

EDITORIAL

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THE SEASON'S GREETINGS.

PARTS of an editorial of a previous year are repeated in the following: "We are prone to view the opportunities of other activities as more promising, but proper search and endeavor reveal that the 'acres of diamonds' are where we concentrate our well-directed efforts. Whatever the passing year may have been, a new year is expressive of hope, which, according to Jeremy Collier, 'is a vigorous principle; it is furnished with light and heat to advise and execute; it sets the head and heart to work, and animates a man to do his utmost. And thus, by perpetually pushing and assurance, it puts a difficulty out of countenance, and makes a seeming impossibility give way.'"

Ten years ago the A. PH. A. Headquarters was little more than a dream; now it has become a realization, for on January 1st the officers of the ASSOCIATION will be located in its beautiful home at Constitution Ave. and 22nd Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.¹

We express to all members our *Christmas Wish* for a joyful season of gladness, health and happiness. The *New Year Message* is one of hope—that the financial and industrial activities may improve, and confidence and courage be strengthened with return of greater prosperity.

FOOD, DRUG AND COSMETIC LEGISLATION.

AT ITS first meeting, in 1852, the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION adopted seven objects, the first being "To improve and regulate the drug market by preventing the importation of inferior, adulterated or deteriorated drugs and by detecting and exposing home adulterations." The third object included "encouraging home production and manufacture in the several departments of the drug business." The ASSOCIATION has a commendable and consistent record in supporting every effort to enact and strengthen national and state legislation regulating the strength, quality and purity of drugs, medicines and medical supplies. Its proceedings show that this subject has been considered, in some form, at every annual meeting. Its officers and members have had an important part in drafting and securing the enactment of every state and national law relating to pure drugs.

They took a prominent place, so far as drugs were concerned, in the Pure Food and Drug Congress, the body that brought about the adoption of the Pure Food and Drugs Act of June 30, 1906, which has since been the basis of similar legislation by every state of the Union and which was pronounced by a select committee of the British Parliament as the most effective legislation on the subject by any of the civilized nations. To their credit, medicine and pharmacy had developed satisfactory standards for drugs and preparations, in the U. S. P. and N. F., which were adopted in the Act.

Twenty-seven years of enforcement have very naturally brought to light a number of omissions and defects in the law. Developments in this field have

¹ Post office address, 2215 Constitution Ave., Washington, D. C.

brought about other deficiencies, especially with respect to the control of advertising. Cosmetics which were not included have increased tremendously in popularity and use.

The few amendments to the Act adopted by Congress, while improving, have not remedied the situation. Collateral legislation, such as that with respect to use of the mails and to the regulation of interstate commerce, has aided materially in the correction of abuses but has not checked them satisfactorily. Various officials of the governments and others have suggested amendments from time to time without much success other than to draw attention to the need for them. The belief has grown in recent years that the Act should be amended or completely rewritten to afford the protection that the public requires in the selection and use of these products which so materially affect public health and the welfare of the people. With the advent of the present administration, this proposal was given active support by the officials of the Department of Agriculture, leading to the drafting of a complete revision which was introduced by Senator Copeland, S. 1944, and by Representative Sirovich, H. R. 6110.

In 1914, the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION suggested the organization of the National Drug Trade Conference made up of delegates from the national pharmaceutical associations, to bring about concerted action of the profession and industry on matters of general interest to all branches and has consistently supported it. The Conference has functioned successfully and now embraces nine national associations. Its first effort was to represent pharmacy in securing the Harrison Act regulating narcotics. It has had a part since that time in the consideration of all national legislation affecting pharmacy and the drug industry. Through the Conference, the profession and industry can present a united front in support of or in opposition to any matter not controversial among its member associations and without restricting the freedom of any association to take care of questions of particular interest to them. The Conference meets annually and functions, in the interim, through an Executive Committee representing each member association.

