

Editorial

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GREETING.

RETURNING from the recent meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association to my home and daily work, I cannot but send a fraternal greeting from the fullness of my heart, to every member. Never before was I so proud of my profession, never before so thankful for my membership. Twice during the past summer I crossed the continent, starting from Cleveland, east to New York, from there west to the Golden Gate of the Pacific, and back by a different route to Cleveland. I saw unfurled before my eyes the immensity of our beautiful country, the richness of its golden fields of wheat and corn, the enchanting charm of its dark forests, the brilliancy and fragrance of its flowers; the gigantic majesty of its rocks and mountains, the impetuous torrents, and then the peaceful grandeur of its rivers; the terrific height and dazzling depth of its ravines and canyons; the solitude and barrenness of its deserts; the joyful life and wealth of its fertile fields. Many are the thoughts and feelings that rush to the traveller's mind, that grasp his soul, but out of their weird variety and multitude there are two that stand forth, strong and lasting,—the feelings of happiness and pride; the happiness of living in such a country, the pride of being one of its citizens. But the ardor of this pride and happiness was heightened by another benign and beautiful experience. Wherever I came, East or West, on the height of mountains or the monotonous level of the plains, in the crowded city or the lowly hamlet,—I found friends, pharmacists that extended to me the hand of fellowship and received me with warmth and sincerity. And to the pride of my country was added the pride of my profession, the happiness of being a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

What I had felt and known for years, I felt more deeply and earnestly than ever before,—that this Association is the truest source of inspiration for all that there is good in pharmacy, the very heart of American pharmaceutical life.

I wish I could impart this feeling to every member, fill his heart with the same happiness with which I return to my humble work, and imbue his soul with the same pride of pharmaceutical fellowship. But more than this. Happiness and pride are but empty thoughts if they stay dormant in our own hearts; to be real, they must come forth to action. They must help and strengthen the weak, encourage and fortify the timid, give speech and aggressiveness to the diffident, incite them all to fruitful action and make them spread blessing around them. Thus let it be with us. Let us go at our work with loyalty and devotion, with strength and determination. Let it be our aim to follow in the paths of many exalted men that have built up this Association; let our hearts be filled with the desire to add in some way, during the coming year, to this source of strength and inspiration. Let us use all our energy to help this Association according to our ability, be it by

collecting and distributing knowledge, be it by helping the weak or failing, be it by doing pioneer work for its further spread, be it by enlisting our neighbor to membership. Let us all work together faithfully and harmoniously, and do good of some kind,—good for ourselves, good for our fellow pharmacists, good for our Association and our beloved profession.

WILLIAM C. ALPERS.

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THE SAN FRANCISCO MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

DEMAND for the higher education of pharmacists with the view of establishing greater efficiency and better service; aspiration toward closer co-operation between related organizations that would increase their helpfulness for pharmacists, and the desire for knowledge of the true purposes of laws and regulations so that their effectiveness can be promoted in contributing dependable service and adequate protection of the public without needless and unwarranted restrictions, characterized the proceedings of the sixty-third annual convention of the American Pharmaceutical Association at San Francisco. There was evident interest and enthusiasm, notwithstanding the fact that most of those in attendance had come a great distance to see something of picturesque California as well as the wonderful Exposition, and participation in the work of the Association necessarily limited their time for such pleasure.

There was more or less difficulty in opening the sessions of the Sections on time, but this was largely due to a smaller general attendance than at the Detroit meeting. The accommodations at the latter convention were simply superb and such desirable provisions can be had only in comparatively few hotels; however, every assistance was given in San Francisco to facilitate the work of the Association. The daily papers gave little attention to the convention, ascribable to the many other events of more general interest to the public. The local committee did all in their power to make the visit of members enjoyable and the meeting successful; they were most generous in their hospitality. Every meeting has its lessons which may be applied in succeeding years and as co-operative spirit is a growing influence, we may refer to and deduct from the last three conventions.

