

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.

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#### 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.

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\* 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.

Membership in the Association is an honor, an empty honor, however, if no one knows about it. The list of members should be also a true directory, but a directory to be of value must be recent. The constitution, by-laws, and rules may be amended or revised at every annual meeting. How worth while it would be to have a complete and accurate copy of these articles within a month or so after the meeting.

The abstracts, if kept up to date, would not only have a much enhanced value for tracing the literature on a subject, but would have a real *reading* value. Readable abstracts, timely and covering the field of pharmacy, not only scientific but commercial, would be a real "drawing card" for the Association.

*The Plan.*—Print the Year Book in six installments issued either as supplements to the Journal or as a separate publication under the name it now bears. The installments might be issued in January, March, May, July, September and November and each contain the abstracts of the previous two months. In addition to the abstracts the January number could include the Index for the previous Year Book; the March number, the Treasurer's report and report on invested funds; the May number, summary of Council motions since the last annual meeting; July number, lists of members in good standing; September number, the minutes of the general and section sessions; November number, the corrected constitution, by-laws, and rules, and list of new officers and committees.

*Binding.*—The installments as described above could be so printed that in the bound volume the statistical portion could all be placed in one part of the book or separated into two parts as is done now. The abstracts would, of course, be presented in a number of divisions in each installment as is done now in the whole book, but it would hardly be possible to so arrange these divisions as to make each complete for the year in the bound volume. There is no great advantage, however, in the present rather elaborate arrangement of abstracts. Each subject must be sought through the index, anyway.

If some members preferred to have their Year Book as a bound volume at the end of the year, the Association could retain their installments, bind them and deliver the volume early the following year. Of course, members receiving the installments as issued would bind same at their own expense.

*Expense.*—The cost of printing and mailing the Year Book in installments would be appreciably less than the present method.

*The Year Books for 1914 and 1915.*—It will cost the Association at least \$7500.00 to prepare the copy, print and distribute, under the present plan, these two Year Books. If the plan as above outlined could be entered upon at once and put into effect for the 1916 Year Book, the January number could be used for the lists of officers and the constitution, by-laws and rules, as revised at the last annual meeting, while the number for next July could contain the lists of members as revised to July 1st. Then there would be nothing left but the abstracts for 1914 and 1915 to be published. These could be prepared and issued in 1916 as two volumes bound under one cover, or bound separately. The cost would be materially reduced and the Association could draw upon the income from the National Formulary to enable it to catch up with its publications.

*The Plea.*—Why not adopt the above mentioned plan for bringing the Year

Book up to date? If there are objections to certain features, modify them so as to correct the objections. Please discuss the proposition. I appeal especially to the Branches and trust that the subject will be brought up promptly for discussion in each of them. Probably no action regarding such a radical change in the Year Book can be nor should be taken without the concurrence of the Association in annual session, therefore the 1914 Year Book should be pushed to completion and publication and be distributed if possible before the next annual meeting. Other plans for changing the present Year Book may be presented to the Association for discussion. Perhaps out of this discussion the Council can formulate and indorse some plan that will get us up to date and present it to the Association for adoption.

In case of the adoption of this installment plan, the Reporter should become in truth the Editor of the Year Book and should be alone responsible for its issue. He can organize a larger force of helpers—there are many capable members willing to serve—assigning each but one or a very few journals, and requiring prompt reports from each. His duties would be largely editing these reports rather than preparing the actual abstracts.

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## CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CHEMIST TO THE MANUFACTURE OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.\*

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FRANK R. ELDRED.

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The manufacture of medicines is not confined to pharmaceutical houses, since they do not produce many of the medicinal chemicals, volatile oils and other products which may be said to constitute a large portion of their raw materials. Many of these products, however, must pass through the hands of the pharmaceutical manufacturer in order that they may be put in a form suitable for use. It is not easy to draw the line between pharmaceutical manufacturing and the closely allied industries as their fields of activity will frequently be found to overlap; for instance, the study and manufacture of certain alkaloids have been left almost entirely to pharmaceutical chemists and manufacturers although most of the alkaloids have been produced by distinctively chemical manufacturers.

Few industries have been as dependent upon the work of the chemist as that of pharmaceutical manufacturing. Many industries have been developed up to a certain point without the direct assistance of the chemist, but the very beginnings of pharmacy and chemistry were closely linked together and pharmaceutical manufacturing was made possible by the work of the early chemists. It is true that pharmaceutical manufacturing has not always kept pace with the progress in chemistry, yet the chemist, although at times very imperfectly trained, has always been an indispensable factor in the development of the industry and today the successful manufacturers are those who are making use of the most recent

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\*From symposium on the contributions of the Chemist to American Industries. Paper presented at the 51st meeting of the American Chemical Society, Seattle, Wash., reprinted from the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*.