

## ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF PHARMACY.\*

FRANK E. MORTENSON.

The National Association Boards of Pharmacy has passed from childhood to youth and this being our twenty-first annual meeting, it might well be designated as the birthday convention. We are to-day emerging from youth into manhood. In all ages much has been expected of men during the period called "manhood." Much will be expected of us during the next decade and I doubt not all expectations will be fulfilled.

It seems fitting indeed, and a great privilege, to be permitted to hold our twenty-first annual convention in the beautiful City of Buffalo, at the foot of the roaring waters of the Niagara, a city located in the very heart of the North American continent, and the home city of the first president of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, Mr. George Reimann, an active worker during its organization period.

### OBJECTS OF THE ASSO- CIATION.

An object of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, well known to all the members, is national reciprocity, based upon a uniform standard for limumon belief in the mystic power of the love drink. History tells us the Egyptians first won recognition for pharmacy as an independent profession and ever since great progress has been made, but in no like space of time, it seems to me, has so much been done in a sane, sensible, and scientific way to develop pharmacy for the protection of the public as has been accomplished during the life of this organization. While the wheels of progress usually move slowly and those who have done the pioneering and labored for the advancement of our profession through the N. A. B. P. have sometimes met with discouragement, if we compare conditions to-day with conditions which existed twenty years ago, we can readily see a wonderful improvement. At that time very few states required college training of applicants for examination to practice pharmacy. To-day we have twenty-one states in which the college of pharmacy prerequisite requirements are in effect, and a number of other states have enacted such laws which will come into force during the next few years. Many state boards have made repeated attempts to pass prerequisite laws and have met with disappointment, sometimes because there have been honest objections to



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centiates which will make them safe in their dealings with human life. As far back as the searchlight of man has been able to penetrate the innermost recesses of human activities, pharmacy has been practiced. The savages and cavemen brewed their potions and decoctions to drive off the evil spirits of disease. In the Middle Ages, the gentle lady as well as the lowly and the lovesick youth shared in the com-

\* Parts of an address delivered at Buffalo, N. Y., August 25, 1924.

a higher pharmaceutical standard, but more frequently because in the halls of law-making bodies, it is often a matter of trading votes—"if you vote against my bill, I will defeat yours." This is the most regrettable condition with which we are confronted in connection with legislation; it defeats worthy bills, and causes many useless and objectionable laws to be placed upon the statute books. In Colorado, the state with which I am best acquainted, we made a number of attempts to have a prerequisite law passed. In our first attempt, we succeeded in having our bill approved by both branches of the Legislature, but it met with the veto pen, at the hands of the Governor, because of a tremendous protest from the Grocers' Association, which felt that it was an infringement upon their rights. During the next session a bill was introduced which contained only the prerequisite clause and no one in the entire state house apparently was opposed to it. But the chairman of the Committee, who had the bill in charge, refused to bring it on the floor because, if he did so, it would necessitate bringing out some bills to which he was bitterly opposed. I merely refer to this to show the difficulties encountered by state boards in attempting to bring their states up to standards advocated by the N. A. B. P. I recommend that more national aid be given and that the successful states render all possible assistance to the Boards who are honestly endeavoring to bring their states up to the desired standard.

#### HISTORICAL.

This being our twenty-first annual meeting, I deem it proper to give a brief outline of the life of the Association in order that those who conceived the idea of an association for coöperation in matters pertaining to registration and reciprocity and who launched the N. A. B. P. may receive their full credit for what has been accomplished. Too often the pioneers are lost sight of and those in office receive all the glory.

The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy was organized during the week of the A. Ph. A. Convention held at Kansas City, Mo., September 5-10, 1904. Steps directly responsible for organizing the Association were taken at the preceding convention, held at Mackinac Island, Mich. At that meeting, Dr. H. M. Whelpley, of St. Louis, Mo., presented a paper at one of the sessions of the Section on Education and Legislation in which, among other things, he called attention to the fact that "no one can engage in the drug business in the United States without the authority or consent of the Board of Pharmacy of the particular state in which it is desired to practice as a pharmacist." "This," he said, "was very well and good, but it works a hardship upon the pharmacist who desires to leave one state and take up his home and follow his profession as a pharmacist within the jurisdiction of the Board of Pharmacy of another state."

