

ferred to the Headquarters Building Committee for consideration and adoption as far as they agree with the general plans of the ASSOCIATION.

CONCLUSION.

While the duties of the President of this ASSOCIATION, when added to the regular work of the incumbent, make a considerable total, the work done with the coöperation of the other officers has been so pleasant that the burden has not been felt. At the end of this week the President will transfer the office to his successor, who has already been elected. He will do this with the hope that the ASSOCIATION has not suffered under his administration, and with the confident expectation that the organization will accomplish even greater things in the future than it has in the past.

ADDRESS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES OF
THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

BY JACOB DINER.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates of the American Pharmaceutical Association:

The present situation in Pharmacy deserves careful consideration. The majority of retail pharmacists have gradually changed the tenor as well as the appearance of the Pharmacy. From the professional aspect of the old-time Pharmacy, greeting the client with the manifold aromas of the "drug store smell," its array of bottles and ointment pots, herbs and chemicals mingled with an inconspicuous lot of merchandise, it now presents nothing less than a glittering array of the most modern Department Store with a meager collection of drugs relegated to the most obscure corner of the back-room. The siren song of the tingling cash-register has hypnotized the pharmacist into the belief that the more money he can get into the cash-register the greater the profit and his success. Forsaking both ideas and ideals, he is now worshipping the idol of "Turn-over" failing to realize that turn-over without profit is the shortest and direct road to bankruptcy. Competing on the basis of price only he has sacrificed principles, altruism and the joy of serving humanity to find only "Schein-Gold" (imitation gold) and the loss of prestige and confidence formerly so freely and justly accorded him by his clients. However, in spite of this extreme commercialism, such as it is, pervading Pharmacy, the public, as well as educational agencies, accord to Pharmacy the status of a profession. This has been clearly stated in the excellent report by Doctor Charters in the Commonwealth investigation and report.



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Chairman, House of Delegates, A. PH. A.

Legislative bodies, also, take the same stand and the Legislature of the State of New York, in the 1927 session, so stated definitely when they placed Pharmacy with all other professions, granting them all the privileges, rights and obligations pertaining to a profession. This piece of legislation has far-reaching effects on pharmacy and pharmacists from both the professional and financial point of view.

An interesting development in the legal status of drug-store chains owned and operated by men who are not pharmacists is expected in the State of New York shortly as the result of a recodification of the laws of that State.

Under the recodification Pharmacy is recognized for the first time as a profession and its supervision placed in the hands of the Department of Education of the State, along with Medicine, Law, Dentistry and other professions. In making the Board of Pharmacy a part of the Educational System operated under direction of the Regents of the State University, the practice of pharmacy automatically acquires official and legal standing as a profession.

This transaction, made possible by the recodification of the New York laws, approved by the State Legislature, and effective July 1st, has to date escaped notice and significance. Through the Pharmacy Ownership Bill passed in the New York Legislature of 1925, this change in State codification has vital significance to pharmacy.

In the Corporation laws of the State of New York there is a clause which prohibits any corporation operating within the jurisdiction of the State from engaging in the practice of any profession.

Since pharmacy was not recognized as a profession under the old codification of New York State laws, chain-store corporations could operate drug stores and practice pharmacy legally without interference.

Under the old codification which did not recognize pharmacy as a profession we were at a disadvantage. Under the old codification the professions of Medicine, Dentistry and Law were recognized as such. Obviously, as the oldest of all professions, we were equally entitled to this recognition, but did not get it. Through the recodification of the State law, we have now been placed side by side with Medicine, Law, Dentistry and the other professions. As a result of this new official status of pharmacy, the clause in the State Corporation laws which prohibits corporations from practicing a profession will now apply to chain-store operation. No corporation operating a pharmacy heretofore can continue such operation without violating the State Corporation Act. This provision in the Act prohibiting corporations from practicing a profession was embodied into the State statutes by the lawyers and the physicians of the State to prevent their professions from being commercialized by corporations organized to sell cheap legal and cheap medical advice on price appeal. Now pharmacy secures equal protection from similar agencies which commercialize the world's oldest science—Pharmacy.

The new codification, changing the status of pharmacy, is now in full legal force. I suspect that the chain organizations operating within New York State are not aware of the new position in which they are placed by this change. It is my impression that they did not sense the effect of this change on their legal position. Usually when any change affecting them is before the Legislature, such

as the Drug-Store Ownership Bill, the chains are very active in their opposition to any legislation which aims to restrict their activity. I know that the recodification of the law now in effect, which defines pharmacy as a profession, makes it illegal for any drug store operating as a corporation to continue the practice of pharmacy. Out of this interesting development in pharmacy, I sense some important changes in pharmacy in the next ten years or less. I see a day approaching when there will be two distinct types of drug stores—one type strictly professional, selling drugs, chemicals and pharmaceuticals on prescription and in package form, such as require a registered man on the premises, and another type selling sundries, toiletries, patents and such miscellaneous merchandise as do not require a registered man on the post. The first type of store will maintain a real working laboratory in which will be done a great deal of work which the retail pharmacist now leaves to the pharmaceutical manufacturer. The average pharmacist of to-day has departed radically from his predecessors of other generations. He no longer feels he has any time to train his apprentices. This is unfortunate, because it tends to bring up the new generation of pharmacists without the thorough training of their predecessors of other generations. I believe we are on the threshold of many important changes.

The Drug Ownership Bill was the first step in this direction. This law, which was enacted first in the State of New York, has since been adopted by the States of Illinois, Michigan and Pennsylvania. Some day I hope to see it in every one of the 48 States. The next important step attained by pharmacy is the recodification of New York State laws placing pharmacy in the same legal and professional position as Medicine, Law and Dentistry. The third step, which we have yet to attain, would be the reclassification of drug stores into the two types named. Following this, there are steps which will develop, the most important of which, of course, will be price standardization legislation to protect the profit of the pharmacists and the good will of the manufacturer who desires to keep his product from being used as a football in price-cut warfare.

The House of Delegates was established as a clearing house for all matters pharmaceutical, be it local, State, or national. It is *the* place where the State Associations can present their difficulties and where a free and open discussion is assured to all. Immediately after my election as Chairman of the House of Delegates I drew up a schedule suggesting topics for discussion at the various State Pharmaceutical Association meetings. It is unfortunate that no appropriation is made for the purpose of enabling the Chairman of the House of Delegates to visit a number of Associations for the purpose of assisting them in their program and to bring the body pharmaceutical in closer touch with the parent organization, the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

I therefore recommend that a sum of money be appropriated by the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, for that purpose. In conclusion I wish to extend my sincere appreciation of the honor conferred upon me. I also wish to thank those who have given me a helping hand and especially the Secretary, Professor Kelly, who has been ever prompt and courteous in meeting my requests and who has ever been a pillar of strength to the ASSOCIATION.
