

THE INFLUENCE OF ASSOCIATION.

An address delivered at Newark, N. J., April 14, 1924, upon being awarded the Remington Pharmacy Medal.

"Custom, that inexorable master, has decreed that I must deliver an address on this occasion. Since 'custom is held to be as a law' as a law-abiding citizen I must obey the dictate even though I am well aware that public speaking is not one of my accomplishments. When the chairman of your committee on arrangements hastened to my home city to acquaint me with the honor that was to be conferred upon me on this occasion, he did not fail to present, along with his congratulations, a notice of this duty. Nevertheless, to date he has not responded to my request for a topic on which I could direct my thoughts in addressing you and so, if you are disappointed in my remarks this evening, you must lay a portion of the blame upon the broad shoulders of Professor Fischelis.



George M. Beringer.



Remington Honor Medal.

"Left to my own resources, my thoughts given free rein wandered first in a reminiscent vein into the recesses of memory to some of the outstanding events in my own career and then turning from the retrospect toward the prospect attempted to peer into the future of our chosen profession with its increasing responsibilities.

"When the old fellows get together, they instinctively fall into reminiscence and recall incidents long forgotten. On this evening, there is a further incentive to retrospection in the attempt to trace out a reason for this occasion, to discover some *magnum opus* that justifies this distinction. With this review of the past, deeper has grown the conviction that if there have been any achievements, any success in the performance of tasks that have fallen to my lot, any meritorious services rendered that in some measure would justify this great honor, these have been largely due to the influence of those with whom I have been so fortunate as to

be associated and the Divine guidance in shaping these contacts and the beneficent impressions is gratefully acknowledged.

"As a product of the public schools of Philadelphia, it is fitting that the early impressions of the school should receive initial presentation. The first picture is of a little urchin, just entering his teens, a scholar in the George W. Nebinger school of that city. A prominent member of the Board of Education, at that period, was Dr. Andrew Nebinger, a brother of the man after whom this school was named. This director, from time to time, visited the school and inspired the scholars with his talks. You may call it hero worship, but we lads never had a nobler example than that worthy and leading citizen of the District of Old Southwark who was universally beloved for his public spirit and philanthropy and honored for his great interest in the cause of education. In my library I still cherish, with enduring admiration for the donor though more than half a century has passed by, a copy of 'The Life and Adventures of Robinson Crusoe,' which I received on the eleventh anniversary of my birth as one of the prizes in competitive scholarship that he had offered that year. To me this copy is more valuable than all of the other copies of Defoe's immortal story that have been printed.

"At the age of twelve, I was promoted to the Central High School, and for the next four years it was my privilege on every school day to tramp back and forth over the three miles intervening between the school and my home. In those days, a high school education was not the complement assured by the state to every boy and girl; selected students only were permitted to continue their education in this school with its renowned faculty and its academic courses in history, languages and the sciences. Athletic sports, class dances and the other forms of entertainment so popular in the high schools of to-day were then not recognized. The curriculum was not optional but was fundamental and each student was expected to take the complete course as mapped out with every minute of the school periods fully occupied and a measure of home studies thrown in. Each week we had to prepare at home, a composition and on Monday morning as many of these as possible were read in class and criticized.

"Here it was my good fortune to have a number of excellent teachers, although it cannot be said that I profited equally from all of their instruction as, despite the beautiful Spencerian copy of Professor Bartine, my handwriting is still scarcely legible. Dr. Jacob F. Holt gave us a scientific course in anatomy, physiology and hygiene that was far beyond the usual academic instruction in these branches. The professor of physical geography and natural philosophy was Edwin J. Houston, noted as an author and physicist. At this time, there was a young man in charge of the chemical laboratory who served as the assistant to the professor of chemistry and also to that of physics who was likewise an inspiring teacher that we boys greatly admired. Elihu Thomson was at that early day a mechanical and scientific genius destined to win recognition and fame. He now ranks as one of the world's leading physicists and electrical engineers, whose inventions and researches have won deserved international honor and renown and he is now an officer in the Legion of Honor and has been awarded the Rumford Medal by the Royal Society.

"Graduating from the high school in February 1876, and being duly elated with the pride and roseate visions of the youthful graduate and imbued with the spirit of the centennial year and armed with an A.B. diploma and a letter of introduction from

the professor of chemistry to Mr. Charles Bullock, the head of one of the leading drug firms in Philadelphia, I forthwith applied for a position to learn the art and mysteries of the apothecary. After looking me over and possibly noting my viridity as well as my earnestness, he agreed to take me on as an apprentice for a stipulated period of four years at the moderate wage then paid to such apprentices. On March 1, 1876, I engaged in the drug business as the youngest novice in the employ of Bullock & Crenshaw. I had then a latent desire to make pharmacy a stepping stone to the study of medicine which was my youthful ambition. However, the claims of pharmacy and of chemistry have so thoroughly engrossed my attention that this early intent was entirely eliminated.

