

ADDRESS OF CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.*

BY THOMAS ROACH.

To the Members of the House of Delegates of the American Pharmaceutical Association:

I thoroughly agree with the views expressed by a former chairman of the House of Delegates in his opening address—"that there is need to stimulate Pharmacy to a fuller use of the facilities which organization has made available," and that "this need should be emphasized time and time again."

Repetition of the above injunction cannot, for the good of Pharmacy and those who labor within its folds, be uttered too often.

If I were a Moses to the pharmacists of the country, I would enjoin them to bind that motto—"make use of the facilities of your organization," upon their "arms and their foreheads, and again upon their doorposts." It is a sad commentary upon our profession that we have so lightly regarded the organizations that have been perfected and kept alive for our protection and growth.

As pharmacists and business men, we, as a class, do a lot of kicking and complaining about things that are not to our liking, yet make very little effort in getting our organizations, whether City, State or National, busy on the job of helping relieve the aggravating conditions.

One must inevitably come to the conclusion that, as officers of drug organizations, we have not done a good job of selling to the rank and file that we are trying (or pretending) to serve. The impression must not be left that no effort along this line has been made, or is not being made at this time, but the amount that has been done is so small in comparison to the work that is yet to be accomplished, we feel like saying of it that "the mountain is yet to be scaled."

Your Chairman is not coming to you with any new-fangled ideas or a vision of a "Utopian's condition of Pharmacy," but he does believe that Pharmacy should be organized down to the "cross-roads" which would make the full force and effect of our organization felt, like our friend, the American Medical Association does.

From its very inception—eighty years ago, the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION has sought to adapt itself to the problems of the individual pharmacist, and labor to make his way more pleasant and his endeavors more profitable; also, to provide him an avenue to express his ideas and impressions.

The creation of the House of Delegates of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL



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ASSOCIATION was to enable the ASSOCIATION to better carry out this splendid ideal, for in its forum, delegates from the various State Associations and affiliated groups have a voice and vote in its deliberations.

It seems to me that one of the results of the "economic revolution" through which we have been passing during the last three years, is the appearing on the horizon of the "day of the little business man."

Big business with its chains and combinations, have proven themselves wholly inadequate to deal with the situation.

Senator Royal Copeland of New York recently said in a speech delivered to the United States Senate that:

"As we look back over the period since November, 1929, and witness the efforts that have been made to revive business, employment and prices, and with what results, it must come to each of us that there is a lesson that the Nation must learn as to where our greatest reliance can be placed in such an emergency.

"Not to the so-called leaders of industry and finance, to whom we had come to look as the sources of all wisdom in practical affairs, can we turn for guidance. It is a question whether their performances are not largely responsible for our dilemma.

"But there is a solid satisfaction in the part which the ordinary business man has taken in these trying times. Except for that we would have fared far worse.

"Amidst all the turmoil it is the small man who has kept his head. It is our neighbor—the retail merchant—who has stood in the breach and provided sorely needed merchandise on credit to his customers, when our great institutions were frantically forcing collections, calling loans and laying off employees. If we would know who it is that has conducted our Community Chests across the country and subscribed largely to what went into them for the relief of the distressed, go into any town in your State and look over the roster. We will be struck by the fact that it reads like a directory of local retail stores. It is this same class which has furnished more nearly the normal taxes than any other section of the business community.

"It is to the legion of ordinary business men, for their sanity and courage in times when their 'betters' were in retreat that our hats may well be lifted. And their services and needs should not be forgotten by their country."

To these words of wisdom I could add but little except to say "them's my sentiments."

The point I wish to emphasize is that it is to the small independent druggist who makes up no small part of that "legion of ordinary business men" referred to by Senator Copeland, that the country is bound to look in these times of stress, and from a pharmaceutical standpoint it is they who are able to—and must—"carry on."

Dr. F. J. Cullen, Chief of Drug Control, Food and Drug Administration, Washington, D. C., was awarded the Order of the Purple Heart, receiving this distinction because of his overseas service during the World War. The Order of the Purple Heart was founded by General George Washington for distinguished military

service during the Revolutionary War. Dr. Cullen has also received two silver star citations, and has been recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross. Dr. Cullen was the regimental surgeon, Tenth Field Artillery, Third Regular U. S. Army Division, during the War.