

# EDITORIAL

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## THE MISSION OF PROFESSIONS.

A potent measure in bringing about an understanding of the mission of professions is reasonable, rational discussion, with the purpose of devising the best means for being of service to the public. The Pharmacopœia, the National Formulary, "New and Nonofficial Remedies" influence pharmaceutical and medical practice and, reversely, medical and pharmaceutical thought are developed by acquaintance with the standards. The attitude of medical practice toward individual drugs should be based on clinical confidence, and the activities of pharmacy should represent the thoughts developed by research in the field of medicine, dentistry and the divisions of pharmaceutical practice and of related sciences.

Dr. Lewellys Barker, speaking before the Section of Pharmacology and Therapeutics of the American Medical Association, said "Pharmacotherapy is seen at its best when, through the use of a drug, the cause of a disease is removed or rendered harmless (etiologic pharmacotherapy) before the patient has sustained irreparable injuries. The organism can then right itself, so that its activities can resume the normal or physiologic course." Neither the Pharmacopœia nor the National Formulary meet all the requirements of medicine and pharmacy, and as a result the "New and Nonofficial Formulas," "Useful Remedies," hospital and dental formularies and the "Recipe Book" issued under authority of representative organizations find a worthy place in the libraries, laboratories and respective professional work rooms.

Gratifying progress is being made through coöperative efforts of the members of the several professions. The American Medical Association had a display in its scientific section at its recent meeting in Cleveland acquainting its members with the officials of the standards and the preparations representing these drugs. The motive of the United States Pharmacopœia booth was the use of the Pharmacopœia in hospital practice and its adaptability to the needs of the practicing physician; in that connection the rules formulated by the New York Hospital, Cornell University Medical College, were brought to the attention of physicians; these may be found in the December JOURNAL, A. PH. A., 1933, page 1281.

Recently a formulary of U. S. P. and N. F. drugs and preparations has been issued under the auspices of the Philadelphia County Medical Society with the endorsement and coöperation of the Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association and the director of the Emergency Relief of Pennsylvania.

Splendid work has been done by local associations in bringing into coöperation physicians, dentists and pharmacists, and is evidence of serious thought to raise the professional standard of pharmacy and determination to meet the responsibilities and opportunities in supplying the official preparations. The papers of all of the Sections of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION show the trend and a number of them, printed in this issue of the JOURNAL, detail the practice followed by pharmacists and the measure of success achieved by them.

Manufacturing pharmacists and chemists have rendered and are engaged in developing and perfecting useful *materia medica* and their interests as those of medicine, pharmacy and chemistry are largely common interests; in a sense and in degree the work of one branch is incomplete without the other, and full measure of credit is dependent on the recognition of all of them in the welfare of those they serve.

Every divisional activity seeks the opportunity for advancement and rendering better service which will gain higher esteem; likewise, there are shortcomings in one way or another, when mutual consideration would result in general good. In these columns it has been cited on other occasions that pharmacy has been somewhat over-shadowed by an over-emphasis of the commercial features in some drug stores; as a result, the public has not gained the significance of the professional value of pharmacy, for public opinion is shaped by publicity—pharmacy can be denounced or its importance pronounced—made known by printed word and by the appearance and activities of the drug store. Every pharmacist owes it to himself and to pharmacy to aid in acquainting the public with the service rendered by pharmacy and its importance. Every opportunity that will lend itself to the purpose should be utilized to acquaint the public with the part pharmacy has in public health service, by informing the people that pharmacists have been the chief exponents of regulations applying to the profession, for its protection against misuse of drugs, and seriously engaged in the development of a *materia medica* which enables medical men to make the best use of it. The earnestness of this coöperation is shown by the growing interest in the discussions and exhibits to the end that therapy may be improved; that among the drugs there are agents which can be employed by physicians with confidence and reasonable expectancy of results. Pharmacists are concerned, and their part in the work is not only to supply remedial agents, but also to see that preparations are supplied which represent them most effectively—that is a mission of pharmacy.

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#### THE CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS OF THE BRITISH PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

THE chairman of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, as is well known, does not discuss varied phases of pharmacy but usually selects for his address a subject with which he has been engaged. Thus, Chairman C. H. Hampshire selected for his discussion "Pharmacopœias and Formularies." *The Pharmaceutical Journal*, speaking editorially, said: "As Secretary to the British Pharmacopœia Commission he must live most of his life in, as it were, a pharmacopœial atmosphere, where the most important changes are those caused by the advent of foreign and the revision of British Pharmacopœias."

The chairman reviews briefly the pharmacopœias of recent revision: The British, Italian, Belgian, Spanish, Danish, Swiss, Yugoslavian, Hungarian, United States, and then discusses the Agreement which resulted from the deliberations of the Second International Conference, held in 1925. The Agreement consists of forty-one Articles, which give consideration or approval to principles of the prepara-

tion of galenicals, a definition of a standard dropper, nomenclature, maximum doses, poison table, etc.

The chairman refers to formularies which have been published—the National Formulary, the British Pharmaceutical Codex, the German *Ergänzungsbuch*, the Canadian and the Australian Formulary.