The movement to amend or rewrite the Food and Drugs Act naturally had the immediate attention of the Conference. The officials were requested to grant a meeting which was arranged for April 27th, last. The representatives of the Conference expected to see and discuss the draft of the proposed legislation. Instead, they were requested to submit suggestions which they were not prepared to do. The result was a general discussion, after which the offer of later coöperation in drafting the legislation was made. The next development was the introduction of the Copeland and Sirovich bills as drafted by officials and representatives of the Department of Agriculture and which have had wide publicity and discussion in the pharmaceutical press and at many meetings. It will be recalled that Mr. W. G. Campbell, Chief of the Food and Drug Administration, addressed the Madison meeting and that after full consideration of the bill, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, that the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION record its approval of the proposed changes in the Federal Food and Drug Law in so far as they provide for more effective protection of the public health, and be it further

“Resolved, that in the interest of a sound public policy the delegation of arbitrary discretionary powers in connection with the enforcement of Food and Drug legislation be disapproved.”

At the annual meeting of the Executive Committee, on November 1st, this legislation was made an important topic for consideration at the annual meeting of the National Drug Trade Conference on December 5th. Dr. James H. Beal was requested, because of his long experience with and through knowledge of the subject, to prepare a complete report on the Copeland Bill and its probable effects on pharmacy and the drug industry. This report was a masterly discussion of the bill and of its defects and dangers so far as pharmacy is concerned. It conceded that certain conditions should be controlled but showed that this could be done most effectively by amendments to the present Act, thus preserving the mass of judicial decisions under it and the state acts and making simpler the necessary amendments of the latter by the several states. After full consideration, the Conference authorized a special committee representing each member association and with Dr. Beal as chairman, to prepare the report for submission to the Senate Committee having the bill in charge, to draft such amendments to the present Act as are necessary to control advertising, etc., and to represent the Conference at the hearing on the bill on October 7th.

The committee sat in Washington on December 6th, and prepared an amended copy of the Act embodying the various suggestions for its improvement. Chairman Beal was selected to represent the Conference and as the first speaker for pharmacy at the hearing, at which time his report and the amended act were to be submitted.

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace opened the hearing on December 7th, which was before a sub-committee consisting of Senators Copeland, McNary and Caraway and of the Senate Committee on Commerce, in support of the bill and was followed by Mr. Campbell who explained each section, covering several hours, submitting information and examples in support of them.

Dr. Beal was called, following Mr. Campbell as the first speaker in opposition and was introduced by President Carson P. Frailey of the Conference. He spoke for almost two hours, during which he had splendid attention and gave the objections of the Conference to the bill and its suggestion for the amendment of the present Act to correct the deficiencies which the Conference not only “admitted” but “asserted,” should be corrected in the public interest. The hearing adjourned at about 7:00 P.M.

On December 8th a number of speakers were heard in favor of and against the bill, which completed the hearing. It is expected that the Copeland Bill will be completely amended or discarded in favor of amendments to the present Act—Dr. Beal, S. L. Hilton and E. F. Kelly were the A. P. H. A. delegates to the Conference. Many other members of the ASSOCIATION were present as delegates from the other associations. The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION has strongly supported the Conference and has worked closely with it under the conviction that such a representative body is required to deal with matters of general interest.

The Conference did a splendid work for pharmacy in supporting the purposes of the Copeland Bill, in opposing the provisions it considered as unsound and dangerous and in submitting, in correct form, the amendments to the present Food

and Drugs Act which will effectively protect the public health and welfare. Every pharmaceutical interest should support the Conference.—E. F. Kelly.

STUDIES IN PROFESSIONAL ACCURACY.

RECOGNIZING the need for accuracy in professional pharmaceutical work, the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION has appointed a committee to study the whole field of prescription compounding with the object of establishing acceptable tolerances in this exacting branch of pharmacy. Important data have already been collected regarding prescriptions for capsules, powders, pills, and other types and classifications. The work has received the coöperation of boards of pharmacy, and several colleges of pharmacy have participated in the studies which have been made.

