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PHARMACEUTICAL MUSEUMS AND ARCHIVES.*

BY FREDERICK J. WULLING.¹

Every state should have a pharmaceutical museum which should contain archives for the safekeeping of historical records of local and state interest. Every state should have a definite program and procedure for compiling authentic records of important pharmaceutical events. Events of national pharmaceutical importance occurring in any state should also be reported to the Historical Section of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

The museums and archives would best be in the charge of the respective state associations and should all be operated upon a uniform plan that could be prepared by this Section. Much historical material is now remaining unrecorded or going to waste.

The museums should have definite, convenient and preferably permanent locations and should be in the charge of historically-minded curators who could also be the chairmen of well-selected historical committees or sections. Especially interested and qualified curators, who would serve willingly and efficiently and without compensation, can be found in every state and such should be appointed for life. Universities or colleges in the respective states would no doubt be glad to house the museums free of charge. Some or all pharmaceutical faculties would be ready, I am certain, to appoint their most historically interested members to the honor of serving as state pharmaceutical curators. Local and state historical associations usually are anxious to encourage, advise or help in matters of this kind.

* Section on Historical Pharmacy, A. PH. A., Toronto meeting, 1932.

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They have facilities, plans and equipment for selecting, securing, housing and recording historical material and would be glad to help or instruct curators and some would even place their facilities at the disposal of persons officially designated to start or carry on historical activities.

This Section is the logical agency to start the movement suggested. First, the matter should be discussed to ascertain whether there is enough favorable sentiment to promote it and if so, the Section officers should be advised if not instructed to communicate with the officers of every state association to ascertain what coöperation could be had from them. It might be a good plan to enlist one or more AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION members in every state, preferably such who are interested in the general objectives of this Section, to emphasize with the state association officers the importance of such an undertaking. Some state associations are not living up to their original aims and purposes and are becoming addicted so preponderatingly to commercial matters that a little stimulation from AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION members would be helpful to them and to the general cause of pharmaceutical welfare. Other helpful agencies may be thought of by members of this Section to stimulate nationwide interest in this suggestion. There comes to my own mind the fact that the Minneapolis Veteran Druggists' Association and the St. Paul Veteran Druggists' Association, upon my initiative, appointed historical committees to gather all of the historical information in the memories of the members, particularly of a local nature, which would otherwise be lost to posterity upon the passing on of the veterans. It is surprising what historical information has already been gathered and is in process by these enthusiastic veterans, much of which is of permanent recording value. Three of the veterans, through my invitation, contributed valuable items to our own museum: a pair of very old medical saddle-bags with old medicines still in them, an old bloodletting instrument and an ancient wooden mortar and pestle. These would have been lost had it not been for my vigilance.

This Section is in an authoritative position to stimulate interest in historical material. The lack of such interest on the part of some pharmacists is really unpardonable. The interest must be actively and effectively engendered by those who already have it. A case in point occurred recently in Southern Minnesota when a very old pharmacy, one of the oldest in the state, went entirely out of business. It contained a mint of old and quaint shelf bottles, mortars, labels, prescriptions, scales, show bottles, weights, graduates, sales records over eighty years old, very old and original formulas, old books, etc. Some of the material belonged to the early pioneering age in the state and can never be duplicated. Because it had no economic value, it was placed on the dump heap. The other pharmacist in the town was just too indifferent or too stupid to save these items so valuable historically. Others like him should be instructed without delay. And this happened in a state where I have been continuously for over forty years advocating and even pleading for historical conservation. Much work is to be done and more workers must be enlisted. It is not easy to enlist them.

The energy and time I found it necessary to expend on getting donations to our nucleus of a museum never yielded commensurate results. It seems to be the human nature of some to part with nothing except for a price or some remuneration. Some historical items, especially books, I just had to buy. One should expect to

pay for some desirable pieces. Recently I felt myself fortunate in the opportunity to purchase a copy of Dr. E. R. Squibb's personal diary for sixty dollars, a reasonable price. To make certain of such acquisitions now and when I will be gone I established The Wulling Trust Fund at the University of Minnesota. Out of the earnings of this fund periodic acquisitions are assured. I had hoped others would add to the fund or establish similar ones, but although there are many well-to-do pharmacists in Minnesota, no similar provision has been made. Possibly this Section or some of its members could interest those who can afford to do so, to create similar funds. Individuals or groups or associations might respond to solicitation. Pharmacists on the whole are prosperous and it is surprising that not more are altruistically inclined. It may be that the financially able ones have never thought of the splendid contributions they could make toward historical conservation through purchase, and invitations to that end might be fruitful. I firmly believe that an appeal to that end by this Section would strike some pharmacists sympathetically. While I do not make an outright recommendation to that effect, I think it would be quite within the scope of work of this Section to discuss the desirability of such an appeal in behalf of state museums and especially in behalf of the proposed museum in the coming Headquarters Building. Indeed, I think it would be consistent to suggest that every state make contributions of museum items of national importance to the A. PH. A. Headquarters' Museum as soon as it is established.

PROFESSIONAL PHARMACY. IV.*

BY C. B. JORDAN.

Complying with the request of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, I am again reporting my results of the continuation of the study of Professional Pharmacies. My first three reports can be found as follows: Professional Pharmacy, *JOUR. A. PH. A.*, 18 (1929), 1170-1176; Professional Pharmacy II, *JOUR. A. PH. A.*, 19 (1930), 870-874; and Professional Pharmacy III, *JOUR. A. PH. A.*, 20 (1931), 930-938. Last year I secured through the assistance of friends a fairly complete list of professional drug stores of the United States. I am not at liberty to distribute this list because it was secured at considerable labor and expense. Frank Delgado, Drug and Chemical Assistant, Merchandising Research Division, Department of Commerce, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, asked me if I would include a questionnaire for him when I circularized the professional pharmacies this year. I was glad to comply with this request, but when Mr. Delgado's questionnaire reached me I found that it consisted of 66 questions with a sufficient number of sub-divisions to make a total of 130 questions. I intended to add a number of questions but found Mr. Delgado's questionnaire so complete that it included practically all of the information I was seeking.

On April 18, 1932, I sent a copy of this questionnaire to every professional pharmacist, together with a letter urging their coöperation in giving the information desired. The questionnaire was so long that I seriously doubted that any number of pharmacists would attempt to complete it. I am happy to say that

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