Dr. Whelpley then made a strong plea for reciprocity, and stated that "a man or woman who is competent to conduct a drug business in Missouri loses no pharmaceutical skill, moral character, or business judgment when crossing state lines." "However," he said, "Michigan and several other state laws took a different view of the matter. The Michigan Board of Pharmacy and these other boards say, 'You may be a Missouri pharmacist and legally competent to compound prescriptions for Missourians, but *we* must determine by examination whether you are sufficiently skilled to be trusted with the lives of Michigan Wolverines before

you sell five cents' worth of paregoric in this state.'” He further stated that this condition of affairs cost the pharmacists of the United States many thousands of dollars every year, to say nothing about “the loss of time, inconvenience and mental anguish borne by those registered pharmacists of one state who must take examinations in order to be permitted to practice in another jurisdiction.” He exhorted his hearers to take some action to have these conditions changed and said that “the remedy is within the hands of this Section” (A. Ph. A. Section on Education and Legislation). He then outlined a plan to form within the Section on Education and Legislation a conference of boards of pharmacy members, and arranged for a session of such a conference during the 1904 meeting. Dr. Whelpley moved that the Chair appoint a committee of five Board of Pharmacy members, this Committee to call a conference of the various board members present at the meeting, and, with the new officers of the Section, arrange for a special session of board members to be held at the 1904 Convention.

During the discussion which followed, in which the mover and Harry B. Mason took a leading part, many suggestions and counter-suggestions were offered, but in the end, the motion made by Dr. Whelpley was carried, and a committee, designated as “The Committee on Conference of Pharmacy Boards,” was appointed as follows: *Chairman*, George Reimann, Buffalo, N. Y.; George W. Voss, Cleveland, Ohio; D. F. Jones, Watertown, S. D.; W. L. Cliffe, Philadelphia, Pa.; Fletcher Howard, Des Moines, Iowa.

This Committee carried on organization work during the year, and called a meeting of Board of Pharmacy members to convene during the Convention of the A. Ph. A. held at Kansas City, Mo., September 5-10, 1904. On Thursday morning, September 8, 1904, the Chairman of the Section on Education and Legislation, then in session, called for a report of the “Committee on Conference of Pharmacy Boards,” and Mr. George Reimann, Chairman of the Committee, responded. He announced that the Boards' Committee and the assembled members of boards of pharmacy had held sessions on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of convention dates. He reviewed the work of the Committee for the year just past, leading toward bringing the boards together for permanent organization, and stated that twelve board members were present at their first session, fifteen at the second session, and now—Thursday morning—they had present representatives from twenty-five state boards of pharmacy. He then suggested that Dr. Murray Galt Motter give some of the details of the proceedings. He reported, in effect, that sixteen out of the twenty-five boards represented had sent delegates especially to take part in the Conference, and that organization had been perfected and the name National Association of Boards of Pharmacy adopted. He stated further that the objects of the newly formed Association were—“(1) to provide for interstate reciprocity in pharmaceutical licensure, and (2) to procure uniformity of legislation.” That the membership of the organization was to be composed of the officers and members of the state boards, and that meetings were to be held annually during the convention week of the American Pharmaceutical Association. He gave some further details.

The foregoing is a brief outline of the origin of our Association, twenty-one years ago. Now that we are standing as a young man just of age, with our early years of growth and development behind us and the full vigor of our life before us,

it may not be amiss to summarize briefly some of the things that we have accomplished up to the present, and to predict what we may expect of the future.

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

As with most organizations of this character, during the first few years of the life of this Association comparatively slow progress was made in the matters for which it was organized. It was hardly to be expected that it would be otherwise. No definite program existed for carrying out the purposes of the Association. Lack of funds and no apparent source of revenue to provide sufficient funds to carry on the work of the Association prevented the putting into effect of aggressive policies which its organizers might have had in mind. The only money accruing to the Association consisted of the amounts paid in by member boards for annual dues. It was not until 1909 that any sum was received on account of reciprocity. A plan had been adopted whereby the individual state boards were to collect a five dollar fee from the applicant for reciprocal registration, this in addition to the state registration fee, and said \$5.00 fee was to be paid to the N. A. B. P. The Oklahoma Board of Pharmacy remitted \$20.00 in 1909 and in 1910, \$40.00, and \$10.00 came from other sources. In 1911 Oklahoma sent in \$110.00 and \$20.00 was received from other sources, making a total of \$130.00. In 1912 Oklahoma came to the fore with remittances amounting to \$115.00, North Dakota \$30.00, and \$15.00 from other sources made the grand total of \$150.00.

