

COMMITTEE REPORTS

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF PHARMACISTS IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE.*

TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION:

As Chairman of the above-named Committee, I herewith beg to submit the following report:

In my report last year I presented resolutions pertaining to the action of the Comptroller of the Treasury, ruling that the pharmacists in the Public Health Service were not entitled to the provisions of an Act of Congress, providing a slight increase in compensation, he holding that they were performing the same or similar services as in the preceding year. This question was properly presented to the Secretary of the Treasury and the Surgeon-General of the Public Health Service, as directed by the Association, by the General Secretary, but we have been unable to secure a change of ruling by the Comptroller.

A bill has been in the course of preparation for some time, providing for the placing of the pharmacists in the Public Health Service on waiting orders. When completed it will be introduced in Congress and we should give it our support.

Such a law is much desired and will have the effect of relieving a condition now existing whereby men in the service through sickness or disability would have something to fall back upon instead of being carried on the rolls without pay; the Surgeon-General favors such a measure and if properly drafted will receive his support.

The conditions at present in the Hospital Corps of the U. S. Navy are better than in the Army, but far from satisfactory, from the view-point of the pharmaceutical profession. The rank of pharmacist in the Navy is about equivalent to that of Ensign. The men are given this rank but perform no pharmaceutical duties. The Surgeon-General has frequently made the statement, they do not need the pharmacist.

In the re-organization of the Naval Service many of the Hospital Stewards have been promoted. Recently ten of the ranking members of the Hospital Corps were promoted and commissioned as assistant surgeons. What I will say with reference to the Army applies equally as well to the Navy, and if we can succeed in establishing a pharmaceutical corps in the army, we should then exert our endeavors in bringing about a recognition of pharmacy in the naval service.

PHARMACY IN THE U. S. ARMY.

With the declaration of war came the call to colors and the call for every one to "do their bit." The pharmacist, from a sense of duty and patriotism, felt that he could serve his country best along the lines he had specialized in and he looked to the Army branch of the service to do his duty and render assistance. Here he met an unsurmountable barrier, the statutes being specific and while providing for medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine gave no recognition whatever to pharmacy, so that the best an applicant could do was to enlist as a private in the medical corps.

Pharmaceutical work, and most of it may be termed "canned pharmacy," is carried on by the enlisted men of the medical corps. Frequently, and I may say usually, the trained pharmacist is assigned to some duty that has no relation whatever to pharmacy and may be placed under the supervision of some one without sufficient pharmaceutical experience to enable him to pass an examination before a state board. Consequently the trained pharmacists, those possessing state licenses, while willing to serve their country, were not willing to enter this branch of the service under such conditions with little prospect of advancement and then only as non-commissioned officers, preferring to take their chances on being drafted.

Just why pharmacy has received no recognition in the Army, the same as the other branches of medicine, is hard to determine.

The Surgeon-General has on more than one occasion stated, "We do not need the pharmacist." Why? Certainly the men in the Army are entitled to as good attention and treatment when sick or wounded as they have in civil life. The majority of these institutions, including penal institutions, have their dispensaries in charge of educated licensed pharmacists. Are not the men

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in the Army entitled to as good service as is given criminals? Should not this country give its men in the Army as good if not better service than that which is given the men in the armies of foreign countries, England excepted, all of which have a commissioned "Pharmaceutical Corps?" We, as American pharmacists, feel that the Government is not taking advantage of the opportunities that have been offered and has not coördinated or coöperated in this particular line as they should have.

We deplore a duplication of the conditions of the Civil and Spanish-American Wars, the records of which show a larger number of deaths by disease than by bullets. The records of the Spanish-American War show 454 were killed and 5,277 died from disease.

Shall this condition continue through the lack of an earnest endeavor on the part of the American Pharmaceutical Association? We think not, and the records will show that we have placed before the proper officials all available data and followed this up by supporting a bill before Congress providing for the establishment of a pharmaceutical corps.

It would be well to emulate the lesson taught in the Russian-Japanese War by Japan, with its scientific and systematically organized medical department, including a pharmaceutical corps, the ranking officer of which is commissioned Lieutenant-Colonel, as the reduction of mortality from disease and wounds attracted world-wide attention.

Germany reports that 87 percent of the wounded are returned to the trenches, due to the highly scientific and efficient service of its medical corps and the able assistance of its pharmaceutical corps, whose ranking officer is equal to that of a general of a brigade.

