal research performed by the members of the two committees.

Mention was made above as to "means, albeit inadequate," to assist research. Under this heading come the annual grants from the A. Ph. A. Research Fund; the awards of 1924-25 being \$300 to John C. Krantz, Jr., and D. I. Macht for investigations on digitalis, and \$150 to C. C. Haskell for studies of the action of caffeine and morphine in infectious processes. And lastly, the annual prize founded in 1873 by that great practical pharmacist Albert E. Ebert for the best paper presented at each annual meeting of the A. Ph. A. was awarded with pleasing ceremonies at the final session of the Association.

The foregoing summary of the research activities of the Buffalo meeting proves, it is believed, that pharmaceutical research is a virile factor in the scientific progress of America.

H. V. A.