

ADDRESS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

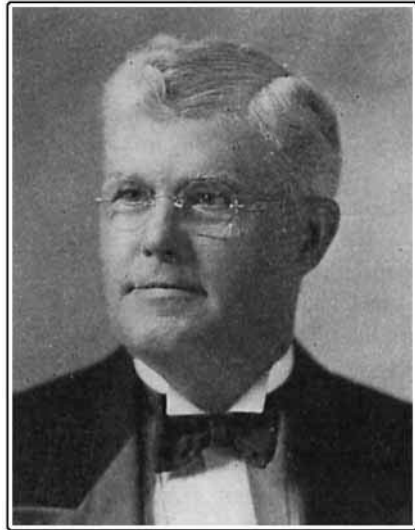
BY J. W. SLOCUM.

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

To be elected Chairman of the House of Delegates is a distinct honor which I deeply appreciate. It came wholly as a surprise and unsolicited at the Toronto meeting last year. As your Chairman, I shall endeavor to decide impartially the will of the House.

Perhaps never in pharmaceutical history have there been so many intricate problems facing the members of our profession as exist to-day.

A speaker of 50 years ago might, honestly, have made a similar statement but that does not indicate it would not be more true several decades later. The years have brought new problems never even dreamed of a half century ago. The coined phrase "Profitless Prosperity" was not applicable to that day and age; it describes a frenzied, and almost fanatical theory of intensive merchandising which should have had little place in the practice of a profession such as ours. The race to make volume the greatest objective has caused men to lose sight of the true values, originally intended to be achieved. The founders of our profession fondly hoped that pharmaceutical service would always be considered of paramount importance, instead of being represented in the development of gigantic merchandising emporiums such as we have to-day.



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In spite of such developments, we are glad there are still men and women who honor the profession of their adoption and still adhere to the conviction that humanity will continue to appreciate the best of pharmaceutical service. For more than 80 years the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION has promoted the highest principles of professional pharmacy and despite the tendency of the times, has engendered within its members a love and devotion that will never die. Much sacrifice has been necessary to bring this organization to where it stands to-day and those of us who are here, should not be slow to recognize the debt of gratitude we owe to those who made it possible.

As the years go by we become more appreciative of real values and we hope that, within this organization, our appreciation may be demonstrated by becoming more familiar with the precepts and principles for which it stands.

It frequently happens in large organizations that many of their members do not fully understand the functions of certain sections with which they should be familiar. That is doubtless true of this the parent organization of American Pharmacy.

With this idea in mind it occurred to me that a brief review of certain phases of our organization might be worth while, and especially that pertaining to the branch known as the House of Delegates. I take it that almost every branch of pharmacy in the United States is represented at this meeting. If they are not, we feel certain that they should be.

This should be a sort of home-coming for all members of the family. The leading officials of State associations are neglecting an opportunity if they do not attend the annual sessions of this great organization. I have been so impressed with the importance of this suggestion that last spring a letter was addressed to all State association presidents and secretaries suggesting that if Executive Committees had their attention directed to this matter and their coöperation solicited, something definite might be accomplished. Some State officials replied that they were already sending their leading officials to the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION conventions, implying that they had long since recognized the importance of such a move. We are certainly glad that all associations were not delinquent in this matter, but hope the letter did reach certain states which gave some thought to the idea.

Attention was called to the fact that an ideal representative body could be assembled, if all State associations would act upon the suggestion.

To the president and secretary of State associations, their members look for a progressive program, and conventions such as this are intended to provide inspiration and stimulate creative effort. The House of Delegates is the legislative branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. Among its many duties, it receives the reports of standing committees, elects and nominates certain officers, selects the place of meeting and prepares the resolutions for adoption.

It is composed of accredited delegates from State associations, the Conference of Pharmaceutical Association' Secretaries, the Conference of Pharmaceutical Law Enforcement Officials, the Plant Science Seminar, the National Association of Retail Druggists, National Wholesale Druggists' Association, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, National Association Boards of Pharmacy, American Drug Manufacturers' Association, the Proprietary Association, American Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association and Federal Wholesale Druggists' Association.

You will observe therefore that the By-Laws have provided for a thoroughly representative body including all branches of the drug industry.

It is obvious, then, that the State associations having a majority of the delegates of this body, if they have availed themselves of that privilege, are in a position of influence which should be used for strengthening their organizations. And, if strong State associations are built up, the result will be reflected in a stronger parent association.

Constant contact with such institutions as this can only result in greater enthusiasm for the betterment of pharmacy and that, primarily, is the only excuse for its existence.

Upon the Chairman of the House of Delegates devolves the duty of appointing a nomination committee of nine members whose duty it shall be to nominate the candidates for the offices of President, First and Second Vice-President, and the candidates for membership in the Council. This Committee shall also nominate the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the House of Delegates.

At the final session of this body the Chairman shall appoint a committee of five members on Place of Meeting and this committee shall report at the second session of the next annual convention. Among the most important committees of such an organization as this, is the Resolutions Committee, and upon the House of Delegates is placed the responsibility of its appointment. To this committee the address of the president of the ASSOCIATION is referred.

