

EDITORIAL

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THE SEASON'S OPPORTUNITIES.

A MOST eventful year of history is coming to a close, bringing us to a new year fraught with equally important and varied problems. We join in worthy purposes in evidencing our fellowship and conveying assurance to the Government and to the public that we are optimistic or hopeful of greater stability in affairs and growing prosperity.

References have been made on a preceding page relative to some important events. It is only by good team-work, genuine coöperation, sympathy and a measure of unselfish devotion that real success can be achieved in pharmacy as well as other activities.

As has been said in substance in these columns on other occasions—work within the ASSOCIATION gives pharmacists the opportunity of expressing their thoughts concerning pharmacy and the drug business, of exerting their influence; thereby a broader viewpoint is developed and a higher appreciation of their co-workers is inspired.

The substance of the foregoing message finds expression in the following: That pharmacy may progress during 1935 because of strengthened enthusiasm and coöperation, and through greater opportunities for service. That there may come the realization that, however much pharmacists may have done for pharmacy and its organizations, they, themselves, have profited more because of their active and concerted interest.

In greeting the members and others, wishing them health and prosperity, the hope is expressed that their strength may be equal to the greater duties which have come upon them as citizens, and as members of this and other associations organized for professional advancement.

NEW PHARMACOPŒIAL STANDARDS FOR COD LIVER OIL OFFICIAL JANUARY 1, 1935.

ANNOUNCEMENT of New Pharmacopœial Standards for Cod Liver Oil, to become official January 1, 1935, was made by Chairman E. Fullerton Cook in his report on The United States Pharmacopœia at the Washington meeting of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. "These standards have been developed through a series of conferences with the vitamin experts of the United States and an extensive study of the general standard by the Sub-Committee on Organic Chemicals. The vitamin standards and vitamin assays represent the studies and conclusions of the U. S. Pharmacopœial Vitamin Advisory Board. The release of this announcement, as an interim revision, has been authorized by the U. S. P. Committee of Revision and U. S. P. Board of Trustees, the standards to become official on January, 1935.

The U. S. P. Vitamin Advisory Board also announced the release of "Reference Cod Liver Oils" of known Vitamin A or Vitamin D potency, expressed in U. S. P. X (1934) Units. These "Reference Oils" are to be used as standards in Vitamin A or

D assays for determining the potency of Cod Liver Oil, Cod Liver Oil Concentrates, irradiated ergosterol or other irradiated or Vitamin A- or Vitamin D-containing products.

Copies of U. S. P. X (1934) interim revision Cod Liver Oil Text and the Reference Cod Liver Oil may be obtained by addressing Chairman E. Fullerton Cook, of the Committee of Revision, 43rd and Woodland Ave., Philadelphia, Pa.

THE NATION-WIDE NARCOTIC DRIVE.

UNDER direction of the Chief of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, Harry Anslinger, and Deputy Commissioner Louis Ruppel and other officials of the division made a nation-wide successful effort toward a clean-up of the narcotic traffic. The Bureau is to be congratulated on their success, which will be followed by continued efforts. The raid of December 7th-8th is said to be the most extensive drive ever made by Federal narcotic agents and has disclosed a most serious situation, not only because of the traffic in narcotics and the results, the relation to crimes, but because students in schools have been led to the use of narcotics.

Recently, Commissioner H. J. Anslinger in a comprehensive press article stressed the importance of depriving narcotic peddlers of customers as a means of checking the narcotic evil. "The legal dispensing of narcotics is carefully guarded and the laws are observed, violations are remarkably infrequent; the distribution of narcotics is through peddling and if the peddlers are deprived of customers they will cease to exist. Illegal production of narcotics and export to countries seeking to eradicate narcotic addiction constitutes the other means of distribution for which correction has not been effected."

Liberty is taken in quoting from several editorials to recall early efforts of pharmacists and of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION in controlling narcotic addiction and references are given to action taken by the ASSOCIATION prior to the enactment of the Federal law. It seems almost unbelievable, but nevertheless a fact, that when pharmacists first made concerted efforts to have restrictive legislation enacted, they found objection by legislators who thought there must be an ulterior motive back of their efforts, "because it reduced sales volume."

