

## EDITORIAL

E. G. EBERLE, EDITOR

10 West Chase St., BALTIMORE, MD.

### THE SERVICE OF PHARMACY AND THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

A NUMBER of the resolutions submitted to the House of Delegates of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, at Philadelphia, reflect the viewpoints of pharmacists relative to the growing importance of pharmacy and their deep concern in giving the public proper protection. A number of the addresses of the convention carried the same thoughts. In other words, professional service is deemed essential for the progress of the drug business along lines which assure the public of greatest benefits and safety.

President J. W. England, of the Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association, in his address of welcome to members of the A. P. H. A., in Philadelphia, said that "the trend of pharmacy is *undeniably over-commercial*. This is serious and demands the sober thought not only of medicine and pharmacy, but of the general public, because anything that will impair the quality of professional service by the pharmacist to the public will impair the public health."—Greater interest on the part of pharmacists in public health work was urged in one of the resolutions.

In the same address several causes were cited for the present-day trend; one, "the excessive development of physiologic therapeutics at the expense of drug therapeutics and the lack of interest by medical men in pharmacy as a branch of medicine, for pharmacy is as vital to the successful practice of medicine as therapeutics—pharmacy's sister science and art." In other words, the development of the commercial side of the drug business is not alone nor altogether responsible for the present-day status. Under prevailing conditions volume sales of some kind must supply additional profits; lack of coöperation in promoting professional service is a different matter.—Let us have both situations in mind when discussing the modern drug store.

A resolution defined the terms "pharmacy" and "pharmacist" and the "Pharmacy Week" resolution urged the coöperation of members to carry the message of professional pharmacy to the public—that "the pharmacist is more than a merchant—he is an educational, responsible unit of our commonwealth." As a matter of fact, we fail to remind ourselves often enough of the responsibility of pharmacists as individuals and of a class which, because of training and moral qualifications, is privileged to assume duties which have great significance in health conservation. This constantly brings up questions of fitness, education, drug-store limitation, ownership and related problems. Resolutions which prompted the foregoing thoughts had to do with sub-standard registration, sales of drugs by others than registered pharmacists, dispensing of preparations with U. S. P. and N. F. designations except in so far as the proportionate amounts of constituents are concerned.—All of the resolutions indicated that to serve well and honestly is the paramount purpose of pharmacists and it is gratifying that this was evidenced in the resolves anent education and training, publicity and legislation, sales and dispensing.

A survey has been made of the professional side of pharmacy by the Charters' Committee, and it is contemplated to make a comprehensive, systematic investigation of the national and local conditions that obtain relative to the drug business in general—this will then make possible a study of methods which will promote pharmacy and drug-store business methods. Much has been done and the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION will extend its service with the establishment of the Headquarters. President England said—"The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION is the backbone of the profession of pharmacy of this country and if there was ever a time when the conditions of American pharmaceutical practice demanded—nay, challenged constructive study—that time is now."

Bearing somewhat on the subjects of this comment, liberty is taken in quoting the following paragraphs from an editorial in the *Druggists Circular*.—"The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION fosters professional ideals. It advances professional standards. It creates a professional class consciousness without which no progress is possible. It is fortunate for American pharmacy and American pharmacists that the cause of pharmacy is fostered in this country by an organization so altruistic, so learned and so strong and vigorous as the A. P. H. A."

"The ASSOCIATION has been referred to as the last great bulwark of professional pharmacy in America. It is also the first. For three quarters of a century it has withstood the assaults of time and change and now, rounding out its seventy-fourth year, it commits itself to a program of advancing educational requirements which, within a few years, in all of the States, will place pharmacy on an equal footing with the other learned professions."—E. G. E.

---

## THE 70TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF PROF. DR. ALEXANDER TSCHIRCH.

DIRECTOR OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BERN,  
BERN, SWITZERLAND.

BY E. FULLERTON COOK.

The celebrations in honor of Prof. Tschirch which have just ended are remarkable in the world-wide response which they have inspired and the universal respect and affection expressed by the pharmacists of every nation. It is a beautiful tribute to the man and a striking evidence of the power of personality and service in the field of pure science, where all people find a common ground of sympathy and understanding.

