

EDITORIAL

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PERIODS IN THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

PERIODS in the life of an individual and the history of an association are always interesting. To-day the writer read the diary of the late Ex-President John F. Hancock, relating to his trip to the St. Louis meeting of 1871. Stop-overs made the journey more interesting than it otherwise would have been; Pittsburgh was one of the stopping-points, where one of the aims and purposes of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION came into action by the suggestion of members Edward Parrish, John M. Maisch, John F. Hancock and others, in commending to Pittsburgh pharmacists the establishment of a local association, and steps for such an organization were at once taken.

Henry Bowman Brady, from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, the President-Elect of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, attended the convention as representative. The North German Apothecaries' Society had been congratulated by the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION on the completion of fifty years of history, which was duly acknowledged and the following paragraph (translated) is taken from the letter of acknowledgment:

"It has long been our purpose to maintain for pharmacy that position which it has reached in a scientific and theoretical point of view, and requesting all kindred societies to unite their efforts with ours. We trust that we may be successful in gaining the recognition by the State of the independence of pharmacy."

Canon H. J. Cody, formerly Minister of Education for Ontario, in addressing the recent convention of the Ontario Retail Druggists' Association said to the members:

"You are all, I am quite sure, prepared to regard yourselves primarily as ethical and scientific pharmacists. Perhaps the term 'Druggist' has in some quarters become usual, but to my mind, the term 'Pharmacist' is undoubtedly a term most suitable for application to the ethical and scientific side of your calling. Your work does require a broad foundation, not only of general knowledge, but of specific training. It is not fair, in these days, for anybody to serve the public unless his outlook is unduly wide, and his knowledge of the basic principles of his calling correctly based."

The coöperative A. Ph. A. spirit was exemplified by Vice-President Eugene L. Massot, of 1871, who died during his term of office; it was said of him:

"The establishment of the St. Louis College of Pharmacy was mainly secured by his efforts, and so much was he esteemed by his confrères, that a special meeting of the College was held to make some proper expression of their feelings."

Among many distinguished pharmacists present in addition to those heretofore mentioned, were: M. W. Alexander, G. T. Chamberlain, Charles O. Curtman, C. Lewis Diehl, Louis Dohme, Albert E. Ebert, W. J. M. Gordon, Theodor Kalb, J. M. Maisch, George and Edward Mallinckrodt, G. F. H. Markoe, John McKesson, Jr., C. F. G. Meyer, Edward Parrish, William Procter, Jr., Joseph P.

Remington, Enno Sander, William Saunders, Henry Scheffer, etc. The members in attendance partook of the hospitality of Mr. Shaw, at Shaw's Botanical Gardens.

President William C. Anderson, of the N. A. R. D., after extending congratulations in behalf of the latter organization, at the 1901 A. Ph. A. meeting, concluded his remarks by saying, "I am enthused with the bright prospects for pharmacy when I look into the faces of these pioneers of pharmaceutical organization, and picture the National Association of Retail Druggists looking up to the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION for hope and counsel, and this older organization in turn leaning toward and gaining strength from the younger, while each, following the course mapped out by its policy, with renewed earnestness and vigor, and gradually drawing closer and closer together, goes on toward its goal, until scientific pharmacy is elevated to that high standard to which we aspire and commercial pharmacy is surely established—until that time when these two organizations, standing shoulder to shoulder, shall form the firm foundation on which is built that magnificent structure, American Pharmacy."

Edward W. Case and G. W. Hunter were present as delegates from Canada.

During this year, 1901, Charles Rice, Edward R. Squibb and William R. Warner ceased their labors which left their impress on pharmacy.

The St. Louis meeting of 1901 stands out because of the inaugural session of the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, of which the late Henry P. Hynson was the first chairman, and to which the late Enno Sander donated an annual prize for its encouragement.

The Sections were favored with a number of most excellent papers and preparations were made for the 50th anniversary meeting of the A. Ph. A. over which the lamented Henry Milton Whelpley presided. His suggestive mind contributed largely to the forming of the House of Delegates and of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy.

