

## Of General Interest

### UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO STUDY FOOD AND DRUG QUESTIONS.

The Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America, widely distributed throughout the United States, has taken up the study of the subject of uniform food and drug regulation. For this purpose a special committee was appointed in July, and its first meeting was held at the headquarters of the Chamber in Washington, October 8th. The committee is composed of W. M. McCormick of Baltimore, A. J. Porter of Niagara Falls, John A. Green of Cleveland, B. L. Murray of New York, and Theodore F. Whitmarsh of New York. Mr. Murray is chemist to Merck & Co., and Mr. Whitmarsh is Vice President of Francis H. Leggett & Co.

The following resolution was adopted:

*Resolved*, That the Chairman be and he hereby is authorized and empowered to appoint two sub-committees to consider, respectively, the problems relating more particularly to food control and to drug control, and to report their findings to the general committee.

As a result of the above resolution, Mr. McCormick appointed Mr. Murray as Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Drug Control, and Mr. Porter as Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Food Control.

The following resolution, commending the efforts of the Department of Agriculture tending towards coöperation and uniformity, was also adopted:

*Resolved*, That this committee hereby earnestly and heartily endorses the establishment of the bureau in the United States Department of Agriculture, particularly concerned with Federal and State coöperation in the enforcement of the Food and Drug Control Laws, thereby promoting an equal and uniform enforcement of such laws, believing that this work is distinctly in the public interest.

The position taken by the committee on the meaning of uniformity is interesting and will repay close examination. Its views are not confined to a limited horizon, but are intended to grasp the broader and wider

fields. Its efforts will be confined to no organization or class of people. It hopes to cover in its endeavors the position of the wholesaler, the retailer, the consumer, the manufacturer, the official, and all others concerned in the production, handling and consumption of food and drugs. But only the broad, general questions of national character will be considered. After a lengthy discussion the committee at its meeting, by unanimous vote of all present, adopted the following regarding uniformity:

Uniformity, as the committee would define it, involves the highest degree of efficiency in food and drug control which it is possible to have prevail universally and equally in every part of the nation. The Federal, State, and municipal laws and their regulations would, if perfect uniformity were attainable, reach the level of full and complete efficiency—and thereby afford equal protection and a uniform standard of living for all the people. Uniformity accomplished, places merit and the general public interest over local political or geographical divisions. This committee will, therefore, direct its efforts and consideration toward the accomplishment of uniformity. The committee cannot but feel impressed with the magnitude, the importance, and the seriousness of its work. It cannot but feel the need for the closest study of the subject. And again the committee cannot but feel the necessity for the fullest and most cordial coöperation between itself and the officials and all others concerned. The committee will, of necessity, act deliberately and slowly, making certain of each step, considering only the important problems of national character.

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### COBBLERS, TO YOUR LASTS!!

To the Editor:—With much interest and appreciation the subscriber read and digested the excellent editorial of the October issue, entitled "The Commercialization of Pharmacy." It is my candid opinion that this editorial voiced the opinion of the great mass of the members of the A. Ph. A. and all of that class of pharmacists who believe in Pharmacy as a profession and who revere and honor those who have made it a scientific calling,—one demanding the highest exercise of application, education and skill.

The Chairman of the Commercial Section, in his address at the Detroit Convention, most

certainly exaggerated the commercial side of pharmacy. It is true that, to some extent, commercialism has a place in pharmacy, as well as in other professions. No pharmacist, no physician, no lawyer and, even, no minister, can be successful, if they neglect the commercial part of their profession. Personally, I cannot agree with the statement of the Chairman of the Commercial Section, that it is equally as "ethical" to sell picture post-cards as it is to compound and dispense prescriptions. Besides that, it is not as profitable to sell a penny-picture card as it is to dispense a prescription at fifty cents!

The average druggist of to-day is too apt to follow the ways pursued by the large chain stores. He thinks that his salvation, especially, lays in the adoption of their methods! From *legitimate* side lines, a great many of the druggists, throughout the United States, have drifted into the sale of articles entirely *foreign* to pharmacy. Pharmacy, nay, the drug business, has walked, *and even run*, a downward path by the sale of such articles as umbrellas, hair goods, eggs, and last, but not least, by the establishment of lunch-counters. The writer was more than surprised to find such lunch-counters in a prominent pharmacy at Nashville, when attending the Convention.

As an example of how the degeneration of pharmacy, is making rapid progress, let me state that one of the chain stores in New York City, displays, very prominently, this sign on the main floor: "Drugs in the Basement!" Such signs and the sale of goods foreign to our business cannot but degrade pharmacy, and will surely deprive us of the little respect which the public has at the present time for our profession.

After all, scientific education is the cornerstone of the whole foundation of professional pharmacy! A pharmacist who has the proper scientific training, and, consequently, the real knowledge will *never* have to stoop to the adoption of side-lines which are foreign to

pharmacy. Owing to his training and his knowledge, he is enabled to make a living and more than a living by practising pharmacy.

The writer does not pretend to be the Moses to whom the Acting Editor refers, but he has preached for years that more professional, and less commercial pharmacy is needed, in order to elevate pharmacy to that position where it properly belongs. Discard your side lines, become an expert in your profession, study the U. S. P. and N. F., make your own preparations, become a prescription specialist, get the reputation of being a skillful pharmacist and last, but not least, gain the confidence of the public as well as of the medical profession!

"Cobbler, stick to your last," is the advice which the Acting Editor gives in the editorial in the October issue of the Journal. Practically the same was voiced by the writer in his address as Chairman of the Section of Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing at the Richmond meeting in 1910 in his advice, "Don't be a jack-of-all-trades, but be a master of a profession, namely 'pharmacy'!"

If pharmacists throughout the country would heed such advice, how much better would that be for pharmacy, and how soon would we have a profession of pharmacy of which the United States could be proud.

OTTO RAUBENHEIMER.



William Henry Lacey, aged 64 years, for many years in business at Nineteenth and Green streets, Philadelphia, died of a complication of diseases on September 30, 1914. The store came under his management in 1873, and his ownership in 1880, and has been one of the land-marks of that section. Mr. Lacey was prominent in several fraternal organizations. He became a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1907. He was unmarried. A brother survives him.