

# EDITORIAL

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## THE SEVENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE seventy-sixth annual meeting of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION has now passed into the history of that organization in so far as the event itself is concerned. It was a well attended meeting and the New England friends evidenced, in no unmistakable manner, their pleasure in being the hosts of the visitors in doing everything possible to have everyone enjoy the stay in Portland. The business program as it must now be carried out leaves but little time for entertainments and everything points to an even further curtailment of these features.

So many closely related organizations meet during the brief period of one week that the newcomer is likely to be confused and only an experienced attendant can derive the maximum benefit therefrom. The Committee on Standard Program made real progress this year toward a balanced program and proper allowance of time, but still greater improvement will come about with experience and as the result of the study which is being given to the subject by all the groups affected.

There seemed to be general satisfaction with the meeting, taken as a whole, and a more optimistic outlook for the future of pharmacy. There was enough conflict to give zest and interest and to develop many differing points of view without leaving any noticeable bitterness. There was an evident realization that Pharmacy must take certain forward steps at this time if it is to maintain the place which its friends and followers wish it to occupy and a willingness to take the steps advocated by the majority, even though there was some disagreement as to the necessity or wisdom of all of them. Such conditions always make for progress and it is true that much was accomplished at Portland. Experience only will tell how much was real progress.

The PROCEEDINGS of the meeting, with the exception of those of the five Sections, will be given in this and the October issues of the JOURNAL, and the PROCEEDINGS of the Sections will appear in the November and December numbers; hence, those interested will thus have complete information about the Proceedings during this year. The many papers presented to the Sections makes it difficult to print all of them before the next annual meeting, but much progress was made in obtaining satisfactory abstracts of the papers prior to the meeting and these were furnished to the pharmaceutical press for publication.

The resolutions adopted and a summary of the other important actions taken by the ASSOCIATION were furnished the pharmaceutical press and the secretaries of the state and national organizations during the week following the meeting with the purpose of giving the widest possible publicity to the more important proceedings. The pharmaceutical publications and the lay press have coöperated with the ASSOCIATION to a greater extent than ever before and Resolution No. 22 (printed in this issue, which please see) is an evidence of how deeply this coöper-

ation is valued and appreciated. Because of this publicity, it is necessary to refer in this editorial only to the most important actions taken—those which may be expected to have a far-reaching effect and to which attention and support should be given promptly.

After a study of a proposed bill to create a Pharmacy Corps in the Medical Department of the U. S. Army, by a special committee and a favorable report on it, the ASSOCIATION decided to give active support to this legislation and a special committee was appointed to secure its enactment, of which A. L. I. Winne, of Virginia, is the chairman. The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and the Conference of Pharmaceutical Association Secretaries heartily endorsed the movement and the coöperation of other pharmaceutical associations will be sought. Dissatisfaction with pharmaceutical conditions in various branches of the Government Service was expressed and support was pledged to the creation of a Pharmacy Corps in the Army as the first step in a movement to correct the situation and to secure for those in the Service as good a pharmaceutical service as is guaranteed the public under the state pharmacy laws.

The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy invited the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION to join with them in carrying out the proposed survey of pharmaceutical education and the invitation was enthusiastically accepted, the ASSOCIATION pledging its moral and material support to the survey, the plans for which have been developed by the associations first mentioned. This is undoubtedly one of the most important movements which has been undertaken in recent years, and coupled with the decision to adopt a minimum four-year course, in 1932, will have a profound influence on the future development of pharmacy. The Commonwealth Study of Pharmacy and the studies which have been made in connection with the Syllabus have developed a wealth of information out of which a sound pharmaceutical curriculum can be built for the four-year course—one based not on various theories but on actual experience. It is proposed to study this material carefully, to revise the Syllabus and the course in pharmacy in accordance with the facts brought out, to arrange for the most practical survey of the schools and colleges of pharmacy, to determine whether they are properly equipped to give and will give the course determined upon and if not, to assist them in preparing to do so, and to thus give the Boards of Pharmacy the information they require in order to most intelligently pass upon the training and qualification of those who wish to practice pharmacy.

It has taken time to develop such a comprehensive program—too long in the opinion of some—but the coöperative spirit now existing between the three associations interested and the realization that it must be a mutual undertaking, if success is to be expected, fully compensates further delay. The steps taken to secure a uniform rule for the transmission of college credits from one institution to another, to secure the establishment in other colleges of a junior course applicable to the pharmacy course in somewhat the same way as has been worked out for medicine and dentistry, and to bring to the attention of persons of wealth the important part that pharmacy has in health conservation with the object of interesting them in financially supporting pharmaceutical education and research, are further proofs of a realization of the basic importance of sound pharmaceutical education and of

stringent methods for the examination and registration of pharmacists if the confidence and support of the public is to be retained. It can be safely asserted then, that the preparation of the future pharmacist for his duty as a citizen and as a pharmacist will be greatly improved as a result of these several actions.

