

EDITORIAL

E. G. EBERLE, EDITOR

10 West Chase St., BALTIMORE, MD.

SITE FOR THE PHARMACY HEADQUARTERS BUILDING IN WASHINGTON.

ANOTHER forward step has been taken toward the completion of the Pharmacy Headquarters Building in which every drug interest in the country has taken a very active part and to which approximately 15,000 retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers, teachers, writers, publishers, students and others, have subscribed more than \$700,000.

The Committee on Site, of which H. A. B. Dunning is the Chairman, has carefully studied the situation in Washington with the helpful advice of a number of able realtors and is especially indebted to the District of Columbia Planning Commission and its executive officer Major Carey Brown for valuable assistance. Realizing the importance of the proper location of the Building in the Capital City, the Committee has investigated every suggested site, of which a large number were submitted. It has kept in mind that the usefulness of the Building is of greatest importance and the desirability of locating it so that those who see it will be impressed. It was soon decided that the most desirable location available was that between Twenty-Second and Twenty-Third Streets and facing the Mall, and the Committee recommended to the Council of the A. P. H. A. that it be purchased.

The site is directly opposite the Lincoln Memorial and in view of the Washington Monument and the Arlington Memorial Bridge, now being erected to connect the Mall with the Arlington Estate, across the Potomac River. It is situated between the National Academy of Sciences and the grounds of the Naval Hospital and because of its elevation commands a wonderful and unobstructed outlook over the Mall and the Potomac River, to the hills of Virginia beyond. The Government is planning to erect the Headquarters of the Public Health Service on that part of the Naval Hospital property facing the Mall, which will locate the Pharmacy Headquarters Building between this imposing structure and the beautiful building of the National Academy of Sciences.

The Council of the A. P. H. A. adopted the recommendation of the Committee on Site and the purchase of the property was completed on February 29th. It is no exaggeration to state that no more suitable or imposing site for the Pharmacy Headquarters Building could have been selected. It will be so situated that nothing can later interfere with the view which the location commands, and the developments which the Government is making in that section of the Mall insure that the surroundings will become more beautiful and imposing as time goes on.

The Campaign Committee felt that the funds in hand should be reserved for the erection of the Building and therefore an effort has been made to secure special subscriptions for the site. Its purchase has been made possible by the generous interest of Messrs. H. A. B. Dunning, A. R. L. Dohme, J. W. Westcott, G. A. Pfeiffer, J. K. Lilly and Henry S. Wellcome and further assistance to this end from others is expected.

Now that the site has been obtained the Committee on Plans will proceed with its work and, as soon as the general requirements and arrangements are determined upon, an architect will be selected with the purpose of completing the Building as soon as practicable. In developing the plans and in designing and erecting the Building, the ASSOCIATION will work in close coöperation with the Fine Arts Commission of the Government, which has supervision over the erection of buildings that face on public property in Washington, and it may confidently be expected that the final result will be in keeping with its really wonderful surroundings and a credit to Pharmacy and to those who have made its erection possible.

E. F. K.

THE PHARMACIST AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

PUBLIC Health matters concern every individual and it is an opportunity as well as the duty of pharmacists to coöperate with public health agencies, in disseminating reliable information concerning public health; they are qualified to render a distinct service because of the strategic position and contact with the public. It needs no comment to stress the importance of such service and that this has part in the professional status of pharmacists. It is because pharmacy is an essential part of medical service that pharmacists have recognition in the Bill now in Congress, whereby it is sought to coördinate the public health activities of the Government. Hearings on the Bill have been held (see January JOURNAL A. PH. A. p. 92) and the measure has made progress by a favorable report, on February 21st, of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce; the *Weekly Review* of the Chamber of Commerce, U. S. A. reports as follows:

"The Bill would authorize the detail of personnel of the Public Health Service to other departments and independent establishments of the Government, would allow the detail of such personnel to educational and research institutions for the purpose of conducting special studies on scientific problems relating to public health, and provide for the creation of new units in the Hygienic Laboratory. It would also place professional commissioned personnel—dentists, sanitary engineers, pharmacists, etc., on an equal footing as to appointment, pay, promotion, disability privileges, etc.—with medical officers of the regular army. The head of the public health service would be raised to the rank of major general (an increase in salary of \$2200). Specialists in scientific research could also be secured in cases of extreme need through initial appointment to grades higher than that of assistant surgeon—a limitation at present in the law. There are other administrative changes proposed dealing with promotions, numerical limitations affecting the various commissioned grades, etc."

The following is reprinted from the report of the Hearing on the Public Health Bill (H. R. 11026). The House passed the measure on March 7th.