No doubt some few years may be required to complete the task. However, once the field has been covered adequately, information will be available upon which to base authoritative conclusions regarding the degree of accuracy which should be met with in prescription practice. At the present time, no one is in position to state what tolerances or deviations should be permitted, or what accuracy should be required. Law enforcement officials, when dealing with prescription compounding, must rely on their unsupported and purely arbitrary judgment. It is the purpose of the ASSOCIATION to supply the facts which will enable enforcement officers to act wisely and with due consideration to the many variables which must be taken into account.

A closely related study has been assigned to the Committee on Weights and Measures. This committee will undertake the collection of factual information dealing with the weighing and measuring apparatus now found in drug stores. It is recognized that professional accuracy is largely dependent upon accurate apparatus. It is, therefore, important that a study be made of the professional and technical equipment available in the drug store for professional work. In fact, in some states, legislation is being proposed to enable the board of pharmacy, or some other state agency, to determine what scientific and professional equipment a drug store must possess. The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION has undertaken the job of ascertaining the actual facts so that legislation, if any is needed, may be in accordance with known conditions.

It is felt that the Committees on Prescription Tolerances and on Weights and Measures have an unusual opportunity for constructive work, a work which will greatly aid in the development of professional pharmacy and be of real value to the practicing pharmacist.—R. L. SWAIN, *President*.

LOOKING BACKWARD AND THINKING FORWARD.

THE beginning of another year prompts thoughts of activities that have engaged us and of the possibilities in which we may share during the year to come.

While much preliminary work had been done in preparation for a headquarters building for the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, systematic plans were

formulated at a meeting in Washington of its Executive Committee and other members of the ASSOCIATION. At this meeting—on December 7, 1923—faith was expressed, based on what pharmacy had done and on its greater opportunities and possibilities.

Those who attended the meeting referred to, expressed confidence in the success of this important undertaking, because of what pharmacy had accomplished, and the need for greater accomplishments as a duty to maintain Pharmacy's place as a profession and a public health activity, and extend its service.

American Pharmacy was then entering upon a new and important undertaking and those interested looked back to the past, surveyed the present and considered the possibilities of the future—it resulted in a call to duty which implied that pharmacists should do no less than had been done. The expression of faith has resulted in a building on one of the most beautiful sites of Washington and the structure has been declared by the press, laity, as well as pharmacists and groups of the drug trade, as representative of the finest art and architecture.

As Chairman H. A. B. Dunning said at the Madison meeting of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION:

"We now have ready for occupancy and use the first unit of an institution which will, we believe, develop rapidly and will become the real headquarters of professional pharmacy in this country. This unit is a credit to the ASSOCIATION and to all those who have coöperated in providing it. It illustrates what it is possible for pharmacy to do and should stimulate all of us to see that our profession is provided with such a home as is appropriate to its purposes and as will enable it to function most effectively for the American people and American pharmacists."

It is for us to look again to the past, survey the present and consider the possibilities of the future. Considering the number engaged in pharmacy, a small monthly individual contribution for the year 1934 would create an Endowment Fund which would for all time take care of overhead and running expenses of the building.

As Chairman Dunning reported:

"The research laboratories, chemical, physical and biological, will be housed in a separate building which has been provided for and which will be erected as soon as the present building can be occupied and the questions in connection with it settled. The general plans for the laboratory building are already under consideration.

"Three state associations have contributed special funds for designated purposes. The Texas Pharmaceutical Association for furnishing the offices of the Editor, the Maryland Pharmaceutical Association for furnishing the offices of the Secretary and the Kansas Pharmaceutical Association have not as yet decided for what their fund is to be used. Suitable acknowledgment will be made of these splendid contributions and it is hoped that the other state associations will make contributions for special purposes, thus emphasizing the close relations between them and the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and associating the name of each of them with the project."

The fine support given by pharmacists and drug-trade activities to the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION accomplished much this year; true, it may be that the greatest results have been corrective, for properly shaping legislation, but those who have given thought to what might have been realize the great importance. The location of the headquarters in Washington will bring greater opportunities, consequent achievements and results.