The quality, permanency and labeling of drugs and pharmaceutical preparations were given more than usual attention. A special committee was provided to nominate a new Committee on the National Formulary to have charge of the sixth revision of that standard; the committee is to submit its nominations at the next annual meeting.

Manufacturers were urged to study the respective keeping qualities of preparations made by them in order that the period of permanency may be known at least approximately and that products which may have deteriorated, as a result of conditions of storage and distribution, will not be dispensed.

A comprehensive report dealing with some important phases of Partial Formula Disclosure Legislation was given considerable study and, although no definite decisions were reached, some progress was made toward a full understanding of the difficulties involved and the results to be expected.

The ASSOCIATION decided to meet the issue of Cosmetic Legislation squarely by providing for a special committee of five to make a scientific study of these products from the standpoint of injurious ingredients and harmful effects in order to determine whether restrictive legislation is necessary. So, considerable progress was made with these important questions.

The ASSOCIATION stepped somewhat out of its usual field in expressing itself frankly as deploring the present system of training technicians for clinical diagnostic laboratories under certain conditions; in deciding that greater efforts be made to acquaint medical practitioners with the object, legal status and contents of the National Formulary; and in deciding that more intensive interest be taken in the membership of the ASSOCIATION in the American Conference on Hospital Service by utilizing the opportunity thereby afforded to study the quality of pharmaceutical service rendered in the hospitals of the country. These resolutions deal with conditions which affect pharmacy as a whole much more than is generally understood and if they are aggressively followed up will probably bring about adjustments of considerable importance to the economic as well as professional phases of the drug industry.

The provisions made to encourage student membership in the ASSOCIATION, to continue and strengthen contacts of the ASSOCIATION with other pharmaceutical organizations; the re-indorsement of Resale Price Legislation, and the decision to invite those officials having charge of the enforcement of pharmacy laws to attend the 1929 meeting with the object of forming a permanent organization to assist them in their work were among the other important things which the ASSOCIATION has undertaken to foster during the coming year.

Progressive interesting reports were made on the Headquarters project, for which a site has been acquired, of the growing fund, and the opportunities for aiding in this outstanding promotion.

The Recipe Book will be on the market before the end of the year and the preparation of the Collective Index of the YEAR BOOKS and PROCEEDINGS is well under way.

The Conference of Pharmaceutical Association Secretaries began the first year of their organization with an intensity of purpose and laid plans for coöperative work which will prove valuable to all associations. An achievement of note and very encouraging to all pharmacists, particularly to the officials of the fraternities, was the bringing together of pharmaceutical fraters. The Kappa Psi held a convention extending over 3 days at which representatives were present from all sections. It will encourage others to meet annually, spread and strengthen the spirit of the fraternities.

This editorial could be continued much beyond its present scope, but probably its purpose is now accomplished—that is, to indicate that the ASSOCIATION is undertaking greater efforts for the benefit of pharmacy and to cordially invite every possible support in carrying them through to a successful conclusion. Suggestions, constructive criticism and greater individual interest are desired.—E. F. K.

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## THE ASSOCIATIONS OF PHARMACY IN ANNUAL CONVENTION.

A RADIO TALK, DELIVERED BY L. L. WALTON AT PORTLAND, ME., WEDNESDAY,  
AUGUST 22, 1928.

"I do remember an apothecary and hereabout he dwells."

Romeo would have no trouble finding plenty of the poison venders around the Eastland Hotel this week, for they are here in mass with their wives and sweethearts.

Three groups of altruistic workers laboring to solve problems of vital importance to the public health and welfare pharmacists, chemists, biologists, bacteriologists, pharmacy college deans, professors and pharmacy board members. They come from the East, the West, the North, the South, for they are delegates and members of National associations. Three distinct organizations coöperating in their endeavors, because their problems are so closely related.

They work to find the highest standards for establishing quality and purity of drugs; to develop the methods by which sophistication and adulteration may be detected; to have provided by law proper educational and technical qualifications for the right to practice the profession of pharmacy; and to select, compound and market medicinal products and physicians' prescriptions, and to have established the means by which such standards and qualifications may be proved and certified.

All this is done, so the danger which is always incident to the sale of impure or adulterated drugs to the public, and the compounding of physicians' prescriptions for the sick by incompetents, may be safeguarded by regulations which comprehend the use of the best methods known to science and human progress.

The first of these groups is the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. It represents in its organization 46 state boards of pharmacy, the District of Columbia and the territory of Alaska. Its special object is the establishment of uniform preliminary educational and professional requirements in all of the states for pharmacy licenses, so that a license issued on proved qualifications in any state may be accepted for the right to practice the profession in any or all of the other states without undergoing further professional examination tests. This Association also determines the scientific subjects constituting the licensure examination and the

preliminary and professional requirements which must be satisfied by candidates for admittance thereto.

