

EDITORIAL

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THE PHARMACY EXHIBIT—A CENTURY OF PROGRESS INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION.

PHARMACY Week brings the message of pharmacy to the public each year, the Pharmacy Exhibit, in Chicago, brought its service to the attention of millions of visitors and the American Institute of Pharmacy, as the permanent home wherein the activities of pharmacy will be of record, acquaints the Government and the people that pharmacy has a most important part in standardizing materia medica and preparations in which these products are properly represented.

The Pharmacy Exhibit will be closed at the end of this month but it will be made permanent so that the purpose so successfully established will be continued.

In conformity with the general plan of A Century of Progress the Pharmacy Exhibit was arranged to appeal to the layman and under the direction of Chairman H. C. Christensen and the committee having the arrangements in charge the exhibit successfully met the test, attracted the interest of the visitors and received general favorable comment from them. The success was made possible through the coöperation of all divisions of pharmacy and the publicity given by pharmaceutical publications. In a dramatic manner visitors were told of the development of pharmacy and the use of drugs and the methods of standardization, so that they received a better understanding of the progress made educationally and otherwise in pharmaceutical service. The efforts of those in charge were supplemented by the schools of pharmacy, boards of pharmacy, revision committees of the U. S. Pharmacopœia, National Formulary and Syllabus, organizations, and the manufacturing industries—to all of them much credit is due.

The Exhibit portrayed the history of pharmacy, development of education and legislation—the purpose being to acquaint the visitors with the history of pharmacy, the progress made by contrasting old methods with new, showing the advances in educational and legal requirements, resulting in improved pharmaceutical service and protection of the public.

A comment on the activities of those in charge of the exhibit was made in the February JOURNAL and reference is made here to render credit for the accomplishment which marks a most important effort in the history of American pharmacy. In summing up, it may be repeated that the entire panorama of the exhibit informed the public of the great improvement in pharmaceutical service during the past century, from the crude products and utensils of the past to the uniform, standardized products of to-day with precision instruments and equipment; from the unsupervised practice of the past to the restricted and supervised practice of to-day, thus guarding the public health and welfare; from the pharmacist of yesterday to the one of to-day, equipped for research as well as practice.

The exhibit has been of benefit in bringing pharmacy's message to the general public and has had a distinct educational value for the professional man as is evidenced by the many registrations. A very favorable impression has been given to the medical and dental professions and pharmacy has risen in prestige. The pharmacist who has seen the exhibit has learned something more about his

profession and has come away with greater respect for it. These are not idle theories; they are the judgments expressed by the many visitors in conversations with attendants. Pharmacy has responded to an opportunity and profited thereby—the Pharmacy Exhibit and A Century of Progress have been eminently successful.

DECENNIAL OF PHARMACY WEEK.

THE thought which prompted and resulted in the annual celebration of Pharmacy Week was presented in the address of Robert J. Ruth, as chairman of the Section on Practical Pharmacy, A. PH. A., at the Buffalo meeting of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

The underlying motive of a National Pharmacy Week is the education of the public relative to the mission and service of pharmacy, and any other purpose that will detract and confuse does not represent the idea which was uppermost in the mind of the founder of this annual occasion.

The earlier celebrations were directed by Robert J. Ruth and since by Anton J. Hogstad, Jr. The educational efforts of the latter and of E. L. Newcomb have brought pharmacy to the attention of schools and libraries by the series of maps—drug map of the World, chemical map of North America, map of pharmacy institutions and those engaged in educating and training pharmacists. The publications have whole-heartedly given support and directed the thoughts of pharmacists relative to ways that will bring the message of pharmacy to the public. All of the publications have contributed to the better understanding of pharmacy by the public; some have served in a larger way and these, no doubt, have been rewarded accordingly by the appreciation of those whose aim is to advance the profession.

The associations—local, state and national—have aided in the cause according to their opportunities and thereby their organizations and their members have gained by recognition of the professional standing that pharmacy enjoys. It remains for them to exhibit a greater interest, year by year, in order to make Pharmacy Week what it should be and to bring the message of pharmacy to the public in daily efforts through publicity of a high order, associating the service to a greater extent with matters that concern public health.

In an earlier editorial it was said, in substance, that science had added years to the span of human life and improved hygienic conditions—pharmacy as a profession, as a science and in its business relations contacts with the public and thereby Pharmacy Week summarizes the daily efforts of pharmacists. In years gone by drug stores were factors in the dissemination of news and formulating of plans far-reaching in their influence; to-day pharmacists have great opportunities for dissemination of public health information. What is needed is more publicity for pharmacy, more druggists who will actively express loyalty to pharmacy by doing their part and not letting others do it for them; those who have had an active part in Pharmacy Week have shown their loyalty by publicity which extends beyond the activities of the seven days so designated.

