

# EDITORIAL

E. G. EBERLE, EDITOR

2215 Constitution Ave., WASHINGTON, D. C.

## DEDUCTIONS FROM THE PAPERS OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

MANY papers of the Scientific Section of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION related to Pharmacopœial and National Formulary subjects, not only contributing to the standards, but as preparatory work for establishing and improving them, if possible. A number of the papers were prompted by the conference on the study of opium assays by the Committee upon Uniform Method of Opium Assay, which has been working under the auspices of the Health Committee of the League of Nations since 1931. It is hoped to present some of these in an early issue of the JOURNAL. Quite a few dealt with improved assay and standardizing methods; ergot and antiseptics were among the outstanding subjects. The list shows a studiously prepared program and the phases to which the contributors devote careful study and investigation; there is no desire to place the value of the research of one above the other, but to briefly express appreciation for the work reported at these sessions.

The Section on Practical Pharmacy considered papers on improved methods of preparation and dispensing, and quite a number added interest to the sessions by papers dealing with various phases of hospital pharmacy and prescription practice.

The Section on Education and Legislation gave considerable time to the study of fair methods of practice and business conduct. The public attitude to the retailer and the relationship of other professions with that of pharmacy proved of interest.

The Section on Commercial Interests devoted time and attention to uniformity in prescription pricing, the prescription department, publicity, drug store methods, the effect of Fair Trade Acts, the place of the pharmacist in the community and the commercial training in business and educational institutions.

Seldom has a more interesting program been presented by the Section on Historical Pharmacy. A number dealt with early materia medica and pharmacists of earlier periods; several of the papers have been published and it is interesting to note that a pharmacist, David Henshaw, was a Secretary of the Navy; copy has been made of an early engraving which may be found in this issue of the JOURNAL.

As heretofore stated, there is no desire to valueate the papers; the purpose of the comment is to give credit to all who made the interesting sessions possible; other divisions of the meeting will be given consideration in succeeding issues and in the meantime some of the papers will be published.

### EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN FAIR TRADE PRACTICES.

IT HAS been said in these columns that the underlying motive of National Pharmacy Week is the education of the public relative to the mission and service of pharmacy. This includes also the possibility of the votaries deriving a living income by rendering service and that the pharmacist should not be subjected to the unfair methods which are practiced by certain activities and have become more or less established, for thereby the professional man and the small dealers, as well

as the community, suffers; advancement in education is essential to good public health service and depends on the success of those engaged in its divisions.

Senator Millard Tydings, at the meeting of the National Association of Retail Druggists, voiced a vigorous defense of the demand of retailers for stabilization of the activity. It is evident from his remarks that, in his opinion, regulatory legislation should be enacted.

The subject of fair practices has been studied and the viewpoints discussed by various organizations of the drug industries, but the conclusions and methods for making regulations practical and effective present as great difficulties as the study of the conditions which make legislation necessary. The subject is being carefully studied and a general procedure has been formulated, using as a basis, in part, legislation that has been enacted, and the successful results by the committee will contribute an outstanding service to the public.

The coordinated divisions are concerned in the success. President A. Kiefer Mayer, of the National Wholesale Druggists' Association, said, in substance, "the retailers' interests are our interests as an unwritten by-law of the Association;" he emphasized the necessity for sound distributive practices which will give the retailers rightful consideration and show the wholesalers a fair margin for their services. He urged support for manufacturers who are following policies of distribution which are legally sound and recognize both the essential service and the economic necessity of the wholesaler. A circumspection shows the concern of all divisions and should result in a working together with thoughtful consideration of those served. The message of the comment is to work coordinately in educating the public relative to their interest in bringing about honesty and fairness in all activities.

#### THE RELATIVE POSITIONS IN MATERIA MEDICA OF INORGANIC, SYNTHETIC ORGANIC AND NATURAL ORGANIC SUBSTANCES.

President Roy Gardner, in an address to Section "O," Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science, said he felt "very definitely that this is a time when a general broadening of outlook in connection with scientific matters is urgently required, and it behooves scientific workers of all ranks and in all divisions of science to make an earnest effort to see their own positions in proper perspective."

Quoting other portions of his address—"Science is very young, but we of the present generation, being ourselves just too young to have taken part in the early struggle of science for recognition, can very easily forget the fact and overlook its implications. It is well for us to remind ourselves occasionally that, for instance, less than two ordinary lifetimes have elapsed since the isolation of the first alkaloid."

Concluding his address he reminded his hearers that "it is vitally necessary to consider not only the growth of science, but also the relationship of science to other aspects of human life. There are not lacking those who blame the growth of science for most of the world's present troubles; on the other hand, we are told that the remedy lies in more science. The truth seems to be that, while science should, and must, continue to go ahead, civilization in its other aspects must adjust itself to that progress—must use the fruits of progress properly—or the result will be chaos." In his opinion "it would be conducive to the necessary adjustment for those who

best understand science—the scientific workers themselves—to interest themselves more in fields of work other than the scientific.” “Pharmacy,” he said, “is an occupation that lies on the border-line between science and commerce. Those pharmacists who take seriously their duty to the world are well placed for obtaining an enlightened view of science on the one hand and of economic and ethical considerations on the other.” He appealed to them to take such a view and to act accordingly. To some, such a remark may appear out of place here, but he did not take that view. Pharmacy as a field of work dealing with health has its own special responsibility, and, in addition, a share of the general responsibility for watching the growth of Science, and seeing that the world makes a right use of it for the benefit of mankind generally.

THOUGHTS FROM AN ADDRESS BEFORE WISCONSIN STATE PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION BY RALPH M. CARTER, M.D.\*

“The pharmacist does not carry his large and heterogeneous stock because he wants to, but just because the public demands it, and the very physician who criticizes the pharmacist the most would in all probability be one of the last ones who would be willing to do without the many services of the ordinary drug store. However, on the other hand, if a pharmacist really desires prescription business, he should take a professional attitude toward this business, and see that his prescription department is thoroughly equipped, and conducted in an ethical manner.

“Both professions must try to understand each other’s problems, and by means of inter-professional meetings and relationships gradually work out a solution which is satisfactory to both sides. This cannot be accomplished over night, but I feel that with earnest effort on both sides, it can eventually be done. To fulfil the task requires patience, understanding, tolerant minds, education, and last, but not least, so far as is possible, a return to ancient ideals.”—*Wisconsin Druggist* for October.

\* President-elect of Wisconsin State Medical Association.



This window was arranged by Frank Nau, Pharmacist of Portland; greetings are extended to the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION in lower right-hand frame. Chiron is shown in the center.