Those representing pharmacy requested that the Bill be so amended as to provide that pharmacists of the Public Health Service shall be eligible to receive commissions, after examination, in the same manner as provided for medical and dental officers, for sanitary engineers and for other scientists. The representatives of pharmacy were very pleased by Surgeon-General Cumming's approval of this request, and they were encouraged to believe that this very fitting recognition of pharmacy would be incorporated in the final legislation. If so, the Parker Bill should then have the united and strong support of pharmacists not only because of the recogni-

tion of pharmacy but also because this legislation will open the way for the proper solution of the long standing question of the status of all pharmacists in the Government service.

Quotations follow from H. R. 11026, Section 2 (b), Section 4 (a) 1 and 2 and (b) :

(b) The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to establish such additional divisions in the Hygienic Laboratory as he deems necessary to provide agencies for the solution of public-health problems, and facilities for the coördination of research by public health and pharmaceutical officials and scientists and for demonstrations of sanitary methods and appliances.

Sec. 4 (a) Hereafter sanitary engineers, medical, dental and other scientific officers, including pharmacists engaged on comparable duties, of the Public Health Service, selected for general service and subject to change of station, shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, subject to the same conditions and limitations as commissioned medical officers of the regular corps of the Public Health Service, except that—

(1) Examinations shall be in the several branches of the profession of the person to be appointed;

(2) Any sanitary engineer, medical, dental or other scientific officer, or pharmacist engaged on comparable duties, in the Public Health Service upon the date of passage of this Act, except commissioned officers of the regular corps after examination by a board of officers convened by the Surgeon-General of the Public Health Service and upon the recommendation of such board and the Surgeon-General, may be appointed to any grade specified by such board and approved by the Surgeon-General, having due regard to the salary received by such officer at the time of such appointment; and in computing longevity pay and pay period the service of any officer appointed under the provisions of this paragraph who was in the Public Health Service on June 30, 1922, shall be counted in the same manner as provided for regular commissioned officers in the Public Health Service on that date;***

(b) The Surgeon General of the Public Health Service shall designate the grades of commissioned officers of the Public Health Service other than medical officers, corresponding to the grades of medical officers.

We are hopeful that this is a step in pharmaceutical progress and constitutes a rightful recognition of pharmacists which has long been sought for and will redound to the benefit of the Service.

Pharmacy and Merchandising are not incompatible; an analysis will reveal that no profession is complete without a commercial contact, which differs in degree and kind. Pharmacy holds a valuable franchise and safeguards the independent druggists against the encroachment of stores whose sole purpose is to sell things after attracting trade by "cut" prices on articles which, oftentimes, it is sought to displace.

E. G. E.

THE MUSEUM OF THE A. PH. A. HEADQUARTERS.

THE March number of the *Scientific Monthly* contains an interesting article by Dr. F. C. Brown on "Building a Museum to Human Specifications." References are made to writers on the subject in other publications, in which "museum fag" is discussed; B. I. Gilman, in the *Scientific Monthly*, for January 1916, showed a number of pictures, in which the visitor to the museum was unnecessarily fatigued because the things were displayed in a wrong manner. A related article was published in the *Literary Digest* in 1916; in *The Century* for January 1926, F. H. Cooke discusses the subject of "Culture and Fatigue"—the conclusions drawn are that museum fatigue is real and not imaginary.

The problem to be solved is not only one of order and explanatory notes, but a systematic arrangement is essential which will tell the story of whatever is on display, so that the visitors will be interested sufficiently to return and bring others—

that is the test, though this is not the sole purpose of the museum and, perhaps, not the most important. Dr. Brown's presentation describes methods for various displays; the purpose of this comment is to stimulate the interest of those who have historical material suitable for such display in the A. Ph. A. Headquarters, partially or wholly, as a permanent record. Our museum should be maintained on a lofty plane; it must also interest casual observers and laymen who will thereby have a better understanding of the mission and accomplishments of pharmacy. The museum should attract and educate; exhibits should show the development of all the divisions of the pharmaceutical industries, the uses of the materia medica and products allied to pharmacy and also their disuse. The Museum will offer to one or more an opportunity for memorializing those who have rendered distinguished services in pharmacy and now that the site has been purchased in a most desirable location for the A. Ph. A. Headquarters, the matter should receive early consideration by those who desire to endow this important part of the building.

E. G. E.

MEMORIAL TO O. HENRY.

