

# EDITORIAL

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## THE SEASON'S EDITORIAL.

CHRISTMAS joy is widespread; selfishness, for the time, is obscured, if not absent. The happiness of the season is enhanced because everybody be-thinks himself whether he can do something which will add to other people's happiness.

The same spirit within the Association would be productive of good, if the members freely dispensed their concerted efforts, activated by the desire of helpfulness in upbuilding the Association, efficiently and numerically.

Christmas spirit means being helpful and implies a sacrifice. The devotion of time, encouragement, thought and loyalty, in the most liberal sense, transcends the generosity that contemplates the happiness of those upon whom the favors are bestowed. Accepting of this comparison, we admit that the spirit of disinterestedness is shown when we assiduously consider the welfare of the Association, when we evidence our attachment by fulfilling the responsibilities of membership. "A product never excels the capacity of the machine." So the members of an association characterize the organization.

The means of coadjuvancy in the Association are known to every member in it, and now more than ever before, when the high cost of producing the *JOURNAL* and *Year Book* is becoming burdensome, every one of us should resolve to combine his ability with a tenacity of purpose to be helpful. The success achieved by some during last year should be sufficient proof that pharmacists can be persuaded to join the Association. Would that many could realize membership in the Association as a duty they owe to pharmacy and become filled with such firm belief or faith that the contagion would spread. A speaker recently defined a salesman as a man who causes others to believe as he believes, and then moves them to act on that belief. This is the secret of success in all things; it is applicable in securing new members.

Another way of aiding the Association, and one that is open to all members, is by persuading advertisers, for their own benefit, to use the *JOURNAL* as a means of publicity; every pharmacist can speak a word of commendation, for no advertising is sought that has not his confidence.

Kipling says:

"It ain't the guns nor armament, nor the bands that they can play,  
But the close coöperation that makes them win the day.  
It ain't the individual, nor the army as a whole,  
But the everlasting team-work of every blooming soul."

The hopes of pharmacy are largely dependent on the American Pharmaceutical Association, and at this season of the year, when the old year is about to conclude its records and another is soon to be placed upon the reel of time, nearly everyone is in a reflective mood, and these are the reasons for bringing your thoughts to the Association while arranging ours for wording the Season's Greeting of the JOURNAL.

May the members see in the New Year a new opportunity to be used with an increasing and lasting enthusiasm; shaping their deeds so that there will be no ghost of neglected opportunity, but instead a vision of accomplishment; tempering their moods so that their noble impulses will prevail and suppress the haughty spirit that engenders discord. May their lives not become so commonplace as to be an eternal winter of commercialism, whose cold kills their ideals—a tragic concatenation, with each day but a return to yesterday's routine, a mere business, solely for making money.

May the Christmas be a merry one for all, joyful because of the possibility and opportunity for giving; may all share liberally in health, happiness and prosperity during the coming year.

E. G. E.

#### INTEGRITY AND COÖPERATION ARE ESSENTIAL TO PERFECTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF NARCOTIC LAWS.

COÖPERATION is essential in the investigation of the narcotic evil, if it is to be productive of corrective measures. The consideration must be rational; the narcotic addicts are largely among the criminal classes; whether the addiction has brought them there does not enter into this argument; those who are not of the former are almost as unresponsive to persuasion and reason, and about as unreliable. Few of either class possess the determination or even desire to free themselves from the habit. Those who become addicted to alcohol are frequently the most ardent and sincere advocates of prohibition; not so with drug addicts.

The professional reformers and the press have not always observed the really serious part of the problem. Philanthropists while willing to contribute pecuniary aid for its solution overlook the very important fact that drug addicts are seldom cured, at least not in a short period of time. The press, while doubtless concerned in correcting conditions, has also taken advantage of the situation for increasing their circulation. In order to make more animated reading the actual status is frequently distorted or exaggerated, showing that at least one of the objects was to arouse curiosity, even though not the sole purpose of the writing. Some of the articles certainly are devoid of value and may contribute to drug addiction, especially in the case of the feeble-minded and curious. It is generally admitted that reports of the means employed by suicides lead others to take their lives in the same way. So the depicted effects of the narcotics doubtless, if only occa-

sionally, persuade some one to experiment. Comparatively, these cases are few; the assertion is simply to express the opinion that such newspaper articles are not instrumental for lessening drug habituation. The reasons for addiction among the better classes are seldom correctly given.

