

# EDITORIAL

E. G. EBERLE, EDITOR

253 Bourse Bldg., PHILADELPHIA

## THE HOME FOR AMERICAN PHARMACY.

ALL who are proud of their present or past connection with American Pharmacy must have learned with keen satisfaction of the comprehensive plans for a building dedicated to its interests.

The sentiment expressed for its establishment, as reported in the April issue, the Headquarters Building Number of the JOURNAL, appears widespread; the progress already made by the Campaign Committee is splendid and reassuring; the guarded discussion as to the most desirable, if not most sensible, location, for this Pharmacy Building suggests an outcome which should be pleasing to all.

Except for one point, the writer has nothing to add to the comments made by the men and women leading in this movement. Reference is made by Mr. Hunsberger in the last issue of this JOURNAL, to the new Headquarters Building of the Philadelphia Association of Retail Druggists. The further fact might be emphasized with advantage that our colleagues of other nations, where pharmacy has attained a high standing, already have a home, suggestive of the one needed for American Pharmacy. The headquarters for English and German Pharmacy, for instance, have long been established and are permanently located in the respective capitals of these nations.

Especially valuable to us is the English example. As early as 1841, at the first annual meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Society, the Council reported as follows on pages 634 and 635 of the first volume of the Society's official organ, the *Pharmaceutical Journal*:

"After having been engaged in circulating information, collecting funds, and other preliminary arrangements, the Council succeeded, at the commencement of the present year, in taking a house on advantageous terms, and in complete repair, situated in Bloomsbury Square, which has been found well calculated to carry on the business of the Society at present and which, in all probability, it will be desirable to retain as the establishment of the Society for some time to come. It has been furnished to an extent consistent with convenience and economy, and is inhabited by the Secretary."

The number who supported the movement in the first year were less than 1000 members and associates. They provided for the publication of a journal, for a library, a museum, for a Benevolent Fund and even for a School of Pharmacy. At the end of the second year we find close to 2000 members and associates and read that the library and museum had registered a remarkable progress. Subsequent years have brought steady growth and increased influence to the British Society. Their old home, so beautifully and centrally located on Bloomsbury Square, London, has been materially enlarged; the journal, recognized as the oldest and most influential weekly newspaper for pharmacists and the drug trade generally in Great Britain, has by far the largest circulation of any British drug trade paper; the museum, thanks to the efforts of men like Hanbury or of Holmes, the eminent curator, represents an unusually wealthy and valuable collection; the research laboratory under the able leadership of Dr. H. G. Greenish has now a worldwide reputation. Less

than a year ago both the International Congress of Pharmacy and the British Pharmaceutical Conference met at these headquarters—British Headquarters.

Surely, we, the multitude, having any interest at all in advancing our calling, can afford to follow the example of a mere 934 loyal English pharmacists of 83 years ago—and erect a building, adequate for its varied purposes and worthy of a shrine for United American Pharmacy.

The test, what you and I can do, is on—all shoulders to the wheel!

ARNO VIEHOEVER.

---

#### WHY AN AMERICAN PHARMACY BUILDING IS NEEDED.

ONE of the attributes of man is a desire to express his emotions, his achievements, or his experiences in some form of structure. So fundamental and basic is this among all races and peoples that we scarcely recognize it any more than we do the pervasiveness of the air we breathe.

On every hand we see evidence of this trait of the human race. We glorify great victories by erecting statues in our public parks. Individuals erect marble columns over the last resting place of their beloved. Artists sculpture in marble or cast in bronze symbolic figures as an expression of their emotions or to commemorate some great event. Religious orders thrust toward heaven the spires of great cathedrals in adoration of the Deity. Commercial bodies erect mammoth buildings as a symbol of their virility or as a record of their achievement.

Many of these have a utilitarian as well as an aesthetic value and it seems therefore not only appropriate but essential that pharmacy should erect a structure that will serve to identify it with the part it holds and is playing in the record of civilization. The alleviation of human suffering and the elimination of disease in which pharmacy has been such an important factor demands, it seems to me, some sort of physical expression as a record of achievement and as an inspiration to the pharmacists of the future.

Nor need such a structure be divorced from utilitarian motives. Considering the activities of pharmacy to-day and the probable course of activities in the future it seems to me that it is not only appropriate but quite essential that a building which would be symbolic of our history, and practical for our every-day use, be erected.

At present pharmacy is a very much scattered profession. We have innumerable organizations—state and national. While it is probable that only national organizations could avail themselves of the services of such a building, these organizations if centralized could cooperate far more efficiently with state and municipal bodies. With such organizations as the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, the National Association of Retail Druggists, the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties, the American Association of Pharmaceutical Chemists, the American Drug Manufacturers' Association, the National Wholesale Druggists' Association, the Proprietary Association of America, etc., all housed in one building—having a permanent home and permanent address—would not only facilitate the transaction of business, but would lend dignity and add prestige to our profession.

As Americans we admire success. We admire the outward symbols of success

—not so much so, perhaps, for the actual money represented but as a symbol of human achievement. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers maintains a bank in Cleveland. It is a very successful bank. However, apart from the direct material advantage to the members, I am confident that people at large have more respect and admiration for this engineers' organization than if it had no bank and its members utilized the financial institutions of their respective communities. Or, if we examine a little further, compare the prestige of a fraternal organization—Masons, Elks, Knights of Columbus, etc.—having their own building, with those hiring a hall or leased quarters.

The advantages of a headquarters building are too numerous to be listed; various pharmaceutical writers have enumerated them by the score; a few stand out prominently. This building could be used as a museum for the storage of specimens, apparatus, or preparations which it is desirable to preserve for historical or scientific purposes. Its library could contain a complete historical record of the development of pharmacy. There are now, without doubt, in private collections or in the hands of individuals, letters, pamphlets, books and publications—old or recent—which would be gladly donated to be housed in a building of this kind which would serve to tell the story of American Pharmacy from the beginning. Some of these are priceless and yet with the death of the owner may become permanently lost to pharmacy unless some means is provided for their acceptance and preservation.

There could and should be laboratories endowed for solving research problems which would be of permanent benefit. Heretofore, men have been prone to go to Europe to carry on advanced study in various branches of pharmacy. The world conditions are peculiarly opportune to bring this center of study to the United States. A little enterprise, a little aggressiveness, a little typical American "hustle" can easily make this an accomplished fact.

Another point stands out prominently, *viz.*, the advantage of immediate communication made possible by a common headquarters. More valuable work could be done if the interested parties had merely to step across the hall to consult the man or men they wish to see, instead of waiting, as is now frequently the case, for a letter to cross the country and a reply to be sent over the same distance. Everyone experienced in state and national meetings knows how easy it is to accomplish something when the men interested are on the spot and how difficult it is to complete the same undertaking by correspondence. Furthermore, with the work of the various divisions of pharmacy centralized, many new enterprises, not now even thought of, would be consummated. America has the men, it has the money, it has the brains, it has the enterprise and the energy to make America the world's center for pharmaceutical products. To accomplish this, coöperation is necessary. Coöperation among the manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, boards of pharmacy, schools of pharmacy, the research men, the investigators, the men who sell and the men who finance. As a first step to coöperation, these various units must be gathered under one roof. This roof must be and should be the "American Pharmacy Building." We have the men, we have the money, all we need to do is to get together and pull for it—now all together—"LET'S GO!"

H. C. CHRISTENSEN, *Secretary National Association of Boards of Pharmacy*