Even a proposed amendment to the By-Laws must be submitted in writing at one session of the House of Delegates and such resolution may be acted upon at the next session.

Your Chairman calls your attention to these provisions of the By-Laws, not because of anything new concerning them, but rather to place the proper emphasis upon the important responsibilities which are yours as delegates to this most honorable body.

One of my predecessors took occasion, a few years ago, to say that "The House of Delegates is the foremost body that can at this time be brought together representing pharmacy in all of its many, many phases."

Now, all this would appear to be more or less of a eulogy but to say the least, it is not a eulogy over the remains of the departed. The body is still intact and functioning in the best of health. Rather, we have tried to make you proud of the institution of which you are members. When the realization of our importance is brought home to us, our loyalty is assured. If we make use of the organizational facilities we now have, we shall make definite progress.

In recent months, much has been said and done to detract from serious thought along the lines of professional service. The National Industrial Recovery Act and the adoption of codes of fair competition have occupied our almost undivided attention.

Many stores are greatly concerned as to whether they will be able to survive or not, and it is to be hoped that the recovery steps taken will prove to be a panacea for their ills. Stabilization and maintenance of resale prices are possible attainments of the recovery act and this to my mind is the most encouraging feature possible of achievement.

The Century of Progress has given our profession an unusual opportunity to impress the world with its real importance. Those who assumed charge of the Century of Progress Exhibit have very successfully depicted the growth and development of Pharmaceutical Education and legislation for the past one hundred years. It is worthy of note, that the height of interest to the public is the semi-circular prescription compounding case, where pharmacists are daily performing many duties of their profession in full view of the public.

It is more than passing strange that in a gigantic exposition, where there is so much to attract the attention, that the simple compounding of medicines should receive more than a hurried glance.

The display of the famous Ebers Papyrus, the earliest known book of remedies, in contrast with the United States Pharmacopœia and National Formulary of the present day is a very unique educational exhibit. The romantic story of drug discovery and development bears an interest to the laymen as well as to the chemist, the pharmacist and the medical practitioner.

The culmination of the hopes and ambitions of many, a home for American

Pharmacy, is about to be realized in the completion of the Pharmacy Building in Washington. This is an outstanding achievement in the annals of pharmaceutical history and will, doubtless, impress the people of the world as no other single event has ever done. And so our profession has kept in step with the progress of the century just passed. We are justly proud of its accomplishments.

In the past few years we have been passing through trying times. It is difficult under circumstances such as these to undertake and promote new projects. But now that the tide is turning, it is highly probable that new projects will receive more encouragement.

From an economic standpoint, many things have been discouraging from the retailers' point of view. Much has been said about the dispensing of medicines by practicing physicians, and some have indicated that this condition was improving, but when you survey the situation in the various districts of most any state, you will still find this most serious complaint among retail druggists.

Our schools of medicine are doing little to alleviate this condition. Not long since I had a conversation with a school official of a large university, and he told of an interview with a medical student. The student indicated that prescription writing was taught only half-heartedly and said that a large majority of a graduating class made the assertion that they intended to dispense their own medicines. What other result could be expected when they were not encouraged to write prescriptions?

It occurs to me that here is a field for fruitful study and investigation by the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, which might prove of great value to the retail drug industry.

There may never come a time when all the evils to which we are heir will be corrected, but a program of constructive effort along these lines would be welcomed throughout the entire country.

There never was a time when it was so necessary to present a solid front and march in unison as it is to-day. Petty jealousies should be eliminated and sectional prejudices forgotten. If we are to win in the struggle to bring pharmacy back to a firm foundation, it will take all the unified forces and dominant courage we are able to muster. But with the best brains of the industry working together in a common cause we shall prevail.

"The Gravimetric and Volumetric Determination of Brucine and Strychnine as Dichromate," by I. M. Kolthoff.¹—Brucine salts yield a precipitate with potassium dichromate which, after drying over deliquescent sodium bromide, has the composition $(C_{23}H_{28}N_2O_4)_2 \cdot H_2Cr_2O_7 \cdot 5H_2O$. Strychnine dichromate prepared under the same conditions has the composition $(C_{21}H_{22}N_2O_2)_2 \cdot H_2Cr_2O_7 \cdot H_2O$. Gravimetric and volumetric procedures are described for the quantitative determination of brucine and strychnine as dichromates.

"The Determination of Strychnine and Brucine as Hydroferrocyanides and Their Separation by Means of Ferrocyanide," by I. M. Kolthoff.—The sensitivity of the precipitation of strychnine and brucine in hydrochloric acid medium with hydroferrocyanide has been determined.

Strychnine can be determined with great accuracy by precipitation as hydroferrocyanide. The precipitate is weighed in the air in dry form. The method yields quantitative results even at great dilution. The determination of brucine is less accurate owing to the greater solubility of its hydroferrocyanide. A simple method is described for the quantitative determination of strychnine in the presence of brucine. It is based on the fact that the hydroferrocyanide of strychnine is less soluble and is formed more rapidly than that of brucine.—¹ Scientific Section, A. PH. A.