

EDITORIAL

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THE COMPETITION OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

IN AN address by President Coolidge before the 37th Continental Congress of the D. A. R., in Washington, on April 16th, he presented a number of thoughts which are applicable to present developments in business, and in this comment his words are applied to conditions which obtain in the drug business. There are advantages in the system of chains, but all sides of the question are not given due consideration when only its advantages are discerned, for the fundamental characteristics are not going to be changed for the better by substituting corporation management for private enterprise. The individual who manages the one, with all his imperfections and his selfishness, will have to be employed to manage the other, and when out of view and out of contact with the patrons his actions are not guided and guarded by the same motives. His aim above everything else is to make money—outside investors in the enterprise expect profit—few of them think of anything else as a result of their investment.

President Coolidge, in pointing out some of the dangers of Government ownership said:

“The very essence of business is the expectation of a profit on the part of those who conduct it. Government is conducted from an entirely different motive. When business is in private hands, it is expected to be run for the benefit of the owners. When the Government steps in, the purchasers, users, and beneficiaries of what the Government undertakes to supply insist that the concern should be conducted for their benefit. It does not eliminate selfishness; it simply transfers it in part from the seller to the purchaser. Under these conditions it ceases to be a real business, becomes lacking in enterprise and initiative, and does not have any motive to provide improved service.

“Flowing out of these unavoidable conditions, if the Government gets into business on any large scale, we soon find that the beneficiaries attempt to play a large part in the control. While in theory it is to serve the public, in practice it will be very largely serving private interests. It comes to be regarded as a species of Government favor and those who are the most adroit get the larger part of it. Men in public life are besought to secure places of employment for some persons in their locality and favorable contracts for others.

“The situation rapidly develops into a position of entrenched selfishness, where a great body of public employees and large outside interests are in virtual control, with the general public paying a high cost for poor service. With all the care that it is possible to exercise, a situation of this kind becomes entangled in favoritism and is always in great danger of causing corruption and scandal.

“If it is desirable to protect the people in their freedom and independence, if it is desirable to avoid the blighting effects of monopoly supported by the money of the taxpayer, if it is desirable to prevent the existence of a privileged class, if it is desirable to shield public officials from the influence of propaganda and the acute pressure of entrenched selfishness, if it is desirable to keep the Government un-

encumbered and clean, with an eye single to public service, we shall leave the conduct of our private business with the individual, where it belongs, and not undertake to unload it on the Government."

The thoughts expressed by the President can easily be read into an address on the dangers of large combinations, which ultimately seek to control the contributory activities and make them serve as adjuncts. Eventually, the public will recognize the dangers of a system it has encouraged because of present advantages, for there is danger in delegating action to a few men or corporations and placing the power of vast investments under the direction of a few because of their outstanding abilities in organization, leadership and finance.

The trend of the times is recognized and it is not intended to blame any who follow it, nor charge them with questionable motives, but thought should be given to both sides of a great movement, the influences of which will affect every individual. If the chain system is to be permanent and is deemed best for the people, the business and the profession, then the conduct should be so regulated that mercenary and selfish motives will not be in absolute control. If a separation of pharmacy and the drug business is to result, let careful thought be given so that the change will be for the greatest good for the greater number and best service for the public. The aim of the comment is to be helpful and encourage thoughtful consideration.

UNITED STATES PHARMACOPŒIAL CONVENTION EXHIBIT AT THE MINNEAPOLIS MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

WE ARE in receipt of a report of the pharmacopœial exhibit made by the College of Pharmacy of the University of Minnesota. This is the fourth time that such exhibits have been made during the annual meetings of the American Medical Association. The first of these exhibits was prepared under the auspices of the Philadelphia Branch of the A. PH. A. and direction of Chairman E. Fullerton Cook; the second, at Dallas, under direction of Dean C. A. Duncan of Baylor University College of Pharmacy. The third, at Washington, was a joint exhibition of the Hygienic Laboratory with coöperation of S. L. Hilton and E. Fullerton Cook. The report of the Minneapolis Exhibit follows:

"The College of Pharmacy of the University of Minnesota participated very successfully in the American Medical Association Scientific Exhibit at the Minneapolis Auditorium during the entire week beginning June 11th. The College exhibited for and under the auspices of the Board of Trustees of the U. S. Pharmacopœial Convention, and the exhibit accordingly illustrated pharmacopœial and dispensing pharmacy particularly but also pharmaceutical chemistry and pharmacognosy, including medicinal plant culture. Because of the artistic arrangement of the display, which was enhanced by an array of medicinal plants and by the oil portraits of William Procter, Jr., the first professor of Pharmacy in America; of Edward Parrish, the author of the first American textbook of Pharmacy and of Samuel W. Melendy, one of the fathers of early Minnesota pharmacy, the exhibit aroused considerable and continuous attention of the many visitors.