"The errand duties and the menial services as usual fell to the lot of the junior apprentice. The trimming of labels, hours at a time, made me sleepy and as blue as I was green. Often since have I thought of the disparagements of pharmacy and the depressing and ridiculous suggestions made to the new apprentice. An incident of this type occurred the first day of my employment. A member of a nearby wholesale drug firm came into the store and, upon observing a new face, inquired of the manager who was the new boy? Upon being informed that I was a new apprentice he blurted out, 'My boy, take my advice, before learning the drug business you had better go right down to the foot of Arch Street and jump into the Delaware and drown yourself.' You can imagine the effect that such derisive and deprecating remarks have upon the novitiate and, doubtless, such ridicule has discouraged and deterred many a promising lad from entering upon a pharmaceutical career. Despite the advice, I stuck to the job and soon learned that the thoughtless remark was not a true index of the real nature of the speaker and in after-years I had the satisfaction of serving him frequently and of enjoying his friendship and a measure of his confidence.

"I was indeed fortunate in having as preceptors Bullock and Crenshaw. Charles Bullock was a scientist as well as a thorough pharmacist. He contributed a number of papers to pharmaceutical literature and his work on Veratrum was a notable research on an American drug. His masterly memoir of Professor William Procter, Jr., has been the basis for many of the articles that have since been published upon this eminent pharmacist whom we consider as the 'Father of American Pharmacy.' He gave largely of his time to the management of the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia and to the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. The latter institution he served at various times as trustee, secretary, vice-president and as president. His associate in the business, Mr. Edmund A. Crenshaw, was a polished, educated, Christian gentleman, a high type of business man of the old school. Thoroughly reliable and honorable in all their dealings Bullock and Crenshaw enjoyed the confidence and good-will of the entire drug trade and their wholesale and retail departments proved to be a sort of pharmaceutical Mecca that attracted many of those identified with the drug interests and many leading physicians, scientists and worthy citizens. I enjoyed greatly the acquaintances thus made and the impressions gained from these contacts were deep and lasting. The sixteen years that I spent with this firm was a continuous schooling that gave me an unusually broad and varied experience.

"On the day of my inception into the drug business I was introduced to Thomas S. Wiegand, who was then managing the department for the manufacture of sugar

coated pills, a branch of manufacturing in which Bullock and Crenshaw were pioneers in this country. He took a kindly interest in the lonely lad and soon it became my custom to spend many of the noon hours in his company anxiously imbibing the instruction that was so freely given. Thus was commenced a friendship that cemented us closely together until death severed the tie. During his many years as registrar and librarian of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, 'Uncle Tommy,' as we lovingly called him, endeared himself to a host of students whose friend and adviser he was always, but to no one was he nearer or dearer than to me.

"I matriculated at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy at the period when the three members of the major faculty, Professors John M. Maisch, Joseph P. Remington and Samuel P. Sadtler, were at their prime. Fortunate were the students who were privileged to listen to such earnest, devoted and able teachers. All three have now passed to the great beyond, but, on this occasion, I must pay to their memory the tribute of gratitude that I justly owe to them as teachers and likewise in honor of the close personal friendships and associations that continued throughout the post-graduate years.

"In 1880, I became a member of the college organization and for nearly forty years was actively interested in its affairs.

"In 1893, on the proposal of Professor Remington, I was elected to membership in the American Pharmaceutical Association but for a number of years took no active interest in the work of the Association. It was Dr. Henry M. Whelpley, as President, who drew me out of my 'clam shell' and put me to work as chairman of the Committee on Semi-Centennial Celebration which was held in Philadelphia in 1902. To be put into some active service in behalf of an association is the best incentive and the best way to develop interest in the membership. This initial service was my introduction to the ideals and great work of the American Pharmaceutical Association and here again I am indebted to a fortunate circumstance, an historical event, for a broadened view of life and of the responsibilities of pharmacy. It brought me into friendly contact with a host of pharmacists, the leaders in the profession, throughout the country and in some foreign lands. Enjoyable have been the friendships established, delightful the correspondence enjoyed and of inestimable value the knowledge of human nature as well as that of the scientific facts gained by the contact and association with such men as Maisch, Diehl, Remington, Ebert, Caspari, Sheppard, Hallberg, Oldberg, Eliel, Good, Patton, Holzhauser, Alpers, Hancock, Trimble, Dunn, Ryan, Wilbert and Francis, all of whom have answered the last call as well as those who remain as our contemporaries. There is nothing equal to an active interest in your trade or professional organization for developing one's self. It may not be possible to estimate the return by financial standards but there is a gratification, a self-satisfaction as the reward that comes from service and this is the greater if such service has been freely given without expectation of any compensation. As Penn wrote; 'He who does good for good's sake seeks neither praise or reward; tho' sure of both at last.'

