

THE AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN
PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.*

CASWELL A. MAYO.

A meeting of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and the New York College of Pharmacy, was held at the New York College of Pharmacy in 1851 to discuss the problem of improving the condition of the drug market, and preventing the importation into the United States of drugs and chemicals of inferior quality. As an outcome of this conference, a call was issued by the representatives of the three colleges for a meeting to be held at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 1852, with a view to carrying still further the objects aimed at in the conference of colleges and perfecting a permanent organization to safeguard the welfare of the public as to the quality of the drugs and medicines sold, and to correlate the efforts of all those influences which were at work in different sections for the elevation of pharmacy, and the improvement of the quality of the drugs on the market.

It was at this meeting in 1852 that the American Pharmaceutical Association was formally organized. The objects of the Association as set forth in the articles of association show the lofty ideals of the founders of this organization. The following quotation from the constitution shows clearly the objects which are aimed at:

1. To improve and regulate the drug market by preventing the importation of inferior, adulterated, or deteriorated drugs and by detecting and exposing home adulterations.
2. To encourage such proper relations among Druggists, Pharmacists, Physicians and the people at large, as may promote the public welfare, and tend to mutual strength and advantage.
3. To improve the science and art of Pharmacy by diffusing scientific knowledge among Apothecaries and Druggists, fostering pharmaceutical literature, developing talent, stimulating discovery and invention, and encouraging home production and manufacture in the several departments of the drug business.
4. To regulate the system of apprenticeship and employment, so as to prevent, as far as practicable, the evils flowing from deficient training in the responsible duties of preparing, dispensing and selling medicines.
5. To suppress empiricism, and to restrict the dispensing and sale of medicines to regularly educated Druggists and Apothecaries.
6. To uphold standards of authority in the Education, Theory and Practice of Pharmacy.
7. To create and maintain a standard of professional honesty equal to the amount of our professional knowledge with a view to the highest good and greatest protection to the public.

With such lofty ideals set forth in its articles of association, it naturally followed that the highest type of men in pharmacy were attracted to the organization. The roster of the officers of the association, from the time of its organization in 1852 down to the present, constitutes an honor roll of pharmacists,

*An address delivered before the Exposition session, Friday afternoon, August 13, by Caswell A. Mayo, retiring President of the American Pharmaceutical Association. On this occasion a bronze medallion was presented to the American Pharmaceutical Association which has been deposited with the Historian.

and to be included is a distinction of which any pharmacist might well be proud. Unceasingly during all these sixty-three years this organization has earnestly, intelligently and unselfishly sought for the elevation of pharmacy, the improvement of the conditions surrounding the pharmacist, and the betterment of the quality of the drugs dispensed by them. This organization and its members have played a most important part in the drafting of regulations governing the importation and interstate sale of drugs and chemicals. This organization and its members have kept close watch on the advances in pharmaceutical technique, in chemistry, in pharmacognosy and in materia medica, and have brought their efforts to bear on the technical problems of the collection, manufacture, preparation and dispensing of drugs and chemicals, to the end that the physicians and the public of these United States might be able at all times to have at their command pure drugs properly prepared and carefully dispensed. Since health is the basic essential for human happiness and progress, the members of the American Pharmaceutical Association as conservators of health, have played a most important part in contributing to the public welfare.

The annual reports which have been prepared upon the condition of the drugs found in the market by expert members of the American Pharmaceutical Association, constitutes an invaluable record of progress in the science of botany, pharmacognosy and chemistry. With the aid of these reports, analytical chemists and expert pharmacognocists, whether acting in their private capacity, as employes of buyers and manufacturers of drugs, or as municipal, state or government officials, have been enabled to materially improve the condition of the drug market, and bring about a great betterment in the drugs offered for sale here.

It was the American Pharmaceutical Association which first awoke to the increasing danger to the public welfare from the indiscriminate use of habit-forming drugs, and as a member of that organization, I, myself, had the pleasure of offering a resolution at the St. Louis meeting in 1901, providing for the appointment of a committee of three to investigate and report upon the increase in the traffic in habit-forming drugs, and to propose some means of safeguarding the sale of these drugs, and preventing the further spread of the drug habit. As a result of this resolution a committee was appointed which carried on an investigation in a number of the larger cities as to the use of habit-forming drugs. Following the report of this particular committee, a committee on narcotic legislation was provided for and appointed. This committee was continued from year to year, making voluminous annual reports, until finally a model anti-narcotic law known as the "Beal Anti-narcotic Law" was enacted to serve as a guide for pharmaceutical legislation throughout the United States. Since that time, something like forty states have incorporated this law, wholly or in part, into their statutes, while portions of it have been included in national legislation, either in the Food and Drugs Act of June 30, 1906, or in the Harrison Anti-Narcotic Act of 1914, or in other special legislation.