AS IS well known to pharmacists, O. Henry was an apprentice in the pharmacy of his uncle, Clark Porter, in Greensboro, N. C. and, later, was employed for a time in the pharmacy of Morley Bros. of Austin, Tex. In the latter establishment an unfinished story was begun by O. Henry on the pages of a counter blotter, which came to the attention of an employee years afterward. It was in Dr. Pinckney Herbert's office in Asheville that O. Henry wrote his last complete story, namely, "Let Me Feel Your Pulse." He rests in Riverside Cemetery, Asheville, N. C. It is now proposed to convert the jail which held Sidney Porter a prisoner in Austin, following his conviction on a charge¹ involving the disposition of \$100 of bank funds, into a memorial library to O. Henry. The suggestion originated, it seems, with Steve Pinckney of Houston, Tex., whose father worked side by side with Porter in the old Land Office at Austin. It is commented on in *Bunker's Monthly*:

"It ought to be done. It would be decidedly the kind of memorial that O. Henry would appreciate. The 'poetic justice' of it would appeal to him strongly, and one can imagine him chuckling over it, out there across the Great Divide, in whatever Celestial Bagdad he may now reign in as Caliph. It would be a real O. Henry 'unexpected ending' to the story of Will Porter's trial and conviction, when he was 'absolutely innocent of wrong doing'—a proper finish, so to speak, for his 'unfinished story,' for O. Henry died an 'ex-convict' shorn of his citizenship in the land that now delights to do him honor.

"It has been said that Washington Irving legendized the short story, that Edgar Allan Poe standardized it, that Nathaniel Hawthorne allegorized it, that Bret Harte localized it but that O. Henry humanized it. His humanity was his distinguishing characteristic. And what a human thing to do, to take this building, the erection of which was made necessary by human frailty and human passion—a jail!—and convert it into the memorial of a man who possessed, as few others, an understanding of human weakness and a tolerant charity toward human shortcomings, a man who saw beneath the foibles of 'all sorts and conditions of men' a common humanity. What a human memorial it would be!"

The suggestion is a worthy one, and if carried out would represent a small but overdue recompense.

E. G. E.

¹ It is generally conceded that he was innocent of wrong doing.

BIOGRAPHIES.

A MONUMENTAL twenty-volume "Dictionary of American Biography" is now in preparation. The editor-in-chief is Dr. Allen Johnson. While no pharmacists are listed as contributors there are a number who are well and favorably known to pharmacists; among them, Dr. Edgar F. Smith, Harvey W. Wiley, Charles Thwing, etc. The following societies and their presidents are engaged in the work:

American Philosophical Society, Francis X. Dercum, President; American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Theodore Lyman, President; American Antiquarian Society, Waldo Lincoln, President; American Oriental Society, Julian Morgenstern, President; American Philological Association, Frank C. Babbitt, President; Archaeological Institute of America, Ralph V. D. Magoffin, President; Modern Language Association of America, Ashley H. Thorndike, President; American Historical Association, Henry Osborn Taylor, President; American Economic Association, Thomas S. Adams, President; American Philosophical Association, David F. Swenson, President; American Political Science Association, William B. Munro, President; American Sociological Society, William I. Thomas, President; Linguistic Society of America, Carl D. Buck, President; History of Science Society, David Eugene Smith, President; Mediaeval Academy of America, Charles H. Haskins, President.

The dictionary will not include the biography of any living American and one of the interesting phases of the work of the editors has been the attempt to restore forgotten reputations--that is, to give prominence to Americans who have made some valuable contribution to the national life but who have not been accorded due credit.

Responding to the expressed purpose the Editor addressed Dr. Allen Johnson, editor-in-chief, suggesting that pharmacy and pharmacists be accorded the consideration due them instead of giving sole credit to other activities, even if pharmacists who are sketched earned their fame in these fields of endeavor. As an outstanding example Carl Wilhelm Scheele was referred to and the names of a number of other pharmacists were mentioned who in this editor's opinion were deemed worthy of recognition and were not included in the list under "A" and "B."

The purpose of the letter was to emphasize the fact that pharmacy, as such, has quite frequently been overlooked and that "pharmacist" be the applied term and not divided with other designations, such as druggist, chemist, apothecary, etc. This the writer believes is a matter of importance and has been neglected--we are pharmacists and proud of our profession. A paragraph of an editorial of the *New York Times* is quoted:

"One of the prime purposes of this great undertaking is 'the rehabilitation of forgotten men' and it would fail of that worthy purpose if there were notable omissions. The range is wide enough to include all who have made a distinct contribution to American development or to 'the American scene.'"

Everywhere and more and more the value of history is being recognized and with this valuation the fact is admitted that records of events as to data are more accurate when made at or about the time of their occurrence, although a later judgment of the individuals concerned and the aims and purposes may be more impartial, because it is not so greatly influenced by prejudice and prevailing public opinion. The point is, without records, with dependence on memory, errors will occur and some important events will be forgotten. The A. PH. A. Headquarters Building, for which a beautiful site has been purchased, will afford opportunities for permanent records of pharmaceutical activities.