At the Convention held in Denver, in 1912, things began to happen. At this meeting a resolution was offered by F. C. Dodds, of Illinois, to the effect that applicants for reciprocity pay a \$5.00 fee direct to the N. A. B. P. and further that there be created a committee to be known as the Advisory Examination Committee. This seemed to some of those present to be too radical a step and met with considerable opposition. The \$5.00 fee proposal was, however, finally adopted. The Advisory Examination Committee proposition was referred to the Executive Committee, and, after favorable action by that body, such a Committee was created. As a result of the adoption of these progressive policies, the Association seemed to take on new life, and has been growing in importance ever since. It has become a factor to reckon with in the progress of pharmacy of this country. Its activities are numerous and important and growing more so every year. This is possible only because the income of the Association has gradually grown, keeping pace naturally and easily with the enlarging influence and activities of the Association.

#### WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

What of the future? What will be our plans and our work for the coming years? Without a plan, and without foresight to look ahead and anticipate with at least some accuracy the trend and the needs of pharmacy, and then to act, we would only drift as too many individuals drift, and accomplish nothing. What then is our future to be? Naturally, circumstances will deflect and modify plans which we may now make, but without foresight and without *any* plan, we are sure to be lost.

You will all admit that for a young organization we have accumulated considerable experience. Our ground work has been laid. Our elementary education

is completed. We are now ready to enter into our work—our serious life work. What then are we to do? Fundamentally, we must keep abreast of the rapidly changing conditions of pharmacy, be they educational, legislative, or otherwise. The boards of pharmacy should be the leaders and the controlling elements in the progress of pharmacy in their respective states. The very nature of their existence under the pharmacy law of their state, makes this obvious. This leadership or control can, I believe, best be accomplished after well-developed plans of action have been formulated by the N. A. B. P. That is, the ideas of the individual boards should find expression at these meetings of our Association and plans of action decided upon, which will in the main be satisfactory to all. In this way there will be more satisfactory and uniform accomplishment than it is possible to obtain independently. When I speak of leadership, I do not wish to be understood that we should not cooperate with our pharmaceutical associations and our splendid pharmacy schools. Our interests are identical and can best be promoted by thorough cooperation.

We should also keep in mind that many of the things which affect pharmacy are national in scope—particularly our laws—the narcotic law, the prohibition law, the proposed price maintenance laws; also state laws must be considered. For these reasons, American pharmacy finds its security in national organizations, with the N. A. B. P. in a position to render fundamental and valuable service which should not be overlooked. It is therefore of great importance that the individual state boards of pharmacy through their representatives at these annual meetings of their own National Association give active, not merely passive, support to the organization in its efforts to overcome the problems that come before us, in order that pharmacy may make substantial and harmonious progress. In national solidarity lies security. Oftentimes the influence of your National organization may be of substantial assistance to an individual board in its state problems.

The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy through its Advisory Examination Committee has accomplished much in the way of bringing board examinations to a higher and more uniform standard. This work is in itself of great importance in controlling and shaping the destinies of pharmacy, as well as the character, quality or kind of men and women who make up the body of American pharmacists. The Association is a potent influence in American pharmacy in many ways, and that influence should be for the best. It can only be the best when every state board is a member and when every member actively participates.

#### HAVE WE A WEAKNESS?

If we have a weakness as an Association, it is this: We meet in annual conclave. We listen to addresses, we pass resolutions—gladly, enthusiastically—which are spread upon the minutes and published in the annual proceedings, and then, too often, we blithely go home and proceed to forget all about them. We practice our religion once a year instead of once a week. This will never get us to "Heaven." No one would expect a young man starting out in life to be content or successful with good resolutions which were never carried out. So we must put ours into practice. Your officers are more than willing to do their duty. Your Secretary, who is always on the job, not only is anxious to help but is constantly seeking means

to help. The same is true of your President, Vice-Presidents, and other officers. All you need is to give them a chance.

#### GENERAL REVIEW OF WORK OF PAST YEAR.

While I feel that in my humble way I have not measured up to the responsibility imposed upon me, I do feel safe in saying we have not gone backward, and that at least a little progress has been made. During the year one more spoke was added to the wheel of our Association. The state of Wyoming made application and was accepted to full membership. This is indeed gratifying and I wish to extend to them a most hearty welcome. This state board has not only complied with all the requirements but has succeeded in having passed a high school prerequisite law and I know the board will be an asset to the Association. It would be gratifying if we could have had 100 per cent. national reciprocity to celebrate this eventful day, but it could not be. However, I believe the groundwork has been laid for the addition of New Jersey, Rhode Island, and California, the three states still outside the Association. New York is an Associate member. We need them and I believe we can render a service to them. We invite them into our ranks. Will they accept our invitation?

