

PHARMACY IN MISSISSIPPI.*

BY LEW WALLACE.¹

It has been a pleasure to look back through the years and study the thoughts of the men who have helped to shape the destiny of our profession in this state since the earliest days. The idea of making the practice of pharmacy a privilege under the law was conceived, and to this end the first meeting of the Mississippi State Pharmaceutical Association was held in the Senate chamber at the capital, June 12, 1883.

A number of pharmacists from all sections of the state met in response to the following call:

"Mississippi State Pharmaceutical Association.—The time seeming propitious and the state of our profession demanding it, we, the undersigned druggists of the state of Mississippi, deem it proper to call for a convention to be held at Jackson, June 12, 1883, for the purpose of organizing a State Pharmaceutical Association. The object of the association will be to unite its members in the bonds of fellowship and common interest, that they may cooperate in elevating the profession, as well as protecting it from the many evils which now affect our trade. We sincerely trust that this effort will receive the hearty and generous support of every druggist in the state, feeling assured that it will prove a great benefit to all. The time and place designated for this convention was selected in view of the fact that June is usually a dull month in trade, and Jackson is the most central, as well as the most accessible point in the state." This meeting was attended by about 30 pharmacists.

These men, feeling that organization, unity of action and comparison of ideas were essential to the advancement of any cause, and believing that there was room for the elevation and extension of pharmaceutical knowledge among the druggists of the state, that there existed a necessity for some supervision of the dispensing of drugs and medicine, both for their own and the general welfare, and that such results could best be accomplished by a State Pharmaceutical Association, passed a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That we, druggists and apothecaries from different parts of the state, who are now assembled in convention in the city of Jackson, do hereby organize ourselves into a permanent association for the purpose of accomplishing such results, and that we adopt a constitution and by-laws.

Thereupon, according to the record, a constitution and by-laws was adopted. To this day the wisdom and forethought of those men are very much in evidence in the present constitution and by-laws of the Mississippi State Pharmaceutical Association.

We find that the pioneers in pharmacy of this state in the initial meeting of our Association expressed themselves as having for their aim the uniting of the reputable pharmacists of Mississippi for mutual protection, assistance, encouragement and improvement. To encourage scientific research, to develop pharmaceutical talent, to elevate the standards of our professional thought and, ultimately, to restrict the practice of pharmacy to properly qualified druggists and apothecaries.

Our first pharmacy legislation was enacted into law in 1892, and some time later an additional law was enacted, creating the Board of Pharmaceutical Examiners. In 1921 our law requiring college graduation from a recognized college of

* Section on Education and Legislation, A. P. H. A., Portland meeting, 1935.

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pharmacy was made a part of the Mississippi Code, and since that day, pharmacy has looked upward and to better things in Mississippi.

The passage of the prerequisite requirements was not an act of chance, and a résumé of the advancement of pharmacy in Mississippi would be sadly lacking, if it failed to touch even sparingly the life and work of at least a few of the noble men who have stood by our profession through the years.

Early after the beginning of the twentieth century, a young man with a vision fought long and hard for pharmacy, and about 1908, succeeded in having established at the University of Mississippi a department of pharmacy. This man, who was none other than our present well-loved Henry Minor Faser, was unanimously elected dean of the School of Pharmacy and was the first to open its doors to the youth of Mississippi. The School of Pharmacy was housed in a small part of the basement of one of the oldest buildings at Oxford. But in the few short years between 1908 and 1921, the energetic leadership of Dr. Faser, as he is affectionately known to hundreds of Mississippi pharmacists, carried his department from its humble beginning in the basement of an old building to an outstanding place among the façades of the campus. Due to Dr. Faser's untiring efforts, there was erected in a prominent part of the campus circle a \$350,000.00 pharmacy building, with all modern equipment and conveniences. It was a sad day for Mississippi pharmacy when Dr. Faser, some eight years ago, resigned as dean of the School of Pharmacy. But through every dark cloud there is a silver lining, and we found our ray of hope that his place could be filled when the State of Mississippi secured as the dean of our School of Pharmacy, Elmer L. Hammond, a man in whom we are justly proud and a man who has adequately and fittingly upheld the traditions of the School of Pharmacy at "Ole Miss." Dean Hammond has won a place in the hearts of Mississippi pharmacists and has had a very important part in shaping our activities.