The proceedings of no meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association were ever better reported in the daily papers than at Nashville. The experience of this year suggests that especial attention be given this highly important matter in the future.

The Association was trained for greater efficiency in the conduct of the sessions at Detroit and the lesson should not be forgotten. That the Council did not conflict with the Section meetings in San Francisco is the outcome of last year's direction and the same idea should shape the program for next year.

A progressive thought of the San Francisco meeting was that which prompted the holding of the meetings of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy and the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties several days before the convention week of the American Pharmaceutical Association. This enabled these bodies to expedite their business and afterward work together. Never

before has there been such enthusiastic co-operation, some even realized for the first time that these two great organizations were really co-workers—had the very same objects in view. Surely such a step will always be looked upon as progress and the program for next year should be prepared along similar lines, if possible.

The history of every meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association records some notable event; the 1915 San Francisco meeting will be remembered by the establishment of the Fairchild American Pharmacy Scholarship. It also goes to prove that the co-operative work of the Association with the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy and the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties is recognized, for they have been jointly made custodians of the scholarship. It may be interesting to note that the Fairchild Scholarship of Great Britain was this year awarded to Miss Doris Gregory now employed at Buchanan, Limited, London.

The sixty-fourth annual meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association will be held at Atlantic City in September, 1916. It is not too early to begin to plan for making this meeting a most successful one. E. G. EBERLE.



CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF PHARMACY AND THE AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF PHARMACEUTICAL FACULTIES.

DURING the past year, and at the convention in San Francisco, The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy and the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties have come to a better understanding of their respective functions.

Boards of Pharmacy base their judgment of the candidate's fitness to practice pharmacy largely upon the answers given by them to questions propounded by the examiners. Admittedly this is an imperfect test, but the numerous classified questions sent in to a special committee, appointed jointly by the organizations referred to, most forcefully indicates a very wide diversity of opinions relative to proper examination questions and impresses the necessity of co-operation between those who teach pharmacy and those who pass judgment upon their students. This is not a new discovery but corroborates a fact well known, and a condition which has evoked criticism from both, that to some extent has estranged the members of boards of pharmacy and teachers in pharmacy schools.

These bodies met together and discussed the subject with the evidence before them and recognized that after all both had the same object—that of qualifying pharmacists. The result is that these questions, and others to be presented, will be systematically arranged and grouped, so that when used as a guide, they will supply tests that, to say the least, come nearer in affording a correct determination of the fitness of the candidates than ever before possible.

The National Wholesale Druggists' Association, through Chairman W. A. Hover, asked the several bodies represented in convention at San Francisco to discuss the subjects of reducing the number of those engaged in the drug business without sufficient financial resources and discourage prescription departments in

stores where revenue was dependent upon the sale of merchandise and wherein the former was either inefficiently conducted or unprofitable.

There is no question but that the present system of licensure equalizes the standards of those who enter the drug business and still we realize the inequalities of those engaged. Are the standards fixed according to public opinion or the consensus of the opinion of pharmacists?

In the United States we insist on individual liberty and it is therefore with great difficulty that professional standards are advanced, so we must use the means at our command. The differences of opinion between the two organizations result from the viewpoints of the individuals, one class judging from conditions as they interpret them, the other as they would have them; both desire progress of pharmacy, hence there should be no great difficulty in the adjustment of opinions.

Public opinion cannot and must not be ignored: If the boards are, beyond question of legal complication, agencies for the fixing and enforcing of both professional and academic educational requirements for admission to the practice of pharmacy, then the direction of affairs is with them and they are largely responsible for the progress of pharmacy. Thereafter, the responsibility would be with the pharmacists in selecting members for boards of pharmacy to carry out proper policies.

We must have a thorough knowledge of the general conditions of the drug business, we must comprehend what we are desirous of doing, and know whether public opinion will sustain us, before effectual and progressive work for pharmacy can be accomplished.

In our estimation, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy and the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties are destined to become potential factors in the future progress of Pharmacy in this country.

E. G. EBERLE.