On page 567 of Volume 50 of the PROCEEDINGS is the report of Chairman H. P. Hynson which gave impetus to continue the study of addiction by the ASSOCIATION. In Volume 51 is another report of the Committee (page 466) and a paper by James H. Beal—"An Antinarcotic Law," which may be designated as a step toward national legislation relative to the handling of narcotics, for at the same meeting a draft for an antinarcotic law was submitted and a revision of it at the 1904 meeting (page 104), at which time also a paper on "Pharmaceutical Legislation with Special Reference to Antinarcotic Laws" (page 180) was presented. The report made at the 1905 meeting indicates how seriously the conditions were viewed by pharmacists throughout the country. That Congress did not realize the importance of antinarcotic legislation is evidenced by the fact that the federal law was not enacted until December 1914. The law added burdens to the many willingly assumed by pharmacists, quoting the closing paragraph of an editorial (1913) in advocating the passage of a federal antinarcotic law: "It must not be imagined that any form of law can be devised that will be entirely free from objec-

tions, or that will not impose some burdens upon pharmacists and physicians, no matter how conscientious they may be in the handling of these drugs."

The references made are not intended to take credit for performing a duty to mankind, but to call attention to the important services rendered by pharmacists, because they recognized their duty long before general recognition was given to the control of narcotic sales, and all divisions of pharmacy entered into this service. It is contended in the interest of the public, that the sale and dispensing of all medicines be restricted to those who, because of training and education, know the effect of medicines and realize their individual responsibility, as professional men and women, in safeguarding the public. The situation developed adds emphasis to the importance of the latter statement.

MEETING OF MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD OF COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC SECURITY.

The following report is taken from the *Journal of the American Medical Association* of November 24, page 1627:

"The Medical Advisory Board, appointed by Secretary Perkins, chairman of President Roosevelt's Committee on Economic Security, to advise the committee's technical staff in its study of programs of public health, medical care and health insurance, met in Washington on November 14th and 15th. The board met in executive session with all its members present as follows: Drs. Walter L. Bierring of Iowa, Rexwald Brown of California, James Deacon Bruce of Michigan, George W. Crile of Ohio, Harvey Cushing of Connecticut, Robert B. Greenough of Massachusetts, J. Shelton Horsley of Virginia, James Alexander Miller of New York, Thomas Parran, Jr., of New York, George M. Piersol of Pennsylvania and Stewart R. Roberts of Georgia. Other persons attending the meeting included Edgar Sydenstricker, in charge of the medical and health phases of the studies of the Committee on Economic Security, I. S. Falk of the technical staff, and by invitation Dr. R. G. Leland and A. M. Simons of the Bureau of Medical Economics of the American Medical Association.

"Nathan Sinai, Michael M. Davis and W. Frank Walker also met with the board as consultant staff members associated with the dental, hospital and public health advisory committees which have also been appointed by Secretary Perkins and which are to meet in the immediate future. The meeting was opened by short addresses from Secretary Perkins and Edwin E. Witte, executive director of the Committee on Economic Security. Secretary Perkins and Mr. Witte requested the close coöperation and advice of the medical profession in developing the health aspects of the President's program for economic security. Owing to the fact that the Medical Advisory Board will make its recommendations to the Committee on Economic Security no public statement of its deliberations was given out, but we are informed by Mr. Witte that the technical staff of the committee presented to the board tentative proposals on the three subjects above mentioned in extending and improving public services, tax supported medical care for dependents and other population groups affected with certain diseases and health insurance against illness.

"Health insurance was discussed from the point of view of considering the details of a plan suitable to the various needs of the American people and the interests of the medical professions in the event that legislation on this subject is proposed by the administration. The board requested an extension of time for this study. Arrangements were effected whereby Dr. Leland and Mr. Simons will participate in this study with the technical staff. It is anticipated that the board will meet again within the next six weeks or two months."

Other advisory committees are to be created, including dentistry, hospital management and public health and it may be stated that the interests of pharmacy will receive consideration in due course.

"Edgar Sydenstricker, chief statistician of the United States Public Health Service and director of public health activities for the Milbank Memorial Fund, has been placed in charge of the studies on Economic Security which it is hoped will yield 'the best possible means for providing adequate medical care for those who are without means.'"