In the drafting of the national Food and Drugs Act of June 30, 1906, the leaders of the American Pharmaceutical Association took a helpful and influential part. Their hand is also shown at many places in the rules and regulations promulgated by the authorities charged with the execution of the law.

Its representatives acting through the National Drug Trade Conference, a body consisting of delegates from all of the national associations interested in the drug business, played an important part, it might almost be said, a dominating part, in the formulation of the national Anti-narcotic Act, known as the Harrison Law, and which has done more than any other legislation ever adopted towards the suppression of the illegal traffic in and the misuse of narcotic drugs. In view of the fact that the sale of these drugs is an integral and essential feature of the pharmacist's work, and that the many restrictions imposed and the tax placed upon the pharmacist by this law, diminished his profits and increased his labors, it will be clear that the American Pharmaceutical Association in advocating this law had been actuated only by the highest and most altruistic motives.

When the American Pharmaceutical Association was organized no restrictions were placed about the entry into the sale of medicines and drugs. Largely through the labors of this organization and its members, there now exists in every state in the union, carefully drawn laws, setting up certain qualifications which must be fulfilled by any one undertaking the sale or dispensing of medicines at retail. This alone is a most important contribution to the public welfare, and this service alone would have amply justified the existence of the organization.

But the highest service which has been rendered to the American public by this Association has been the installation into the minds of the pharmacists of the United States of the loftiest ideals of devotion to duty, of self-sacrifice, and of public service. Through its influence, the ideals of pharmacy have been uplifted and maintained. The duties of the pharmacist to the state and to his fellow men have kept ever in the foreground, and through the inculcation of these lofty ideals the American Pharmaceutical Association has influenced the pharmacists of the United States, those who were among its members directly, those who were not members indirectly, making of them better men, better pharmacists and better citizens.

The influence of the American Pharmaceutical Association has made itself felt, not only through its members, but through other organizations in which it has been a factor.

It was under the auspices of the American Pharmaceutical Association that a national association was formed, including all the colleges of pharmacy in the United States. This organization known as the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties, has been an important factor in unifying and elevating the standards of pharmaceutical education; and whatever good has been accomplished by this organization redounds to the credit of the American Pharmaceutical Association, under whose auspices it was organized, and with which it is most intimately associated.

It was under the auspices of the American Pharmaceutical Association that the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy was constituted, including among its membership the boards of pharmacy of practically all the states. Through the work of this Association the standards of requirement for entry into the practice of pharmacy in the several states have been unified and elevated, thus bringing into the service of the public as licensed pharmacists, men of

higher attainments and better equipment for the responsible task of preparing and dispensing medicaments.

The limitations of space forbid the entry into details of what has been accomplished by this organization. But one aspect of its activities might well be accentuated at this particular junction, when the interruptions of commerce by the European war had cut off the source of supplies whence many of our drugs have been drawn heretofore. This particular phase of the activity of the Association is the development of the drug supplies of the United States. Reaching from the tropics to the north frigid zone, with a climate embracing every extreme, with lands of every variety, and varying in elevation from below the sea level to an elevation of 15,000 feet, the United States is capable of producing almost every variety of botanical drugs known to civilization and used in medicine. It is the province of the American Pharmaceutical Association to find and point out to collectors the vast supplies of drugs indigenous to this country, and to point the way and encourage research in the culture of drugs not found here, but which are capable of being grown here, so as to make us independent of the remainder of the world.

Surely an organization whose aims are so lofty, whose work is so unselfish, whose membership is so widespread, and whose members are so loyal in their support of the aims, must be reckoned as one of the important factors in the development of the highest national efficiency of the American people; and it is with pride in the Association and with humility at my inability to adequately set forth its claims to recognition, that I here briefly, inadequately and all too poorly state a few only of the reasons why the American Pharmaceutical Association should rank in the public esteem as among the most beneficent and praiseworthy organizations which have enjoyed the hospitality of the California people, and of the Panama Pacific International Exposition.

A PLEA FOR AN UP-TO-DATE YEAR BOOK.*

E. N. GATHERCOAL, CHICAGO.

The Present Year Book is Largely an Historical Volume Only.—The Year Book consists of two distinct parts, namely: The statistical matter (the constitution, by-laws, etc., the list of officers and committees, the report on the funds of the Association, and the lists of members) and abstracts of those papers published during the year that relate to pharmacy, pharmaceutical chemistry and materia medica.

The statistical matter has no value except of an historical nature after the year to which it applies is ended. The abstracts when more than a year old serve but little other purpose than for "looking up the literature" relating to pharmaceutical subjects.

The Added Values of an Up-to-Date Year Book.—If the 1916 Year Book could be published during the year 1916, it would be not only up-to-date, a condition decidedly worth while, but would possess other advantages.

*This article is published without comment. Every member has an interest in the Association and discussions develop better methods, new ideas and contribute to the growth and value of the organization to its members.