The desire to do honor to this great savant of the pharmaceutical sciences was spontaneous. His researches and studies in botany, pharmacognosy and plant chemistry, for over a quarter of a century, have influenced, and often led, his colleagues in every country. He has only recently completed a labor of fifteen or more years, in the writing of his encyclopedic "Handbuch der Pharmakognosie" and is still in the zenith of his powers, mentally and physically.

The first celebration was with his former students who planned one of those "family reunions" which had been so delightful a feature of their University days. This was restricted to those who knew him intimately, who had been inspired

by his guiding and fatherly instruction during their formative years, and they came from many parts of Europe to participate. Those who could not be present sent letters, telegrams and gifts and every feature was delightful and joyous, even the weather contributing to the event by furnishing a warm sunshiny day for an outdoor gathering and a glorious view of the snow-capped Alps.

This "family gathering," as Prof. Tschirch likes to refer to it, began on Saturday evening, October 16th, when many gathered at the Kursaal Schänzli to hear the celebrated concert orchestra. This was entirely informal but gave an opportunity to meet and know those who had come from a distance.

October 17th was the actual birthday date and it had been reserved for the student events, the more formal University celebrations coming almost a week later. At 10 o'clock on the morning of the 17th the auditorium of the Pharmaceutical Institute was crowded by those whom Prof. Tschirch had either trained as pharmacists or had taught something of his own analytical and creative methods of research and then sent out to carry his ideals and teachings to distant centers.

To understand properly this feature of the celebrations it is necessary to appreciate the affectionate regard in which Prof. Tschirch is held by his students, and his attitude toward those who come to him for instruction. There is every evidence of sincere personal interest in the student; one need but see that kindly smile and



THE TSCHIRCH ART GLASS WINDOW.

the paternal regard with which, from day to day, he follows the progress attained, to realize that here is a true teacher.

Then an important part of the academic year has always been excursions, and as these have often been botanical they naturally led the teacher and students toward the wonderful mountains and valleys so close to Bern. In motoring this summer with Prof. and Mrs. Tschirch through much of this beautiful country it seemed that every village, valley or mountain recalled some student excursion or dinner of past years, and, from my personal experience on two such excursions during the last semester, they must all have been notable events.

Always Prof. Tschirch is the center of interest, keenly alive to every incident of the trip, overflowing with accounts of travel or experiences when the opportunity

arises, ready of wit, joining in and even leading the singing, so delightful a feature here of every student gathering, and fully enjoying the humorous happenings so sure to occur.

The first event of the celebrations was reminiscent of these excursions. Pictures were reproduced on the screen representing many occasions and including many well-known persons and many interesting and amusing incidents.

Following this, all assembled at the Bellevue Palace, Bern's most beautiful hotel, for the big event of the day. About eighty were present for dinner and telegrams and letters were also there from almost every former student unable to come personally. (Over 300 letters and telegrams were received from individuals and official communications from 46 scientific societies.)

At the dinner the interesting European custom was followed of calling for speeches between courses and while this extends the dinner for several hours it has advantages. Among those speaking were Dr. Gustav Voda of Czechoslovakia, Prof. Casparis of Basil, Switzerland, and representatives of Swiss, German and French societies of pharmacists, pharmacognosists and chemists.

The outstanding feature of the morning was the presentation to Prof. Tschirch, by the students, of an art-glass window (50 × 70 cm.) which symbolized a medieval teacher of science, surrounded by his pupils who are being instructed in the mysteries of the poppy plant. The design was by Albin Schweir and the art-glass work by Louis Halter, noted Swiss artists. A reproduction in four colors (15 × 21 cm.) has been presented to those who participated in the gift and a limited number of copies are still available and should find a place in every college of pharmacy in America and in many professional pharmacies where it will always suggest the antiquity and dignity of the calling.<sup>1</sup>

Finally the time came for Prof. Tschirch to respond, which he did with his characteristic forcefulness, but with affection and humor. The frequent assembling of those at the dinner near the chair of the guest of honor that they might "drink to his health," the frequent "hoch," and the final gracefully and gallantly presented toast to each lady present, by Prof. Tschirch as he passed around the tables, were new customs to Americans, but were truly expressive of the fine feeling of friendship evidenced throughout the celebration.