Canon H. J. Cody, formerly Minister of Education for Ontario, in addressing the recent convention of the Ontario Retail Druggists' Association said to the members:

"You are all, I am quite sure, prepared to regard yourselves primarily as ethical and scientific pharmacists. Perhaps the term 'Druggist' has in some quarters become usual, but to my mind, the term 'Pharmacist' is undoubtedly a term most suitable for application to the ethical and scientific side of your calling. Your work does require a broad foundation, not only of general knowledge, but of specific training. It is not fair, in these days, for anybody to serve the public unless his outlook is unduly wide, and his knowledge of the basic principles of his calling correctly based."

Referring to Pharmacy Week in his presidential address President R. L. Swain said: "Pharmaceutical legislation, pharmaceutical education, the whole of pharmaceutical service rests upon the professional character of pharmacy. Pharmacists should be keen to recognize this, and diligent in their efforts to impress it upon the public mind. I cannot be too emphatic in urging pharmacists to embrace every opportunity to advance and elevate their professional work as a basic and fundamental thing. The principles underlying it are sound, and the whole idea is a dignified and worth-while approach to a most important subject."

FORTY-EIGHT LABORATORIES.

BY ROBERT P. FISCHELIS.*

WHILE researches in chemistry, pharmacology and other medical and pharmaceutical sciences are being carried on with satisfactory progress in the laboratories of our colleges, research foundations and industrial establishments, other forms of research which profoundly affect the welfare of pharmacy and pharmacists are being neglected to some extent because of a lack of coördinated effort. In the forty-eight states of our Union, forty-eight legislatures are passing statutes intended to regulate various activities for the welfare of the people as a whole. Forty-eight Governors are issuing executive orders and directions for carrying out "the will of the people" as expressed in the legislative enactments of their representatives. Forty-eight State health departments are enforcing forty-eight State health laws with varying provisions which include regulation of the manufacture and distribution of foods and drugs. Forty-eight boards of pharmacy are enforcing forty-eight different pharmacy laws according to the powers conferred upon them to protect the public against incompetent prescription compounding and careless dispensing of drugs, medicines and poisons.

Undoubtedly, greater uniformity in these legislative and administrative activities is a desirable end. Yet there is also an advantage in lack of uniformity. Under our system of government the forty-eight states are really forty-eight laboratories in which a great variety of experiments can be carried on with much profit and advantage to the people as a whole. As a matter of fact, State food and drug laws, and laws for the regulation of traffic in narcotic, hypnotic and other

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deleterious or poisonous drugs have preceded and paved the way for federal regulation along similar lines. The State laws have shown the weakness of some methods of regulation and the strength of others. It is not uncommon for one State or group of States to establish procedures which may be considered radical or extreme in one decade only to become the minimum standards throughout the Country in the next.

But to what extent is Pharmacy profiting by the researches and experimental developments in our forty-eight laboratories? Do the pharmacists of New York have any conception of what is going on in the profession in Oregon or do the members of the profession in Maine have available the results of regulatory experiments in the distribution of drugs and medicines or the public control of health matters in California? The answer is to be found in the multiplicity of outmoded and often unworkable proposals for regulation of various phases of the practice of pharmacy which crop out annually in every State when officers and committees are assigned to accomplish a progressive revision of unsatisfactory existing conditions.

There appears to be no central agency to which pharmacists in the forty-eight states can turn to-day for summarized information as to what has been tried and found wanting or what has been tried and found effective. This does not mean that the information cannot be had, for it certainly exists. However, it is locked within the borders of individual states and frequently it can be had only through personal contact with individuals because no one has taken the trouble to record what months and even years of patient effort may have brought about.

The Conference of Pharmaceutical Law Enforcement Officials is the brightest spot that has appeared on the horizon for some time as far as the coördination of legislative and law enforcement information is concerned. The Conference of Pharmaceutical Association Secretaries is moving in the direction of providing a valuable interchange of information on State Association activities. Both groups have been stimulated and encouraged by the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

However, these agencies as well as the National and State organizations representing the various subdivisions of Pharmacy, require the services of a clearing house where the results of surveys of local, State and National conditions may be recorded, digested and disseminated; where the results of pioneering researches in problems of social as well as technical and industrial significance to the profession may be collated and evaluated and from which sound bases for the development of pharmaceutical education and licensure and the control of the manufacture and distribution of drugs and medicines may emanate. A coördination of the experimental work of our forty-eight laboratories so as to avoid waste and duplication of effort will advance the cause of pharmacy tremendously. The coördinating agency or master laboratory should be set up in the Institute of Pharmacy of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. Here is a specific project of benefit to pharmacy as well as to the people of our country for which funds must and should be advanced promptly. The National and State pharmaceutical associations could find no better common meeting ground on which to start coöperative work and give evidence of the sincerity of their expressed desire to advance the welfare of the profession.
