

EDITORIAL

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RESULTS OF OMISSION AND COMMISSION.

CHAIRMAN William D. Jones, of the House of Delegates, A. PH. A., for 1925-1926, emphasized the importance of strict observance in pharmaceutical practice by the individuals engaged therein. This same thought was expressed in other papers and resulted in several resolutions protesting against indefinite labeling and variation in the strength of preparations, whether above or below the standards.

Standards are intended for fixing the strength of a drug or preparation at a given or near a given point and a deviation, above or below, may endanger life or health; hence, a drug or preparation wrongly named may be a source of danger not only for the patient but for the pharmacist whose reputation may be in the balance with the medicinal agent. So also moral obligation and educational qualification may have a great and wide-spread influence in pharmacy.

The association of legal regulations applying to foods and drugs makes illustration along the foregoing lines applicable to drugs as well as foods. The foremost thought of the public in connection with the latter bears on the prevention of adulteration by addition of harmful or poisonous material, but therein is not all and not always the most serious violation. Food must not consist of unwholesome material, or any portion of that kind, or of substance that may have been propagated therein. Punishment may be meted out to persons guilty of publishing statements regarding a food which deceive and even for the misbranding of food products whereby legitimate trade practices may be seriously demoralized.

The dangers in pharmaceutical practice are relatively quite as great as in food distribution—more of the latter is consumed and it is more frequently exposed to contamination by dust and handling, but every transaction in the pharmacy proper has its dangers in one way or another. Hence, the address of Mr. Jones and the resolutions referred to were timely and carried important messages, which apply to every phase of pharmacy—from educational preparation of the pharmacist to the medicines handled and prepared by him. Every reference made in the foregoing paragraph to the Pure Food Act has application in pharmacy and drug laws.

There is danger in the wrong labeling of a pharmaceutical product, whether represented by an individual or the result of his work.

THE SEASON'S GREETINGS AND THE HEADQUARTERS.

Yester-year the A. PH. A. Headquarters was but a dream, now it is a vision; "to-morrow" it will be a realization.—Your opportunity is in making the Headquarters a greater service.

Based on the foregoing thoughts, the outstanding Christmas wish is for the happiness of the members—that the to-morrows of the New Year may have health and prosperity in store for them.