"The exhibit included principally plants in various stages of cultivation; a complete prescription department with practical illustrations of proper methods of

dispensing and examples of avoidance of incompatibility in dispensing; a series of medicinal inorganic and organic salts prepared by students; samples of practically all classes of medicinal preparations including plain and coated pills, compressed and triturated tablets, hard and soft liquid and massed capsules, powders, suppositories, bougies, granulated and effervescent salts, cachets and other preparations; illustrations of various pharmaceutical methods and procedure incident to general practice; illustrations of various inorganic and organic analytical and assay methods; demonstrations with polariscope, colorimeter, refractometer, analytical and dispensing balances and other scientific instruments of precision, including binoculars illustrating pharmacognostic microscopy; old United States and European pharmacopœias; an entire set of AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION PROCEEDINGS and YEAR BOOK, important current pharmaceutical text and reference books and other books.



“The Minnesota State Pharmaceutical and the Minneapolis Veteran Druggists’ Associations joined in having Dean Wulling’s address to the Hennepin County Medical Society reprinted and distributed at the booth. Fifteen hundred copies were distributed.

“While Dean Wulling was responsible to the A. M. A. Scientific Exhibit Committee, he turned over the preparation and conduct of the exhibit to a Committee consisting of Professors G. Bachman, *Chairman*, E. B. Fischer, C. H. Rogers and C. V. Netz. The success of the exhibit was due largely to the good work of Professors Bachman and Fischer who were ably assisted by Instructors Netz, Almin, Peterson, Smythe, Turner and Assistant Kroning, with Messrs. Raymond Callander and Otto Pederson assisting in other ways.

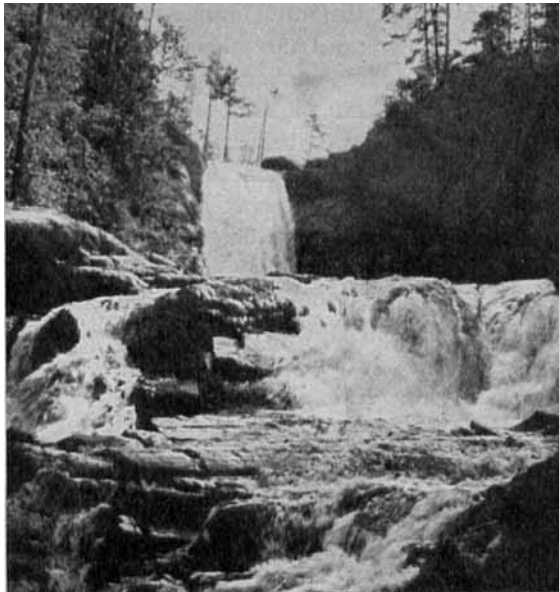
“The excellence and attractiveness of the exhibit and the practical demonstrations and the emphasis of the attendants upon particularly the Pharmacopœia and pharmacopœial pharmacy were recognized by the Committee on Award by awarding the College a ‘Special Certificate of Merit for the Best Exhibit in the Educational Classification.’ ”

The exhibit booth was furnished by the American Medical Association. It was a double booth and included 210 square feet of floor space and more of wall space.

TERM "ANTISEPTIC" EXPLAINED UNDER FEDERAL FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

AN INVESTIGATION has been made by the Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration of the United States Department of Agriculture of those drug products on the market which are described as antiseptics. In order to answer numerous inquiries from the trade as to the propriety under the Federal Food and Drugs Act of designating these articles "antiseptic," the Administration has issued the following statement:

Current dictionaries give two meanings for the word "antiseptic." According to these authorities an antiseptic may either kill bacteria or prevent their growth. Products such as salves, ointments and dressings, which remain in contact with the body for long periods of time, may properly be designated as antiseptics if they inhibit the growth of bacteria. On the other hand, mouth washes, douches, gargles, and preparations of like nature, which are in contact with the body for but brief periods of time, and because of this cannot exert any inhibitory action, may properly be described as antiseptics only if they will destroy bacteria under the conditions of use; that is, in the dilutions recommended, and in a period of time comparable to that in which they would have an opportunity to act when used as directed.



Moxie Falls.