The closing theme, while addressed to British pharmacists, has thoughts which have bearing on our own activities. Without comment the paragraphs referred to are quoted:

“The theme of this address, like that of many others delivered from this Chair, leads to the subject of pharmaceutical research. The materials for the construction of pharmacopœias and formularies, provided largely by the papers contributed to this Conference, have proved of value in suggesting subjects to those desirous of contributing something to the sum of pharmaceutical knowledge, and one is led to inquire whether there are any possible extensions of the usefulness of the Conference in stimulating research. The organization of coöperative investigations suggests itself as a sphere in which the Conference might carry out valuable work. There are many subjects, particularly the standardizing of the technique of analytical methods and processes of manufacture, which are best investigated by groups of workers who are prepared to experiment with identical material and to pool results.

“The recent work done by a Committee of the Health organization of the League of Nations in standardizing the technique of the assay of opium provides another instance of successful effort on these lines. The formation of the investigating Commissions by the Second International Conference to which reference has been made, indicates the appreciation by that assembly of the value of such methods. Much good work of this kind was also done by the voluntary efforts of Sub-Committees of the British Pharmacopœia Commission with results which were eventually included in the British Pharmacopœia 1932, and it is hoped that similar efforts will continue with much benefit in increasing the value of the Pharmacopœia as a book of standards.

“The range could be widened, however, and all works of reference would be enriched and increased in value by the inclusion of precise and accurate methods. There is need for a central organization which will undertake the collection and distribution of material, the comparison of results and the publication of agreed recommendations. I venture to suggest that this Conference might well add to its service to pharmaceutical science by acting, through a Research Committee appointed for the purpose, as an organizing body in relation to pharmaceutical investigation.”

In an earlier editorial of the same publication it was asked: “Would it be too much to hope that when the Society's (British) new building is erected part will be set aside as the headquarters of pharmaceutical investigations, a National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research, at which inquiries into the pharmaceutical aspects of problems affecting the health of the nation can be made?” The editorial concludes that there was no evident reason why the Society should not provide a research laboratory adequately equipped for its needs.

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#### PRICE-FIXING UNDER THE NRA.

RUSSELL OWEN in discussing various phases of the NRA in the *New York Times* of August 5th, states that nearly all groups have tried to live up to the codes. The price-fixing regulations were dropped partly because some industries could not live under them and pay a living wage and because of the difficulties of the enforcement. There was difficulty in enforcing the fair practice and price-fixing regulations in the service codes, but there have been requests for reimposing emergency price-fixing to prevent price-cutting and unfair competition. It is difficult

or impossible to regulate one group of industries by rules which may not apply fairly to another group.

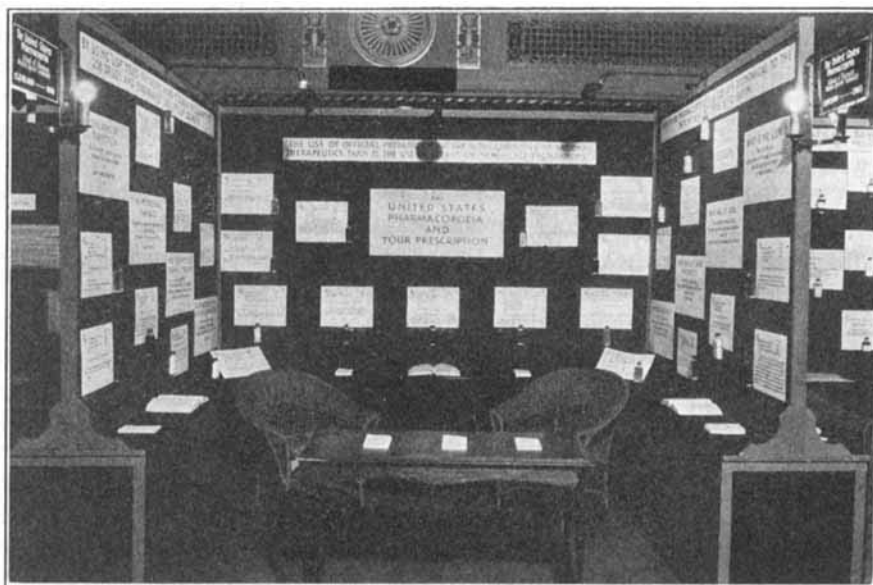
The probability of a merger of the Federal Trades Commission with the NRA is discussed by Mr. Owen in the following closing paragraphs:

“When General Johnson rewrites the NRA—as he will probably do very soon—some merger of these two bodies will be recommended. Since the Trade Commission was created by Congress, Congressional action will be necessary to abolish it, but its functions may be taken over by NRA by Presidential order.

“There are those close to the President who believe that this will be done in the Fall, and that the new NRA, stimulator and restrainer of industry at the same time, will start out on a new field of activity which will firmly implant it in the nation’s economic system. With all its faults, they say, there are few industrialists or labor leaders who want to see it entirely destroyed.”

#### THE 1934 U. S. P. EXHIBIT AT THE CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The United States Pharmacopœial Convention authorized the School of Pharmacy of Western Reserve University to prepare a booth on the United States Pharmacopœia for the American Medical Association convention June 11 to 15, 1934, in Cleveland.



U. S. P. Exhibit, Cleveland meeting of American Medical Association.

The booth was located in the Scientific Section beside that of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION on the National Formulary. Across the aisle the School of Pharmacy had its booth on the medicinal plant garden and its work in hospital pharmacy.

The prescriptions of the booklet distributed—“The U. S. Pharmacopœia and Your Prescription”—were written upon placards and placed on the walls of the booth. Beneath the placards small brackets were fastened to the walls containing bottles of the filled prescriptions.

The interest in the displays was very marked and was extremely satisfactory to those in charge of the booths. Rarely were there less than five people at the booth at any one time.