President Wulling, recognizing the conditions immediately after the beginning of hostilities, presented to President Wilson and Secretary of War Baker, the conditions in a strong, forcible communication, and appointed a Committee on National Defense to take up with the officials these important questions and to coöperate with other organizations looking to the proper representation of pharmacy and the establishing of a pharmaceutical corps. This committee will report the result of its labors, so that it will be unnecessary to further go into detail at this time.

In closing, I want to urge that the members of this Association call upon their delegations in Congress to support H. R. 5531, prepared by a committee representing the drug trade of Philadelphia, a bill to create a pharmaceutical corps, and that each state association be requested to take similar action. Unless we work together on the proposition, which is only asking justice for an honorable profession, failure will inevitably follow and the endeavors already made will go for naught.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. HILTON, *Chairman.*

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE.

As Chairman of the Committee on National Defense, I herewith beg to submit the following report:

President Wulling, at the urgent request of many pharmacists, and immediately after the severance of relations with Germany, very wisely and properly addressed a communication to President Wilson, pledging the support and tendering the services of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

He likewise addressed a communication to the Secretary of War, with reference to the proper representation of pharmacists in the Army and also on the Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense, pointing out clearly and forcibly what had been done in foreign countries as a proper recognition of pharmacy.

Secretary Baker replied in a friendly tone and enclosed a copy of a memorandum from Surgeon-General Gorgas, disapproving of any action being taken looking toward commissioning pharmacists in the Army and stating that the present methods in the Army were satisfactory. Dr. Martin, of the Council of National Defense, to whom the question of representation on the Advisory Commission was referred, replied that the question would receive due consideration; if it has, we have failed to learn of it.

President Wulling, with the concurrence of the Council, appointed a committee on National Defense, of which I was selected as the chairman. About this time the National Drug Trade Conference was to hold a meeting in Washington, and, as a number of members of our committee would be in attendance at this meeting, I called a meeting of the committee immediately following adjournment of the meeting of the Drug Trade Conference, to consider the situation, inviting

all of the representatives of the drug trade present to meet with us for the purpose of determining a line of action and also to secure greater coöperation and unison.

The Drug Trade Conference considered the question of pharmaceutical representation on the Advisory Commission, and by a very close vote directed the chairman to appoint a committee, of which I was a member, to communicate with the Secretary of War, for the purpose of securing representation for pharmacy and the chemical industries. Our committee met with the committee from the Drug Trade Conference and others and after considerable discussion decided that there should be unanimity of action and that we should proceed along the lines looking to securing representation on the Advisory Commission of the Council of National Defense, believing this could be accomplished by Executive order. We also believed that if we could secure this representation it would be a powerful aid in establishing a pharmaceutical corps.

The Committee of the Drug Trade Conference has done much work but has been unable to report any success. A difference of opinion has arisen in the Conference as to the functions of its committee and the committee has also discovered that to secure representation on the Advisory Commission an Act of Congress will be necessary amending the law and that it cannot be done by Executive order as originally contemplated.

Through the endeavors of President Wulling, Dr. Chas. H. Mayo, President of the American Medical Association, interested himself in the question of establishing a pharmaceutical corps, and at the last annual meeting held in New York the American Medical Association passed resolutions favoring the establishing of such a corps which were approved by the House of Delegates, published in their Journal, and forwarded to the Department. The Journal of the American Medical Association also published a strong editorial entitled "Justice to the Pharmacists" recommending the formation of a pharmaceutical corps. The action of the American Medical Association has been of material assistance to us and the good-will and coöperation of this association and the physicians has helped our cause wonderfully and deserves our thanks.

The pharmaceutical bodies and all branches of the drug trade in Philadelphia have been particularly active on the question of establishing a pharmaceutical corps in the Army and have done excellent work.

The Philadelphia Drug Exchange forwarded strong resolutions to the Secretary of War.

Many meetings were held and a committee was appointed with Mr. George M. Beringer as chairman to draft a bill, to be presented to Congress, creating a pharmaceutical corps. The bill has been drafted and introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Edmonds, and is known as H. R. 5531, and with the exception of a few minor corrections, which can be made in the Committee on Military Affairs, should receive our support and the support of every pharmaceutical and drug organization in this country.

For the information of the members present, I want to advise that the Maryland Pharmaceutical Association has endorsed the bill and has called upon the Maryland delegation in Congress to use their influence in securing its passage by Congress. Likewise the pharmacists of Gonzales, Texas.