The St. Louis meetings have been eventful in the history of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and this year's convention will be marked by further progress because the Headquarters' project has been brought nearer to achievement.—E. G. E.

THE CONFUSION OF TITLES.

ON THE continent of Europe there has been a growing antagonism between pharmacists and druggists and this situation has been brought about by somewhat indefinite terms in pharmacy and drug laws. It is well to define specifically what is meant by "pharmacist" and by "druggist."

In most of the countries of Europe the pharmacist is the legally authorized preparer and vendor of medicines, but owing to the absence of a rigid definition for a medicament loopholes are created—some of which should have no standing—that provide opportunities for the sale of many pharmaceutical items by druggists and herbalists. The regulations are in many instances responsible for the troublesome conditions, as the quantity dispensed or sold and the use of the agent affects the status. As an example, 500 Gm. of lanolin is a dividing line; above that quantity the druggist may sell; a less amount must be dispensed by a pharmacist. A pharmacist dispenses zinc oxide ointment for humans; a druggist for veterinary purposes. In Rumania druggists may deal in about 300 listed medicinals. The

situation in the United States is not so very different—the most dangerous of poisons may be sold by anyone, provided they are to be used for insect destruction, paints, etc.

In Europe as well as in this country the number and kind of articles of a medicinal nature that may be sold by others than pharmacists are constantly increasing and there is no question but that the public is not given the protection it is entitled to or should have. The tendency, of course, is always toward extension of the privileges until the danger is impressed by mishap.

A measure of protection is afforded by insisting on having qualified pharmacists supervise the manufacture and putting up of medicinals and poisons. Most manufacturers of proprietaries recognize the importance of such safeguard for themselves and the public, but everyone is aware that some package medicines are manufactured for sale by persons who are uninformed relative to the pharmacy, chemistry and therapeutic action of these preparations. Some contend that the constituents are handled according to weight and measure of a tried formula, but we have in mind a large proprietary manufacturing establishment where pharmacists and chemists of high qualification make hourly tests of the product being manufactured and where the utmost care is exercised throughout the process of manufacture. The latter answers those who hold to the former opinion.

The *Journal of the Society of Chemical Industry* (Great Britain), in an editorial of the July 1st issue, finds confusion in the terms "Chemist" and "Druggist." We quote in part: "We concealed, so far as possible, from our neighbors the fact that our last President was a pharmaceutical chemist; we cannot conceal the fact that our reigning President spends his time in pharmacy and drugs, because his own presidential address is, we are informed, abundant evidence of his interest in these matters; a predecessor in the presidential chair, Sir William Pope, also has studied drugs, etc."

Continuing, the same editorial informs that the past Honorary Treasurer of the Society, D. Lloyd Howard, is this year's chairman of the British Pharmaceutical Society. The Editor holds that the instances prove his contention that the nomenclature requires revision, and believes that a determination on titles and definitions should be followed by a vigorous campaign for the education of those concerned, the public, and then the House of Commons; the House of Lords is considered hopeless. The contention is that chaos may prevail in that great department of learning which adjoins chemistry, pharmacy, physiology, biology and medicine and the chaos may be avoided by exact definitions.—E. G. E.

NATIONAL PHARMACY WEEK—OCTOBER 9-15, 1927.

It is anticipated that Pharmacy Week this year will be more generally observed than in the former two years of 1925 and 1926, both of which observances exceeded all expectations. The first Pharmacy Week in 1925 was so successful and the participation by pharmacists all over the country was so general that the members of the Committee were delighted and amazed. The second annual observance was increasingly successful and the evidences of the resultant benefits began to manifest themselves in many ways. The story of the second observance told of American pharmacy united in a great movement for public information of mutual benefit to both pharmacy and the public in the interests of a better understanding between the public and its pharmacists, of improved conditions in the practice of pharmacy and of a healthier, happier nation.—Get ready to do your part this year. More information will be found in the next issue of the JOURNAL.