The Legislative Committee added very little to our pharmacy laws from 1921 to 1934. However, the members of our Association were active during these years and did many things to improve conditions. Outstanding during this time was the proposal of President Charles E. Wilson, of the Association, about four or five years ago, when his plan of a paid business manager was adopted at Vicksburg and unanimously supported by the druggists of Mississippi. Claude E. Anding of Flora, Mississippi, was elected as our first paid business manager. Mr. Anding did wonderful work throughout Mississippi for the cause. But after a time the program was discontinued because it was found impossible to put through our measure due to the fact that our efforts were directed against issues controllable only by legal procedure, and Mr. Anding and the members of our official family had nothing more than the backing of a voluntary organization. Such men as S. B. Key, present secretary of the Mississippi Pharmaceutical Association, Fred W. Duckworth, prominent and valuable member of our organization, H. B. McInnis, Lumberton; Chester F. Jones, Jackson; G. W. Harrison, Forest; P. K. Thomas, Tupelo; B. W. Johnson and J. L. Hicks, Laurel, Mississippi; W. J. Cox, Batesville; Sam McDuffey, Nettleton, and Charles E. Wilson, director of our U. S. P. and N. F. Program, along with many others, were outstanding during these years for the betterment of conditions in Mississippi pharmacy. To their untiring efforts and suggestions is due the credit for the launching of our present program that is backed by the mandate of organized society and has for its objective the creation of a strong

and determined desire in the minds of the pharmacists in this state to stand by their profession in order that the public will stand by them.

On March 9, 1934, there was enacted into law that part of chapter 338 of the Mississippi Code known as House Bill No. 155. This legislation, designed to throw a protective band around the profession of pharmacy, includes everything in the way of drugs and medicine other than patent, proprietary and household remedies. Our Legislative Committee, guided by the experience of pharmacists in other states and ably assisted by T. O. Slaughter, Waynesboro, saw fit to exempt these medicines, feeling that there was little need for legislation to cover their sale and distribution. The Legislative Committee, with reference to this controversial subject, felt that regulation should begin with the manufacture and end with the pharmacist.

Pharmacy in Mississippi to-day has more than one leg upon which to stand, and we are at this time engaged in the multiple task of strengthening these legs to put our profession in the high position it deserves. We are advocating—and there is every indication that we shall carry to a successful conclusion—the formation of what we are pleased to call a Southeastern Drug Club composed of several southern states to band together for mutual protection. At the convention of last June we adopted a program of U. S. P. and N. F. extension similar to other U. S. P. and N. F. plans, and Charles E. Wilson, Corinth, Mississippi, was unanimously elected as the Director of this division of our program. We have an active paid committee whose duty it is to seek ways and means of coöperating with each division of organized activity within this state for the purpose of exchanging suggestions and to establish a spirit of coöperation.

We are face to face with our problems and realize that we have a tremendous task in front of us, but when we think back over the record of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and other organizations that have so long championed the cause of pharmacy, we are encouraged by a knowledge of their achievements and are determined to carry on.

The pharmacists of Mississippi are proud of their national organization, the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, and have a deep and sincere interest in the success of its undertakings.

NOTE: Mississippi now has an A. Ph. A. Student Branch.—See April JOURNAL, page 366.

PASTEUR'S TREATMENT OF HYDROPHOBIA.*

"Once more M. Pasteur has startled the civilized world with the prospect of a great discovery in medical science. He believes, and many of the greatest medical authorities believe with him, that he has perfected a method of treatment of hydrophobia which shall be not only prophylactic but, what is of far greater importance, curative also. He has for a long time occupied himself with experiments with the virus of this dreadful disease. He has kept a number of mad dogs, has obtained the poison from their saliva, and has moderated it to a safe dilution by successive inoculations on rabbits; he has "vaccinated" dogs with this modified virus, and he has proved that under the influence of the vaccination they are not, to all appearance, liable to infection. Of late he has had the opportunity of testing his solution of the virus on human beings. The discovery is still on its trial, but there can be no doubt of the great hope which may reasonably be entertained that this most terrible of diseases may not only be cured but extirpated."

* Retrospect of fifty years ago—from *Chemist and Druggist*.