"Since my induction into the service of the American Pharmaceutical Association, I have been kept on active duty for a great portion of the time. At various times I have served upon many of its committees, as Councilor and Director, and as Chairman of the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing. In 1913, I was elected President and now comes a further signal honor and distinction in the

award that is made to me this evening. Possibly, I now have 'earned the right to a rest' but I will not consider this function as an admonition to cease my labors in behalf of pharmacy as such a command will be respected only when it is issued by Divine authority that 'Now the day is over.'

"In presenting to you some of the incidents from the gallery of memory, it is sincerely hoped that the purpose and moral that it is desired to illustrate will be perceived and that these personal narratives have not wearied you. The American Pharmaceutical Association, its ideals and the association with its members has an influence upon the career of every active member. The child forms its habits by imitating those that it sees. Each person intuitively imbibes and adopts some of the thoughts and ideals expounded in his presence so that our characters are materially affected and our careers shaped by our associations. Goethe aptly expressed the thought: 'There is no teaching to compare with what we derive from intercourse with others.'

"The declaration of Genesis that 'It is not good that man should be alone' is capable of another interpretation than that of his need for a help-meet of the opposite sex, the truth of which no married man dare deny. Equally true is the assertion that man lives not for self alone. Modern society is based upon the universal desire for association, for companionship, and the interdependence of each person upon the others.

"Someone has said that pharmacy is in the melting pot. Cannot the same be said with equal certainty of every other profession? The need for refinement, for reformation in practices, has been the prime motive, the incentive that caused the formation of every pharmaceutical association. It has been the special function of the American Pharmaceutical Association, since its inception in 1852, to keep alive the refining fires of pharmacy and to mould and so shape each refined ingot that it shall serve its purpose of aiding in the scientific and ethical progress of the profession. We can point with pride to some of these achievements and to the progress made often under trying circumstances.

"One dare not peer too deeply into the crystal globe or to prophesy too boldly the future of pharmacy. However we must have a vision to discern the possibilities and having discerned what is right must have the courage of our convictions and advocate the adoption. There are numerous signs in the heavens that pharmacy is finding itself and that it is assuming its rightful place among the professions. The function of this evening is one unmistakable sign. Even more so is the assumption of its proper share in scientific research and nothing has been so significant of the determination of pharmacy to recognize and maintain its appropriate place among the scientific and professional organizations than the movement for a *national* pharmacy building, in which the interests of pharmacy shall be housed and from which pharmaceutical research and publications shall be promulgated, that is now taking definite shape.

"Pharmacy is a distinct and honorable calling and the importance of its service has been recognized from time immemorial. The most ancient records show that the practice of this art was carried on by a specially educated class of priests. The Egyptians and the Hebrews both followed such a custom. It seems strange that a practice so long established should in more recent times have become a matter of dispute and that we must now contend for the reestablishment as a

principle that the compounding and dispensing of medicines is exclusively a function of pharmacy and that this service so essential to society must be performed only by those specially educated and qualified as pharmacists. It is incumbent upon each pharmacist to appreciate that he has a direct, personal and moral obligation to conduct his business and to perform his services in a strictly ethical manner so as to honor his profession. Pharmacy must shortly purge itself, by drastic methods if necessary, of those who bring discredit upon its code of ethics.

"While we must recognize the interdependence of pharmacy with medicine and with chemistry in some of its aspects we must also realize that it has its own distinct fields of usefulness awaiting cultivation. The obligation to supply more exact medicines and scientifically accurate methods of preparation it is discharging faithfully. As a distinct profession, it must develop its own ideals and maintain these with honor, dignity and sincerity; it will be belittling to its standards to permit our profession to become simply a copyist and imitator of others.