Every trade and profession has its misfits, those that pursue its duties with a good purpose and others who are simply so engaged for making a living. Each period intensively promotes certain of the industries while neglecting others, and conforms its morals according to prevailing thought, even though there are derelicts. Spurgeon said: "He who boasts of being perfect is perfect in folly. I never saw a perfect man. Every rose has its thorns, and every day its night. Even the sun shows spots, and the skies are darkened with clouds. And faults of some kind nestle in every bosom."

The thought is applicable to a nation as well as individuals.

The State must provide hospitals for the diseased, who suffer perhaps through the fault of a preceding generation, or due to the conditions under which they are forced to live. But homes are also established for those who transgress the laws of the State. As drug habitués are diseased persons, who may contaminate the morals and ruin the life and health of others, it is no less the duty of the State to provide asylums for them.

No matter what the extent of habituation may be, it is deplorable; however, exaggerated statements will not help in remedying the evil. It is sufficient to know that it exists, and unsubstantiated charges are not conducive to coördinated endeavor for its correction, while doing injury and offending many whose interests are deeply concerned. Justice Cornelius F. Collins, of New York Court of Special Sessions, charged wholesale dealers with being responsible for the increase of illegal traffic in narcotic drugs; this statement he modified by saying, "he had no evidence and could prove no collusion on the part of any local wholesaler." The response of the wholesale druggists and manufacturers was prompt and included a request that evidence of guilt be produced, the names of the offenders, and that they be punished no matter who they may be, with the promise of earnest coöperation of the manufacturers and wholesale distributors of narcotic drugs. The drug trade generally has been active in anti-narcotic legislation.

At a recent meeting, largely of medical men, charges somewhat similar to the above were intimated. That is the unfortunate situation: pharmacists welcome the conviction of offenders but to be maligned is an injustice to them. There are violations, as is shown by the report of Commissioner Osborne on Violations of the Harrison Law, which follows in part:

"During the twelve months ended June 30, 1916, there was reported a total of 23,754 violations, which include those of technical nature and also provisions of the regulations issued under authority of the law. These violations involved 11,681 registered and 275 unregistered physicians; 4054 registered and 19 unregistered dentists; 1190 registered and 21 unregistered veterinarians; 91 registered and 6 unregistered manufacturers of drugs; 3 registered importers of drugs; 46

registered wholesale dealers; 4325 registered and 49 unregistered retail dealers; 446 by registered miscellaneous classes."

It must be remembered that many of these violations were technical, and of provisions of the regulations not always understood; many for non-payment of tax at the appointed time. Under the above violations only 83 registered persons were convicted.

There are undoubtedly some in the drug business who sell narcotics, or are in collusion with physicians, as shown by court records. The president of a large manufacturing house made the statement that "they would be glad to discontinue the manufacture of these products entirely if the medical profession could find a way to discontinue their use." This simply goes to show how annoying the situation has become, for everyone must admit that the narcotics are among the most necessary and valuable drugs of the materia medica. Records show that pharmacists are conscientious relative to their duties and responsibilities under anti-narcotic laws, and continued vituperation becomes offensive and should be resented.

This, however, is not a solution of the vexing problem. There must be coöperation between legal and legislative bodies, the public, physicians and pharmacists, in preparing effective legislation and its enforcement. The national law must be supplemented by state laws.

*The Oil Paint and Drug Reporter* in an editorial commented as follows:

"The drug trade as a whole would be willing to stand back of a narcotic measure drafted by former President J. H. Beal, of the American Pharmaceutical Association, as outlined by him in an address before the National Druggists' Association (printed in last month's issue of the JOURNAL A. PH. A.), but his avowed advocacy of the 'middle ground of moderation which shall protect the weak and reckless from exploitation, but shall avoid that paternalism which would deprive the average normal citizen of reasonable freedom of action' would be considered ample reason for determined opposition on the part of the doctrinaires and theorists, and by philanthropists whose generosity is usually financial and not in the exercise of open-minded judgment."

The necessity for perfecting narcotic legislation is emphasized by recent developments and it is hoped that a coöperative, serious effort will be made to codify existing statutes and enact a *rational* uniform law, applicable to all states, that will supplement the Harrison law, after being strengthened by the contemplated amendments.

E. G. E.

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