

Editorial

E. G. EBERLE, Editor..... 83 Clinton Building, Columbus, Ohio

I WILL!

CATO for many years closed his address with a never changing charge that "Carthage must be destroyed" until the thought and determination became firmly fixed in the mind of every Roman.

The American Pharmaceutical Association endeavors always to be constructive and with the purpose of being of increasing service to pharmacy, persistently solicits accession of membership. A new year is beginning, for the annual meetings of the Association correspond to the commencement exercises of schools, and the best way to make resolutions effective, is not to procrastinate in the resolve. Every member of the A. Ph. A. must realize that he could each year have his name signed to at least one application for membership, if he was possessed with "that something" which activates the "I Will!" There are some who never permit a year to pass without one or more applications to their credit, why not everyone? The best time is Now. Place a card with the prescription "I Will!" on your desk and fill it.

An organization is representative of those who compose the membership and the progress of the association is a corollary to individual improvement. The progress of an association is thought in action. Gather individuals into an organization and assign to them a strict course of procedure from which they must not deviate and stagnation will soon result.

The American Pharmaceutical Association has an enviable history but its continuing strength is in the members who work for to-morrow instead of to-day, who try to find new ways and better ways for doing the work they are doing now, constantly improving the methods they are using and imbued with the spirit of altruism that has always characterized the Association.



LOOKING FORWARD.

AN editorial in a recent number of the Pharmaceutical Journal and Pharmacist brings to our attention that English pharmacy and pharmacists have very much the same problems to solve that engage us. So close indeed is the relation that it would be quite easy to adapt the editorial referred to for the Journal of the A. Ph. A., by simply using the designations and terms applied in this country.

The editorial presents that there are no fixtures in the universe of change—no oases of finality in the ceaseless struggle for principles and the deduction is made that no sooner is one set of adverse circumstances resolutely grappled with and overcome, than another, and perhaps more formidable series is generated on the debris of vanquished evils. Then various legislative actions are cited and the esti-

mate of the legislators is stated in very similar verbiage of dicta employed by us. We, evidently, are no more nor less reluctant to allow the full educative influence of the knowledge of perpetual succession of trouble in ever-changing guise, to direct our action by studied and systematic methods. We may theorize, criticize and even plan, but here our activity all too frequently ends.

A reorganization of the House of Delegates is contemplated and it is to be hoped that the great possibilities of such a body will be developed into deeds of usefulness. There are many opportunities for rendering service to pharmacy, but in utilizing these, the first essential should be a very lucid understanding of the promotions contemplated. "What are we here for?" is just as relevant a question in pharmaceutical as in political conventions.

We will not anticipate the program of action; this much however may be said, every pharmacist is concerned in the shaping of the future of his calling and should not withhold his voice from the counsels of the state associations so that the promotions of the House of Delegates may be co-operative. Every one of the state organizations should provide for systematic discussions of policies that may be adopted or endorsed and the respective state associations should see to it that every pharmacist, whether member or not, has an opportunity of participating in the consideration.

Legislation pertaining to pharmacy will doubtless have first attention. Just a few thoughts are offered: A thorough understanding of the motives which prompt legislation regulating pharmacy is necessary. Legislators are more easily persuaded by their constituents than any arguments that committees of pharmacists may present. Pharmacists are seldom represented in legislative bodies and few of the members have a knowledge of pharmaceutical needs, still they are usually very reluctant to accept of expert advice.

These statements suggest that means should be provided in advance, for enlightening those who legislate and more particularly to outline a plan of procedure and not become dependent on evolving a course of action on the spur of the critical moment and without the possibility of consultation. Whatever legislation is necessary should be carefully outlined, each measure drafted into a bill ready for action, and arguments for its support should at the same time be prepared, as few laws are enacted without a contest somewhere. Pharmacists should realize the necessity of having representation from among their own number, not only in state legislative bodies, but also in Congress. In the adoption of legislative proposals, uniformity should always receive most thoughtful consideration as well as the enactment of sane legislation.



THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

PREFERENCE is still shown by some members of the Association for the former annual volume, others are advocating a semi-monthly publication. These are the extremes, with a growing preference for the latter. Many others would take this view if the Association received sufficient income, permitting of the issuance of a semi-monthly Journal, for with a monthly publication there is of

necessity a delay in printing some of the papers, read at the annual meeting, and this does not always do justice to the contributors.

It is hoped that the membership of the Association will increase numerically and provide larger revenue; the suggestion made by some that the annual dues be doubled would certainly not be conducive to the growth of the Association. There is only one other source of revenue and this is the advertising in the Journal. There are many who do not now patronize the Journal, whose advertising would be acceptable. It is somewhat strange that manufacturers of apparatus, appliances, prescription ware and even of supplies for manufacturing pharmaceuticals, have not availed themselves of the opportunity the Journal offers in reaching a class of patrons, who are extensive buyers of these goods. Members will lend a helping hand, if they will bear this in mind when making purchases.

The Journal does not seek to become a competitor of trade journals, its field for securing advertisers is circumscribed, neither is it contemplated to bring other pressure to bear than the persuasion that patronage from the manufacturers will produce business for them.

