

EDITORIAL

E. G. EBERLE, EDITOR

10 West Chase Street, BALTIMORE, MD.

UNIFORM STATE NARCOTIC LAWS.

THE Forty-first annual Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws was held at the Chalfonte-Haddon Hall Hotel, Atlantic City, N. J., on September 8th-14th preceding the annual meeting of the American Bar Association. The Commissioners are officially appointed to represent each state, territory and the District of Columbia and their function is to further uniformity in legislation where uniformity is both desirable and practical.

The Committee on Uniform Narcotic Drug Act is one of the committees of the Uniform Social Welfare Acts Section of the Conference; the committee has had this legislation under consideration for several years and is now working on the fourth tentative draft of a model law; the Committee has received advice and suggestions from the American Medical Association and from the several national pharmaceutical associations represented in the National Drug Trade Conference.

On Wednesday, September 9th, Carson P. Frailey, secretary of the American Drug Manufacturers Association, and president of the National Drug Trade Conference; E. F. Kelly, secretary of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, and secretary of the Conference; and General Counsel E. C. Brokmeyer, of the National Association Retail Druggists, conferred with Judge John P. Deering, *chairman*, and other members of the Committee. They again submitted a brief prepared by a committee of the Drug Trade Conference and also certain additional comments on the Fourth Tentative Draft which has been prepared since the brief was originally submitted.

The pharmaceutical representatives emphasized that such legislation as is required should be supplemental to and an extension of the Harrison Act, which has been found effective in its results, in order to avoid conflicts between Federal and State enforcement and unnecessary confusion, and that additional restrictions and duties should not be imposed on the legal manufacturers and distributors of narcotics who are complying with the provisions of the National Act very satisfactorily according to the reports of the enforcement officials. It is evident that the illegal traffic in narcotic drugs is principally through smugglers and peddlers and that such additional legislation as is necessary should be directed against them.

During the conference the Fourth Tentative Draft was discussed in some detail as far as it affected pharmacy and suggestions were made for amending it in a number of particulars, especially those relating to the keeping of records and accounts.

Harry J. Anslinger, Commissioner of Narcotics, and A. L. Tennyson, counsel to the Commissioner, were present and presented the views and wishes of the Bureau of Narcotics with reference to narcotic legislation by the several states. It is not believed that the Committee will submit a final draft of the proposed Uniform Narcotic Drug Act to the Commissioners at this conference, but that the question will be given further consideration.

It will be recalled that narcotic legislation has been under recent consideration by the legislatures of several states and that rather drastic laws were enacted by

Arizona and Texas. It is hoped that the Commissioners will submit a model law as soon as possible, especially, if it will have the approval of the national Bureau of Narcotics, which is certainly in the best position to advise what is required in state legislation to strengthen the effective enforcement of the Harrison Act and to deal with such narcotic traffic and abuse as may be somewhat local in character.—E. F. K.

PHARMACY IN THE HOSPITALS.

THE American Hospital Association will hold its annual meeting in Toronto, beginning September 28th. A very complete exhibit has been arranged for, the program is comprehensive, and the standing of the contributors assures very profitable and interesting discussions; it is striking, however, that pharmacy is not mentioned, especially in the titles of papers nor in the subjects for discussion. There are a number of addresses, papers and discussions in which pharmacy may receive consideration—"Public Health Relations," "Hospital Organization and Management," "What Place Has Research in the Hospital?" "The Relation of the Cook County Hospital Plan of Administration to Teaching," "The Modern Hospital," "Big Problems for Small Hospital," "What the Public Thinks of Present Day Hospital Administration," etc.

Doubtless, the hospitals are sources of information on every phase of pharmaceutical research and the reports thereon made at the annual meeting as well as of the work in hospitals should be made of record accordingly. The list of papers read before the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION indicate a place of importance in hospital pharmacy. Without any intent to criticize the carefully-prepared and comprehensive program referred to, or to make comparisons of relative values, examples are given to impress the importance and possibilities of pharmaceutical service: "Deterioration of Certain Medicaments under the Influence of Light;" "Incompatibilities of Some Important Newer Remedies;" Studies of U. S. P. and N. F. Assays and Bio-Assays—Ergot, Digitalis, Spirit of Nitrous Ether, Strychnine; stabilization, proper care in making solutions for injections, antiseptic valuations; the effect of storage in ampuls and other glass containers. The studies presented at the Miami meeting include all of these and more, and encouragement by hospital managements would, we believe, prove of great value to the physicians, surgeons and the public. There is no reason why pharmacy should not have a larger place in hospitals, not only from the indicated standpoints but from the reasoning which applies to requirements for the practice of pharmacy. Coöperation in the hospital service would answer many questions and solve many problems that are met within the practice of medicine and pharmacy and public health matters.

"The Modern Hospital Year Book," under *Suggestions for Manning the Pharmacy*, touches in a general way the comments made in the foregoing and is quoted in the following:

"Because of the vital importance of the pharmacy in emergencies, it should be kept constantly open. The function of the pharmacy as an adjunctive aid to the physician and to the surgeon makes it one of the most essential departments of the hospital. It takes its place with all other staff services in the training of

pupil nurses. Because its interrelationships with all other departments are so intimate, the pharmacy (even though it be supervised by a competent and experienced pharmacist) deserves a considerable share of the time and attention of every hospital superintendent."

