

EDITORIAL

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PHARMACY IN HOSPITALS.

THE practice of pharmacy since it affects the public health should be regulated in the public interest and restricted to those who have been trained and licensed for this responsible work after their fitness has been proved through examination by a state agency. The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION has consistently worked to put this principle into practice and to throw every protection, possible of application, around the practice of pharmacy and around the use of drugs, medicines and medical supplies by the people. A very important step in this program has just been taken and one which will have a splendid effect as it comes into general application.

The American Medical Association, through its Council on Medical Education and Hospitals, maintains a list of recognized hospitals and related institutions. One issue of its *Journal* is known as the "Hospital Number" and is devoted to information about hospitals and related institutions and to the list of registered hospitals. The "Hospital Number" for 1934 was issued on March 31st.

In the course of its work, the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals has prepared a number of "Essentials of a Registered Hospital" and admits annually to its Hospital Register only those that are found to qualify according to these essentials. The Council disclaims any legal authority over a hospital and recognizes clearly the right of those responsible for a hospital to conduct it as may seem wise to them. It does require of a hospital or related institution, desiring to have its name appear on the Hospital Register, that it be willing to comply with the principles considered necessary for such endorsement. Undoubtedly, this procedure has been effective in raising the standards of these institutions. In connection with the Essentials, the statement is made that "It is the desire of the Council to coöperate in every way for the improvement of hospital service, whereby the sick and injured may be provided with scientific and ethical medical care."

After a careful consideration of the practice of pharmacy in hospitals, the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION decided that the first step toward the improvement of the pharmaceutical service was to request the inclusion among the "Essentials of a Registered Hospital" of one dealing with pharmacy. The Council on Medical Education and Hospitals approved this request, and among the Essentials as published in the recent "Hospital Number" is the following: "5. Pharmacy. The handling of drugs should be adequately supervised and should comply with state laws." Although this requirement is not as specific as it should be, it is a distinct recognition of the place of pharmacy in the hospital, represents a step in the right direction and, no doubt, will be amplified as experience is gained in its application.

With this requirement as a basis, the Boards of Pharmacy, and other institutions concerned should give hospital authorities every coöperation in making it as effective as conditions render possible. Pharmacists and their organizations should concern themselves to see that the pharmaceutical service in each hospital is adequate and that it complies with the requirements of the state laws. If the

requirements of a hospital do not justify a pharmacy in charge of a pharmacist, arrangements should be made if they do not exist, for local service.

The inclusion of this requirement is another indication of the coöperation which should exist among the public health professions. The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION wishes to record its appreciation of the action of the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals which it is believed will lead to a more effective pharmaceutical service in the hospitals of our country.—E. F. K.

PERIODS IN THE HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL FORMULARY AND ITS PRECEDENTS.

THE New York Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION on April 9th celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the New York and Brooklyn Formulary, the precursor of the National Formulary. The former was published by a joint committee of delegates from the College of Pharmacy of the City of New York, the New York German Apothecaries' Society and the Kings County Pharmaceutical Society and entered according to Act of Congress in 1884, by the bodies named; Charles F. Schleussner, secretary of the Joint Committee, was present at the meeting held in celebration of the anniversary.

Wilbur L. Scoville, former chairman of the Committee on National Formulary, has prepared a history of the National Formulary for the ASSOCIATION, which he sketches under five divisions, including the earlier efforts to compile a formulary of unofficial preparations and the success of the New York and Brooklyn Formulary; he refers to the incorporation of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION in 1888, and details the editions of the succeeding revisions of the Formulary. The author has made an interesting and valuable contribution while recording pharmaceutical history.

During the period prior to the organization of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, the apothecaries perfected the methods of manufacturing the galenicals and other remedial agents on which they built up their reputation and patronage; as a result of the individual studies and variety of products under the same or related names the preparations differed widely in strength, appearance and flavor. Attempts had been made to establish greater uniformity prior to the organization of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, but the efforts of organized pharmacy were more successful and brought about greater improvements in dispensing.

"The need for a standard formulary was among the earliest considerations of the ASSOCIATION." The first record of the movement was made in the transactions of the meeting held in Cincinnati, in 1854, when it was moved that "the unofficial formulæ communicated by Messrs. Matthews of Buffalo, Cummings of Maine, and Meakim of New York and contained in the report of the executive committee be preserved by the Secretary with a view to publication when future similar publications accumulate sufficiently to justify it."

Mr. Scoville comments—"It is interesting to note that the first idea of a formulary as representing preparations used by physicians has held throughout the years without deviation and still represents the ideal of the National Formulary."

During the years following the early report heretofore referred to, dissenting views obtained relative to elixirs and many heated arguments occurred at a number of annual meetings of the ASSOCIATION.

Acting on the suggestion of J. S. Bendiner, of New York, the New York and Brooklyn Formulary was published by a joint committee of the College of Pharmacy of the City of New York, the German Apothecaries' Society of New York, and the Kings County Pharmaceutical Society. The Formulary met with favor by physicians and the desire to serve was expressed when the publishers offered to transfer the copyright to the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION so that a wider use of the Formulary might be developed and its purpose extended. This acceptance necessitated that the ASSOCIATION be chartered and this was perfected in February of 1888, in Washington. It may be noted here that all of the members of the committee on the National Formulary were retail pharmacists, except Charles Rice, a hospital pharmacist, and Professor P. W. Bedford. This edition of the National Formulary was published in the volume of the PROCEEDINGS and also separately.

No attempt is made in this comment to detail the history of the National Formulary; Chairman E. N. Gathercoal has reported on the progress of National Formulary VI at recent annual meetings of the A. PH. A., and historical records are published in each edition of the National Formulary.

Quoting W. L. Scoville, a former chairman, "the primary question in National Formulary revision is, what preparations do the physicians wish to use, and no question is raised why they wish to use them. The National Formulary makes no dispute concerning the physician's therapeutic judgment. It recognizes his legal and ethical right to his own discriminating purpose, and merely aims to add the prestige of uniformity in composition and appearance and of pharmaceutical skill in compounding to the physician's desire." In medical and pharmaceutical practices the Pharmacopœia and the National Formulary serve important purposes in public health activities.

Those who laid the foundations of the standards and of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION rendered valuable services to medicine, the public, pharmacy and the drug industry in its several divisions.

The time and place for the 1934 meeting of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION—Washington, May 7th to 12th—were selected to accord with the plans for dedicating the Headquarters Building. The occupancy of this building which with other structures that may later be erected on the site will be known as the American Institute of Pharmacy, is one of the most important events in the long history of the ASSOCIATION and marks the successful completion of the most extensive and far-reaching effort the ASSOCIATION has undertaken.

A cordial invitation is extended to our members, to every one who contributed to the Headquarters Building and others interested in the progress of Pharmacy, to attend the meeting, particularly the dedication on May 9th. The earnest desire is that no one should fail to understand that the invitation is all-inclusive of those interested.