While the suggestion for a semi-monthly publication has been carefully considered, a conservative view ought to be taken and a larger source of income be developed before incurring the greater expense that would obtain. The only production costs that would not relatively be increased are those of the office and editor.

The suggestion has been made also that the proceedings of the Association be not published in full, but more or less in abstracted form. It is extremely doubtful whether this is advisable. It is a difficult matter to condense the minutes of the convention and do everyone justice, or perhaps, better, in every instance give the thoughts that were intended by members participating in debate. The original minutes are always preserved for reference in case of dispute, but such a radical change seems very impracticable, if not dangerous. Some of the more lengthy discussions are now abbreviated, but only by excision of the less important remarks or duplicated statements.

When the present editor took charge of the Journal, he asked for suggestions, as to how the publication could be made of greater service, more interesting and valuable to the members. This invitation is now repeated; every member is asked to look upon the Journal as his and her publication and such personal interest should persuade them to assist in its production and promotion. The value of the Journal is realized now, and by thoughtful and careful co-operation it will become the strong incentive for enlisting many in the Association who are not members at the present time.

We know the membership of the American Pharmaceutical Association too well to permit of other conclusions than that the Association will become still more influential as a factor in American pharmacy and at no time in its history has the opportunity for development been greater. Some of the members are perhaps too theoretical, others somewhat impatient, but the Association maintains an equilibrium, while making safe and steady progress. The Journal subserves the Association and follows its dictates.

PAPERS.

LAST year the General Secretary was authorized, if he deemed advisable, to have papers printed in advance of the meeting. The only reason for not doing so this year was that the papers did not reach the chairmen in time. Members returning from the annual meeting find work waiting their attention, thereafter business matters interfere until the approach of next convention compels them to give time to the preparation of papers. Again, a late day has developed a subject of importance, and so most of the excuses are not make-shifts, but embody good and sufficient reasons for delay. When members have papers in preparation that they think should be printed in advance of the meeting, so that reprints may be placed in the hands of members in convention, such possibility will be promoted by sending them to the chairmen of the Sections, early enough to be edited and revised, if necessary.

Every paper should be accompanied by a brief abstract. This will assist the members in following the author in his presentation of the paper and should the editor desire to use all or part of it as an introductory to the article, the statements of the writer will be correctly interpreted.

Some articles are unnecessarily lengthy, frequently the only object of many lines is to embellish, occasionally there is needless repetition. This is a subject that concerns the reader and constitutes one of the trials of the editor. The judgment of the latter is not infallible but it may be taken for granted that he tries to show deference to the contributors. Notwithstanding this, a very creditable paper may not be available for use in the Journal, for no other reason than that the story might have been told in one-fourth the number of words and with better effect. This has no reference whatever to articles that would lose their value by abbreviation and thereby do the writer an injustice. Another class of lengthy papers in the acceptance or non-acceptance of which the editor may have an unpleasant experience, are those that can hardly be condensed and only interest a very limited number. And still another trial comes when a number of papers on the same subject, with comparatively slight differences are submitted about the same time. These are a few of the difficulties that should persuade writers to be more or less considerate in their judgment of the acts of the editor.



WHAT IS A DRACHM?

IN a paper presented at the recent meeting of the Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association, and under above caption, Professor J. W. Sturmer takes issue with Doctor C. L. Alsberg anent his ruling that the designation, dram, shall be taken to refer to 1-16 of an avoirdupois ounce, or 27.34 grains.

No dvantage can possibly be gained by this ruling; 1-16 ounce is very infrequently used in commerce. Doctor Alsberg evidently did not consult those who are most interested and has certainly created an opportunity for confusion. The term, dram, is frequently mis-applied for 1-8 ounce; manufacturers make use of the latter designation for such fractional part of an avoirdupois ounce.

A ruling which would define the value of the weight-term, dram, as of sixty grains would be acceptable, first, it would do away with that denomination in the avoirdupois system of weights and secondly, there is every reason for simplifying the spelling of the word. The "ch" is not pronounced in English usage and for the Latin name, the translation would be just as proper as that of any other title or term. This then brings on the further thought that the use of the official English names in prescription writing is quite as convenient, just as definite and the chances are prescriptions would be more correctly written.

The unit of weight of the metric system is written both gram and gramme. The reason has been assigned, aside from the origin of the word, that gram, in writing, may be mistaken for grain and hence the spelling, *gramme*, is a safe-guard. Doubtless this is true, but except in print the word gramme is seldom given in full.

The change from cubic centimeter to milliliter should be acceptable and it is hoped physicians will drop the denomination "c.c." and write instead "mil." True it is that "mil" is a coined word, but of such is language. While the values of weights are based on measurements, the denominations of the different systems should not have similar names.

It is hoped that the American Pharmaceutical Association will approve the change from cubic centimeter to mil, and disapprove of the ruling made by Doctor Alsberg, and urge that instead, the value of a dram be fixed at sixty grains. Pharmacists ought to have established this valuation long ago by adopting *dram* as the English for the Latin, *drachma*. The Century Dictionary defines the word *dram* and refers the reader to this definition for the meaning of *drachm*, hence clearly expresses the preference of this authority.

E. G. EBERLE.