The sessions of the organization were held on Monday and Tuesday and were presided over by President A. C. Taylor, of Washington, D. C. who for many years has been President of the District of Columbia Board of Pharmacy. On Monday night the Association celebrated its Twenty-fifth Anniversary by a banquet at the Eastland, at which there were sixty delegates from thirty-three states.

Ex-President Walton acted as toastmaster and very interesting responses were made to a number of appropriate toasts. The Association completed its session last night by electing H. M. Lerou of Norwich, Conn., President for the ensuing year. Mr. Lerou has been Secretary of the Connecticut State Board of Pharmacy for many years.

The second group is the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. Its membership consists of fifty-eight of the sixty-three educational institutions in the United States which give courses of instruction and degrees in pharmacy. President Edward Spease, of this Association and Dean of the Department of Pharmacy, Western Reserve University, presided over its sessions which were held, also, on Monday and were completed last night.

The college association was organized nearly thirty years ago to promote the interests of pharmaceutical education, and is to be credited with the marked progress made in advancing the standards for degrees in pharmacy in recent years. This association is a delegate body, and its sessions were attended by ninety-five delegates representing forty-six colleges.

The important actions taken at this convention related to putting into effect, in 1932, a four-year course for graduation in pharmacy, thus coöperating with the boards of pharmacy association's declaration made last year which has the same objective; and subscribing a minimal sum of sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000) to aid in the movement organized by the boards of pharmacy association with a subscription of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for creating a survey of pharmaceutical education and colleges of pharmacy in the United States.

The Association elected as its President for next year Dr. A. G. DuMez, a distinguished pharmaceutical educator from Baltimore, Md., who is now the dean of the Department of Pharmacy, the University of Md.

The third and most important of these pharmaceutical groups meeting here in Portland, Me., this week, is the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. It was organized more than three quarters of a century ago by founders who had an exalted conception of the duties of the pharmacist, his moral obligations in the sale and distribution of drugs and medicines, and the service which marks a true profession. The ASSOCIATION stands to-day a monument to the courage, wisdom, self-sacrifice and patient endeavor of its organizers.

Its membership is representative of all lines of pharmaceutical work, but particularly of those pharmacists who regard their profession as a priceless heritage, and devote their time and thought to the development of the professional and scientific aspects of pharmacy.

This group is the parent organization from which the other two groups of which I have spoken was formed. The plan of meeting during the same week at the same place permits of discussions of the problems of mutual interest, on which it is

necessary to take concerted action. This has brought about a coöperative spirit which, it may be said, is unsurpassed by other organizations.

The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION has been particularly useful in the preparation of the books of standards of the United States Government, known as the United States Pharmacopœia (U. S. P.) and National Formulary (N. F.). When you purchase medicines in a drug store and you find these designations U. S. P. or N. F. appearing upon the labels, you are assured of having received products which conform to the standards of quality, purity and strength required by the Government.

The work this ASSOCIATION does in connection with the production of these books of standards is of the highest type of research, and far-reaching in its relation to the public health. It entitles the organization to a high place among professional and scientific bodies, and to the good-will and support of all the people who in the last analysis are its beneficiaries.

The first session of this third group was held yesterday afternoon when the House of Delegates convened. It was presided over by Chairman, Leonard A. Seltzer, of Detroit, Mich. This division of the ASSOCIATION transacts all the business of the body except that which is administrative. The scientific papers are read and discussed in the several other divisions of the ASSOCIATION known as Sections.

Last night the entire ASSOCIATION was entertained by the Local Entertainment Committee at a banquet given in the beautiful banquet hall of the Eastland Hotel. We were welcomed to Maine and to Portland in the most happy manner by Governor Brewster, who evidenced an acquaintance with our problems which was as surprising as it was comforting to learn, and won for himself expressions of esteem and appreciation by our members seldom noted on such occasions.

Time will not permit of further remarks excepting to say that our members are delighted with their visit to Maine, and with the cordial reception they have received everywhere; they look forward to a most successful convention during the next two days under the guidance of our beloved President Johnson, who traveled all the way across the continent from the State of Washington to preside over our deliberations.

President-Elect, David F. Jones, of South Dakota, was introduced toward the close of the banquet on Monday night. He seemed to think the organization has been running too fast, and suggested that it just "walk" with him next year. I am wondering if he meant for us to *walk* out to the Black Hills, which he held up before us as the Switzerland of America, and hold the next convention there.

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**Prepare for Pharmacy Week, Beginning October 14th. Let It Be Representative of the Activities of Pharmacy.**