A criticism may be in order concerning the suggestion enclosed in parenthesis, namely, there should be no exception relative to the supervision of the hospital pharmacy. The records concerning pharmacy speak of its contributions to medicine; the educational advancement, and the developments of recent years indicate greater importance and opportunities for pharmacy; in our opinion, therefore, wherever pharmacy renders service it should have due recognition.

Men of different professions may work together, and should, but each class is best qualified to render service in the department from which the individuals have been trained by experience and education; with coördinated coöperation each class performs the best service for the public and therein is the duty.

PHARMACY WEEK AS A COÖPERATIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR ACQUAINTING THE PUBLIC WITH PHARMACY.

IN order to be helpful coöperation must come from within the ranks; each division of the drug-trade activities has its peculiar problems, but there are certain efforts in which all the divisions can have a part and be mutually helpful. Indecision and working at cross purposes develops weakness which other groups take advantage of for promoting their own interests.

The public has no clear appreciation of the fundamentally important rôle of pharmacy in the activities included in the drug-trade activities and, as a consequence, is not deeply concerned about pharmacy; this points out one of our duties, namely, to acquaint the public with pharmacy. The book, "Fighting Disease with Drugs," recently published, will acquaint druggists with pharmacy's part in the development of agents which are useful in preventing and treating diseases.

J. C. Merriam writing in *Science* said—"Research should lead to construction and is not complete unless the results are available for general use," so it is a duty incumbent upon pharmacists to acquaint the public with facts bearing on pharmacy's part in eliminating disease, superstition and ignorance, improving and enlarging the materia medica. Valuable products for alleviation of pain, suffering and disease have been misused, the most important of them, long before scientific application was made of them. These habit-forming drugs have shown the professional spirit of pharmacists, for they have been among the first to recognize the misuse of these narcotics and pointed out the need for regulating the dispensing of them. Restrictions were placed upon their sale long before the Harrison law was passed and state legislation enacted for that purpose. The PROCEEDINGS of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION of 1903 and 1904 contain reports which led to the passage of the Act referred to, but all too frequently these facts are overlooked or purposely ignored.

Pharmacy week offers the opportunity to pharmacists to acquaint the public with what pharmacists have done, their efforts in promoting pharmaceutical education and safeguarding the public, and with the difficulties that hinder these promotions.

Dr. Walter F. Taylor, writing in the *Scientific Monthly* said: (1) "The intellectual worker should realize that he, himself, as well as the public has a definite responsibility for the condition under which he works. . . ." (2) "One essential to effective coöperation among scientific men is the definite abandonment of ultra-individualism, and its replacement by group loyalty, sympathy and mutual helpfulness."—"The ethics of coöperation are higher and considerably more difficult of successful attainment than the ethics of individualism, but they promise far more for the future."

Pharmacy week should induce druggists to think deeply of their obligations to pharmacy and also of the importance of its service. It cannot be accomplished by passive thought, by effervescent enthusiasm, but by realization of the duties and valuation of its service supported by coöperation in solving problems which are accepted to be of importance to all concerned, including the public and, thereafter, insistence on due recognition backed by a rational understanding and the creation of an appreciation which will offer the greatest opportunities for the development of pharmacy.

PHARMACY IN THE JAPANESE ARMY.*

RECENT changes made in connection with pharmacy in the Japanese Army give an idea of some of these activities. Pharmacist-General Matajiro Watanabe, who will reach the age of retirement from active service next year, has been placed on the retired list. Four other pharmacist-officers were similarly placed necessitating a shifting among a relative number of younger pharmacist-officers.

Pharmacist-Major-General Bunta Taguchi, who succeeds General Watanabe as head of the Army Health Material Arsenal, is a graduate of the Department of Pharmacy in the Imperial University of Tokyo and at present is a member of the faculty of the Military Medical School.

General Watanabe graduated from the Department of Pharmacy in the Imperial University of Tokyo in 1900 and has served the Imperial Army for the past thirty years, devoting his efforts largely in improving the health materials of the Army; in 1929, he was promoted to the position of Pharmacist-Lieutenant General. He is a member of the Japanese Pharmacopœial Commission and is one of the *Councillors* of the Japanese Pharmaceutical Society. Pharmacist-Rear-Admiral Isano also is on the retired list; he, too, is one of the *Councillors* of the Japanese Pharmaceutical Society. Reference to these changes, as before stated, is commented on, because of its bearing on the pharmaceutical status in the Japanese Service.

HEIDELBERG INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH.

THE Institute for Medical Research at Heidelberg has recently been dedicated; it comprises, in fact, four institutes: The Pathologic Institute, under direction of Professor von Krehl; the Institute for Physics, under direction of Prof. Dr. Hausser; the Physiologic Institute under Prof. Dr. Meyerhof, and the Institute of Chemistry under Prof. Dr. Kuhn. The central idea of the institute is the knowledge that the development of modern medicine is closely dependent on the progress and development of the sciences and research in fields that lie between these and medicine.

* A report in the *Japanese Retail Druggist* is drawn upon for this comment.