The many gifts, including the beautiful flowers, were taken to the home of Prof. Tschirch, after the dinner and outdoor coffee, and through the following week open house prevailed and many persons called to offer congratulations.

On the following Saturday, the 23rd, came the formal reception under the auspices of the Medical Faculty of the University of Bern. (In Bern the Pharmaceutical Institute is a division of the Medical School of the University.) The dignitaries, in formal dress, assembled at 10:30 A.M. in the Pharmaceutical Institute which was decorated with flowers. Prof. Burgi, Dean of the Medical Faculty, presided and, after extending the congratulations of the Government of Switzerland, of the Canton of Bern, and the Medical Faculty, he presented a life-size bronze, in color, bas-relief of the bust of Prof. Tschirch, as a gift from the University.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Copies of the window, about 6 x 8 inches, in color, may be procured by writing for them to E. G. Eberle, 10 West Chase Street, Baltimore, Md., enclosing \$1.00. Those desiring copies should order before January 1, 1927.

<sup>2</sup> Small replicas (about 2 x 4 inches) in bronze may be obtained by writing to Prof. Dr. Siegrist, Medical Faculty, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland. The price is \$5.00.

Prof. Dr. Thoms, of Berlin, then presented the "Festschrift," a subscription volume of about 500 pages, published by Tauchnitz of Leipzig, and containing original contributions to science from the friends and students of Prof. Tschirch.

Then followed many brief addresses, most of them accompanied by engrossed and beautifully illuminated resolutions of congratulations. Among those speaking were the Rector Magnificus of the University, Dr. Maync; Prof. Kohlschütter, Prof. of Chemistry in the University of Bern, representing the Deutsche Chemische Gesellschaft; Prof. E. Fullerton Cook, representing the United States Pharmacopœia and the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science and also presenting a communication from Editor E. G. Eberle for the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION; Dr. Winkler, of Austria, who presented honorary membership in the Society for Historical Pharmacy; Prof. Kofler, of Austria, speaking for the pharmacognosists of the world; Dr. Salzman, of Berlin, of the Deutscher Apotheker Verein, which had placed a tablet on the house, which was the parsonage, where Prof. Tschirch was born, in the little town of Guben, Germany; Prof. Dr. Thoms for the Deutsche Pharmazeutische Gesellschaft; Dr. Firbas, speaking for the Austrian pharmaceutical associations, and many others, representing pharmaceutical, chemical and botanical societies of Switzerland.

The honorary degree of "Doctor of Engineers" was awarded by the Technical University of Stuttgart and the degree of "Doctor of Natural Sciences" by the Technical University of Zurich. The "Alfred Werner Medal," for original researches in chemistry, was awarded by Prof. Karrer for the University of Zurich. Prof. Tschirch was also made a life member of the Veteran Druggists' Association of New York.

Prof. Tschirch responded to these many speeches by a few words of thanks and appreciation, specifically referring to each address which had preceded, then briefly reviewed his life and accomplishments.

A fitting culmination of the events was the banquet in the evening when many who had spoken in the morning and others were called upon for a few words, Prof. Tschirch responding appropriately. The banquet was less formal than the University exercises of the morning and many opportunities were given for colleagues and friends to tell of incidents and experiences, often amusing, which had marked their long and interesting friendship with the guest of honor, he, in turn, responding with equal good humor and repartee.

An important feature of each celebration, not to be overlooked, was the recognition given Frau Prof. Tschirch who has always been of great assistance to her husband, helping him in varied capacities and endearing herself to all with whom she comes in contact.

The 70th birthday celebrations are over and they have left an international sense of amity and good will; they have also brought great gratification to one who deserves every honor pharmacy can bestow. The universal wish is that many more years may be granted to Prof. Tschirch that he may further enrich the world by his inspiration and contributions.

BERN, SWITZERLAND,  
October 25, 1926.

---