Recently I received a circular announcing the formation of the National Pharmaceutical Service Association in Philadelphia, soliciting membership and apparently working for the establishing of a pharmaceutical corps. No doubt many of you have received this same circular. I have quite a few letters from pharmacists enclosing the circular with comments, showing that they were not in sympathy with this movement. Personally, I am of the opinion that we have too many pharmaceutical organizations at present, better results can be obtained by everyone working in unison and coöperating with the mother organization, the American Pharmaceutical Association. I cannot impress too strongly the necessity for concentrating our efforts, determining exactly what is desired and coöperating to the fullest extent. In the past the endeavors of the drug trade have been largely wasted through the lack of coöperation, which I again fear through the multiplicity of associations.

Dr. W. J. Mayo, brother of Dr. Chas. H. Mayo, special aid to Surgeon-General Gorgas, after arriving in Washington, was communicated with by your chairman, requesting his assistance in presenting the question of establishing a pharmaceutical corps to the Surgeon-General and also requesting that he obtain for us, other endeavors on my part having failed, an interview so that we could present our case and give facts which we believed would change his views as presented to the Secretary of War, in regard to pharmacists in the army service. Dr. Mayo showed us every consideration and arranged an interview. There were present Messrs. Beringer, England,

Eberle and Hilton. The interview with the Surgeon-General was short and showed considerable antagonism to the establishing of a pharmaceutical corps. He, however, referred us to a Board he had already selected consisting of Col. Bushnell and Majors Wolf, Russell and McGuire. Col. Fisher was to be a member but was away on other duties. We had a full hearing, although antagonism was again shown, the Board expressing themselves freely that what we were contending for was being done and carried out fully and was above our criticism. To this we replied that we were not criticizing the work they were doing, but the manner and means they were using to accomplish it; that we were there to cooperate with them and were offering educated and trained pharmacists to perform such work, men who had specialized in pharmaceutical work and its allied sciences; and that it could not be expected that such men would enter the service as privates; that by taking advantage of the educated pharmacist they would be relieving the members of the Medical Corps of many duties, giving them more time and better opportunities to practice their profession, and that they would have less trouble in obtaining physicians for the Medical Corps because they would not require as many if they had the pharmacists to perform the duties which clearly came within the province of pharmacy. This argument seemed to change the feeling of the Board, they gave the points we dwelt upon more attention, and we were requested to file a brief setting forth the facts fully for their consideration and report to the Surgeon-General. The brief was prepared by Messrs. George M. Beringer and J. W. England, and has been forwarded to the Department. I am unable at this time to advise what action has been taken, sufficient time has not elapsed owing to the rushed and overworked condition of the Surgeon-General's office.

The bill previously referred to as H. R. 5531 is now in the Committee on Military Affairs, House of Representatives, and I am informed will not be taken up at the special session of Congress, as it is not part of the war programme. The House of Representatives is marking time, recessing from day to day with sessions of a few minutes only, and unless very strong influence can be brought to bear, the Committee on Military Affairs will defer consideration until after the beginning of the regular session early in December.

The American Pharmaceutical Association has called upon every member and pharmacist, through its Journal, to write to their Congressman and Senators urging representation on the Advisory Commission of the Council of National Defense. This must be followed up to show that you are in earnest; write again and again, and further, ask their support for the bill providing for a pharmaceutical corps.

If we can secure the approval of the Surgeon-General on the question of establishing a pharmaceutical corps and a favorable report from Secretary Baker, it will prove a big help, and will then be an easy matter to obtain a favorable report from the Committee on Military Affairs. This will mean the passage of the bill by Congress. If you have any influence with the War Department or the Surgeon-General, get busy and "do your bit" and help secure the proper representation for pharmacy in the Government Service.

In closing this report I want to offer the following recommendations:

That we endorse H. R. 5531 with such changes that may be necessary in committee.

That we use our influence for a favorable consideration and report by Surgeon-General Gorgas and Secretary Baker.

That the thanks of this Association be extended to Dr. Chas. H. Mayo, and the American Medical Association, for the active interest they have shown and the valuable assistance rendered pharmacists and the American Pharmaceutical Association.

That a vote of thanks be also tendered Dr. W. J. Mayo, for discussing with the Surgeon-General the question of establishing a pharmaceutical corps, and also for obtaining for us an interview and an opportunity to present our case.

That we call upon each state pharmaceutical association and every drug trade organization to take concerted action with their Congressmen and Senators in support of the bill providing for a pharmaceutical corps.

And lastly, that we recommend to the incoming President of this Association, the immediate appointment of Mr. George M. Beringer as chairman of our Committee on National Defense, that the Committee be reduced to five, and that we invite the National Association of Retail Druggists to appoint a similar committee to cooperate with our committee.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. HILTON, *Chairman.*