"One of the most serious problems confronting pharmacy at this time is the mass of restrictive laws and the volume of departmental regulations issued for their enforcement. Without properly studying or enforcing laws already on the statute books that amply control the situation, there is a fanatical propaganda for further and unnecessary legislation. There is something radically wrong when legislation destined to be beneficial and to improve the moral tone of the nation results in widespread disrespect for the law and a wholesale violation of the criminal code and with regulations, likewise, which while interfering with the necessary practices of a profession and its scientific progress stimulate, nevertheless, unethical practice and bring into the calling many undesirables whose elimination becomes an added responsibility.

"On a former occasion, I addressed the New York branch upon the possibilities of pharmaceutical research. The continual expansion of our materia medica is still further broadening this boundless field of opportunity. The introduction into medicine of new chemicals often of uncertain composition and more frequently of undetermined pharmacologic action, the application of the vitamins and of the endocrines and of the other animal organ drugs that are now becoming extensively used are but some of the newer remedies that are calling for investigation. Moreover, scarcely any article in our materia medica has been completely investigated and the scientific and commercial problems awaiting such study are too numerous for tabulation. The call for research is an appeal for the most altruistic, the highest public service that pharmacy can render. The organization of research committees and the guarantee of a thoroughly equipped research laboratory in the proposed new national building are evidences that pharmacy is awakening to this professional responsibility and field of greater usefulness. The development of the corps of workers required to till the ground is the immediate need. Each generation inherits from its predecessors an ever-increasing fund of knowledge and must transmit this with its own augmentation to its successors. We are thus indebted to our predecessors and obligated to our contemporaries and to our successors.

"I have already acknowledged my personal gratitude to the teacher and friend whose image is impressed upon this medal. It is especially appropriate that the name and likeness of Remington should be permanently associated with this award of honor. Faithfully he carried out his part and performed his duty as

worker, teacher and leader. As a teacher he was preëminent in his ability to impart instruction in the theories and practices composing the art of pharmacy and no other man, to this day, has taught as many students in this art and so successfully impressed on them his personality. His book on this subject is the leading textbook in English. His association as co-editor in the recent editions of the United States Dispensatory gave increased vigor, authority and prestige to the volume. The eighth and ninth revisions of the United States Pharmacopœia were prepared and published under his chairmanship and it was his genius that cast the model and made possible the scientific advancements that placed our American Pharmacopœia in the fore rank of such national works and earned for it the title of the 'autocrat of the Pharmacopœias.' At home and abroad he was hailed as the leading American pharmacist. No one wielded a stronger or more magnetic influence in our associations. His great love and interest in all matters pertaining to pharmacy continued until the final call came. The last interview that I had with him was but a few weeks before his decease. Propped up in bed, with the evidence of his serious illness showing in his countenance, his indomitable will never failed and with energy he discussed the efforts being made to create a pharmaceutical corps in the U. S. Army and he planned how he might aid in presenting the need therefor to Surgeon-General Gorgas.

"Each of those who have been honored by the award of this medal represents a different type of service to pharmacy. The first medal was awarded to Dr. James H. Beal whose unique ability has made him the national leader in all matters of legislation and public welfare affecting pharmacy and whose influence in the shaping of pharmaceutical ideas is paramount. The second was awarded to Prof. John Uri Lloyd, author and teacher, whose contributions to colloidal chemistry and to our knowledge of the history, botany and pharmacognosy of American vegetable drugs, were worthily honored by this recognition. The third award was to Prof. Harry Vincome Army, the present president of the American Pharmaceutical Association, whose noteworthy service in behalf of pharmaceutical research merited the honor. The fourth award was made last year to that distinguished teacher of materia medica, botanist and explorer, Dr. Henry H. Rusby. I have been endeavoring to determine to my own satisfaction how the committee appraised the services of the present recipient and in answer to queries propounded by several friends I was not able to point out any particular accomplishment of the year, any masterpiece, that would deserve this signal honor. The speakers of this evening have informed you that the award was made because I was a pharmacist. I am indeed happy to accept their judgment. Self-respect prevents me from underestimating whatever service it has been my privilege to render to pharmacy and modesty forbids my overestimating the value thereof.

"It is a peculiar coincidence that the five recipients of this award are all members of the New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association and that three of these reside within the borders of the 'garden state.' "

"Mr. Toastmaster, I appreciate the distinction of this occasion above all of the honors that have come to me. Cherished will ever be the memory of this evening."

"Mr. Diner, I accept with sincere thanks the medal that you have presented to me. It signifies much and I esteem it and the kind words you have spoken as priceless gifts. You and the Association that you represent may rest assured that it will prove a further incentive to work and a personal reconsecration so long as strength does permit to the service of our profession."