

## WILLIAM CHARLES ALPERS,

President of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

William Charles Alpers, Sc. D., President of the American Pharmaceutical Association, was born at Hanover, Germany, July 7, 1851. He attended the High School (Gymnasium) in Hanover, then the School of Technology, and later the University of Goettingen, where he studied in Natural Sciences and Mathematics. His studies were interrupted in 1870 by the Franco-German war, in which he participated. After the war, he came to America and was engaged in teaching for nearly ten years in the St. Matthew's Academy, New York. He entered the New York College of Pharmacy, and later took a post-graduate course in chemistry at the University of New York, receiving the degree of Sc. D. in Chemistry. In 1881 he opened a pharmacy in Bayonne, N. J., where he remained until 1898.

After leaving Bayonne, N. J., Dr. Alpers was for a number of years, manager of The Merck Pharmacy in New York and afterwards conducted The Alpers Pharmacy on Broadway and 31st Streets. This pharmacy, located in the center of the hotel district of New York, was considered the most elegant pharmacy of the city and soon attained a deserved reputation for efficiency, correctness and prompt service. Dr. Alpers withdrew from active business in 1905.

From the very first day of his pharmaceutical career, Dr. Alpers exhibited great interest in the development of pharmacy, and became active in the State as well as the National Association. He was elected President of the New Jersey State Pharmaceutical Society in 1896, and served as a member of the New Jersey State Board of Pharmacy from 1893 to 1898. In 1890 he became a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association and attended his first meeting in 1892 at the Profile House. Since that time he has seldom missed a meeting and has been very active in its deliberations. He has contributed a number of papers and is always found in the foremost ranks, contending for the betterment and advancement of the profession. He was chairman of the Scientific Section in 1896, of the Section on Pharmacy and Dispensing in 1906, and of the Historical Section in 1913. In 1903 he was elected First Vice-President and this year occupies the highest office of the Association.

He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Revision of the Pharmacopœia, and Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Syrups and Elixirs. He was a trustee of the New York College of Pharmacy for three terms until his removal to Cleveland to become Professor of Pharmacy and Dean of the Cleveland School of Pharmacy, in 1914; Dr. Alpers has contributed for many years to pharmaceutical and chemical literature and is now editor of the *Apotheker-Zeitung*, New York. He is the author of many pamphlets and of two books, "The Medicinal Plants of Staten Island," and "The Pharmacists at Work." (Lippincott, 1896).

Among Dr. Alpers' most notable contributions to pharmaceutical literature is his History of the American Pharmaceutical Association, the first decade of which was published in the *Journal* of 1912, and the second decade in the *Journal* of 1914.

Dr. Alpers has been married twice, first to Miss Bertha Guden, by whom he had six children. His oldest and youngest sons, William H. and Otto, received their pharmaceutical education in the New York College of Pharmacy. In 1913 Dr. Alpers espoused the present Madam Alpers, nee Miss Mathilda Van Damm.

In 1914 Dr. Alpers conducted the memorable excursion of American Pharmacists through Germany, Austria and Switzerland, which was cut short by the European war, that prevented the party from visiting Paris, as was also intended. Dr. Alpers and his party were everywhere received with the greatest enthusiasm. The leading pharmacists of Europe who knew him through his writings, welcomed him everywhere and willingly opened to him and his friends the doors of all pharmaceutical institutions.