Secretary H. C. Christensen attended four N. A. B. P. district meetings during the past year, and two state association meetings, namely, District No. 4, Des Moines, Iowa; District No. 6, San Antonio, Texas; District No. 7, Birmingham, Alabama, and District No. 8, Denver, Colorado; also New Jersey and South Dakota state association meetings. He reports very satisfactory results. Details of meetings will be covered in other reports.

Your President attended four meetings during the year, as follows: District No. 8, Denver, Colo.; the Executive Committee meeting held in Chicago in April; the Arizona State Pharmaceutical Association meeting in Phoenix, and the convention of a non-member state, *viz.*, California. All of these meetings were highly satisfactory. I attended District No. 8 meeting principally because Wyoming, our new member state, is in that district; all board members of that state are live wires and promise real support. The Arizona meeting was attended by invitation, and while this was the first annual meeting, it was one of the most enthusiastic it has ever been my pleasure to attend. Fullest coöperation was promised and a prerequisite law and all the ideals of the N. A. B. P. and the A. Ph. A. endorsed. I was pleased to receive the application for membership in the A. Ph. A. of all seven members of the Board of Pharmacy.

The California convention was held in Pasadena in May and was the largest in point of attendance in its history. At that meeting it was my privilege to speak upon the subjects of reciprocity, prerequisite, and the pharmacy headquarters proposition. While California at one time felt that on account of local conditions it would be unwise to enter into reciprocity with other states, at this meeting they passed a resolution unanimously endorsing reciprocity and requested the Board of Pharmacy to take the necessary steps to affiliate with the N. A. B. P. A resolution favoring a prerequisite bill was also passed, and \$500.00 subscribed to the building fund. I have had many requests and invitations to attend other meetings, but felt it necessary to decline for two reasons: First, I did not think the expense was justified, and the President, who, of course, receives no salary and who must

earn his bread by the sweat of his brow, can hardly afford to give all his time to it; second, in most cases it is better that the Secretary should attend, he being more familiar with conditions than anyone else.\*

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

While our Association is in a healthy condition and has prospered beyond the hope of its most enthusiastic and ardent admirers, there is still a wide variation in methods of conducting examinations. However, the number of requests upon the Secretary for sample examination papers would indicate that this condition will soon be corrected. I would recommend:

*First:* That all state boards which are giving examinations not in conformity with N. A. B. P. recommendations, communicate with the Secretary, who is always willing to render assistance and give information regarding recommendations adopted by the Association. The fullest coöperation should be given by boards in this matter.

*Second:* Boards should decide upon a list of colleges which they recognize with dates of recognition, and dates upon which two, three, or four years of high school become effective, and such a list should be furnished to the Secretary's office. The information should come promptly so it may be given out with promptness.

*Third:* That boards adopt the code of ethics of the American Pharmaceutical Association and request all applicants for examination to sign it. While this will not make a crook honest, it may have some moral effect and each applicant will at least know what is expected of him. The rank and file of the pharmacists of the country are law-abiding and highly respected citizens, and the few who continually violate our laws reflect on the profession as a whole.

*Fourth:* I recommend that wherever possible state boards work for the adoption or enactment into law of the "drug-store ownership" proposition, restricting the ownership of the pharmacy or drug store to registered or licensed pharmacists.

*Fifth:* That steps be taken to prevent the use of the term "drugless drugstore." The use of this term is deception to say the least, and should not be tolerated. If a place of business is handling drugs, it is not a drugless drugstore, and, if it does not sell remedial agents, the word "drug" should be prohibited in connection with its title. It is merely another instance of unscrupulous commercialism using the good name of pharmacy as a cloak.

*Sixth:* That we continue to work for standardized assistant registration and, following that, reciprocity for this class of licentiates.

*Seventh:* I wish to call attention to something with which you are all familiar; that is—the pharmacy headquarters proposition. This is without doubt the greatest and most to be lauded undertaking ever attempted by pharmacists anywhere, and will result in untold and everlasting benefit to the profession and the public, and will be an institution to be envied by the entire world. I would urge every

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\* At this point President Mortenson spoke of the Secretary's office in Chicago. He complimented the efficiency of the office force in referring to Secretary Christensen and his able assistant, Mrs. Crawford, and also spoke kindly of Miss Dessauer. "Things do not always run smoothly in an association," he said, "but things have been very satisfactory during the year."

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: