

board member and all who are interested in pharmacy to get back of this one hundred per cent.

United pharmacy is what we most need. In the past we have had very little concerted action in that which we have tried to accomplish. There has been too much confusion and lack of understanding between localities. The American Pharmaceutical Association, within the ranks of which the N. A. B. P. originated, is the Mother of American Pharmacy and is now doing the greatest piece of work in its history in trying to establish an all-pharmacy headquarters, a home for all pharmaceutical interests. Too often we hear druggists say: "The A. Ph. A. is too scientific. What we need is to solve our commercial problems." I do not wish to minimize the importance of our commercial associations. We need them and I am supporting all of them, but I feel, too, that it is necessary to support the scientific end of our business, in order to maintain the prestige attaching to our profession. I believe the future is brighter than it has ever been, if we are willing to help make it so. The successful termination of the campaign to raise funds for this home will help us solve many of our problems. I ask the fullest coöperation of this Association with other pharmaceutical associations and our splendid pharmacy schools in the completion of this great project.

It seems to me that the present time has greater opportunity for pharmaceutical development than any time within the memory of man and if we fail to take advantage of this opportunity, we will not have fulfilled our mission in life. Under our state pharmacy laws we are granted special privileges because of the service demanded of our profession. Let us make the compounding and dispensing of medicines a science so that in sickness the tender thread of life may be strengthened by our pharmaceutical skill.

#### OBITUARY.

It is the custom of this Association at its annual meeting to take official cognizance of the passing of those who have been called during the preceding year to their last resting place.

This year we are called upon to note the death of a man who gave freely of his services during his entire life to the cause of Pharmacy, both as a leader in the work of this Association and in his home state.

I refer to Turner Ashby Miller, Sr., of Richmond, Virginia, who died at his home May 16, 1924, at the age of 62. To outline in a very meager way the career of this remarkable man, or to detail in even a limited way his contribution to pharmaceutical progress, would not be possible in this report. As we survey the development of any of the professions in this country, there are always certain outstanding figures. Men who stand like monuments to mark the mile-posts of professional progress. Such a man was Turner Ashby Miller in the profession of pharmacy. Creeds, isms and innovations in pharmacy might come and go but this man could always be found with his feet planted firmly on the ground of what was right, essential and vital, with his eye on the true goal toward which our profession is traveling.

I will omit the details of his early career. This is amply covered in other obituary notices. He was for twenty-two years a member of the Board of Pharmacy of his native state, and for many years the board's secretary. He was one:

of the guiding lights in his state pharmaceutical association. Under his guiding hand Virginia made notable progress in pharmaceutical education and legislation. Her narcotic law antedated the Federal law and served as a model for the latter. He was a member of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy almost from its beginning and his wise counsel and unerring judgment were always potent factors in the deliberations of our organization. He was elected president of the Association in 1914. It is worth while to turn to pages 105-6 of the 1914 proceedings and read his brief address made at the time of his election to office. His grasp of the needs of the Association as revealed in that brief address is truly remarkable. Ten years' experience since that address was made demonstrates most conclusively the accuracy of his insight into the needs of this Association.

Just as we turn to the wisdom of men who have passed for guidance in our National matters—just as we return for guidance to the words of Lincoln, Washington, and Roosevelt—so we can with profit in matters pharmaceutical turn to the words of Turner Ashby Miller and profit by his advice in our particular field. That he was called from us means irreparable loss to pharmacy. Let his example of honesty, integrity, and bed-rock conscientiousness for the welfare of pharmacy be our guide in the years to come.

#### CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere appreciation of the privilege of serving you during the past year. It has not been my ambition to serve you for fame, but to do the work as it has come to me. If, in my humble way, I have failed to come up to your expectations I trust I may make up for my shortcomings by assisting those who shall follow in my footsteps. Those who have preceded me have encountered difficulties and disappointments and the ones to follow will meet like conditions, but let us never be discouraged. Let us have faith in ourselves and confidence in our fellow men and charity toward those who differ from us in opinion. If we practice these virtues, nothing will shake the foundation upon which we stand.

---

#### COCA IN 1874.

At the evening meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society on March 4 a specimen of coca was exhibited, which had been contributed by Mr. Sieveking. In reference to this Professor Bentley remarked that coca, the botanical source of which was *Erythroxylon coca*, had recently been recommended in this country by Dr. Sieveking as a new medicinal agent. Attention was first called to it by Spence, well known for his travels in South America, who described the leaves as being chewed by the natives, who attributed to them the most extraordinary properties. It was asserted that, by their use, a person was enabled to go a considerable time without food, and an enormous quantity was used in South America, as much,

according to Johnston, as 30,000,000 lbs. annually. Other writers did not speak so highly of it as Mr. Spence; but there was no doubt it did possess some very powerful properties, not serving as a food, but still allaying the feeling of hunger. It was also used by mountaineers, who said it enabled them to reach high elevations without difficulty of respiration. Like most substances used in this way, it had injurious narcotic effects upon the constitution and a new base had been discovered in it, to which the name of cocaine had been given. Coca had been used for some time on the Continent as a remedial agent, and to some degree in England; and several years ago he had called attention to it as being worthy of an extended trial.—*The Chemist & Druggist*, March 14, 1874.