

# EDITORIAL

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## THE HOLIDAYS.

THE happiness of this season is tempered by the events which have transpired during the year, bringing the United States into the world conflict. Patriotism and loyalty are essentials of good citizenship, but regardless of how fully these may possess every one of us, the participation in the war will certainly bring mourning to many homes, and there will be sorrow, no matter how willingly the sacrifices have been made for the cause in which our country enlisted. It therefore needs no words to express that this Christmas will be different from those of former years, but the opportunity is even greater for exhibiting the genuine spirit of this holiday. The Christmas wish then is, that our impulses will be actuated by a desire to be of service to others, and our strength equal to the greater duties that have come upon us; may all of us be able to bring joy to others and thereby share in resultant mutual happiness!

"The world would be both better and brighter if we would dwell on the duty of happiness, as well as on the happiness of duty."

Under present conditions it seems as difficult to extend the wishes of a Happy New Year as that of a Merry Christmas, and still we realize that the darkness will pass away, as time brings night and storm to an end. We can therefore be hopeful for a brighter day and reflect with satisfaction and thankfulness on our circumstances in comparison with those existing elsewhere. In the past, when preparing a New Year's wish, it has sometimes been difficult to anticipate larger benefits for the succeeding year; such a situation does not obtain this time.—Instead of the sorrows and cares of the ebbing tide of 1917, may assurances of better and more hopeful things flow back during 1918!

E. G. E.

"Our deeds have traveled with us from afar;  
And what we have been makes us what we are."

## CIRCUMSPECTION.

THE year past has been one of the most successful of the American Pharmaceutical Association; true, there have been years when a larger number affiliated with the organization and when the net increase of membership was considerably larger; however, the financial status is better than ever before in the history of the Association: the members receive more for their annual dues and gain more by their membership. This is pleasing, stimulating to the spirit of progressiveness; like every other success, progress encourages further advances.

Numbers and dollars are only measures of progress when they do work; action is the important thing, and it is this thought which has prompted the opening sentence. A movement has been started for a federation of all pharmaceutical and drug interests, so that they may work together in common purposes.

Coördination was exhibited in the Sections, and this might be further developed, if the incoming chairmen of the several Sections would confer relative to the programs for the coming year, with a view of completing them later. Though their work differs, there is a close relation as was clearly shown in the Section on Commercial Interests, this year, by the excellent address of Prof. Henry Kraemer, on the "Commercial Value of Pharmacognosy," and so like comparisons might as readily be drawn from papers in the other Sections. The program of the Scientific Section evidenced a growing interest in pharmaceutical research, and the Association expressed its concurrence by the establishment of a research fund, made possible by the income from the National Formulary. All of this speaks for the value of coördination and coöperation, the zeal and devotion of disinterested workers in and for pharmacy; there is not a pharmacist or druggist who does not directly profit therefrom, but comparatively few acknowledge these obligations by participating in the work, or promote the opportunities of the Association by their affiliation. How to bring a larger number into the Association and hold them still remains a problem to be solved.

It is safe to say that few of the members are satisfied with the numerical strength of the Association—the growth has been too slow. Herein is also the secret of the difficulty to secure Governmental recognition for pharmacy: the vast number of druggists are not sufficiently interested, and as a matter of course, others cannot place a higher valuation on pharmacy than do the votaries. Analysis will prove that this very lack of interest, which keeps down the membership roll of the American Pharmaceutical Association, also retards the recognition of pharmacy. It is not contended that if the membership of the American Pharmaceutical Association was increased such recognition would be forthcoming, but the spirit which quickens the interest of pharmacists in their profession, and persuades them to coöperate is the evidence that will convince the public, the legislators of the value of their work. When a larger percentage of pharmacists endeavor to elevate the standard of pharmacy, attest their faith in it, that it affords the opportunity of service to society, then it will be a much easier matter to convince the Government that pharmacy is essential to efficient medical service in the Army and Navy. This may be accomplished without such general coöperation, but if so, it will be in spite of the handicap of the indifference of many pharmacists rather than of open antagonism. This may sound like a note of dissatisfaction, but dissatisfaction is a spur pushing to opportunity, while in contentment there is inactivity.

It is evident that the real progress of the year has been prompted by a degree of dissatisfaction: dissatisfied because there was no stronger coöperation from without, within and among associations; because more pharmaceutical research had not been done; because pharmacy was not fully utilized in the drug business;

because the Government has failed to recognize pharmacy in the military organizations; because the educational standards of pharmacy were no higher; because the modern tendency in the drug business was not fully grasped and commensurate business education provided by colleges, in preparing young men and women for present-day requirements; because the membership of the Association had not grown more rapidly. Dissatisfaction is a sign of life.

“The members who're dissatisfied  
They are the ones who lead;  
They loose the leash of sweet content  
With which the Association's tied;  
They force its work ahead  
By striking word and deed;  
We'll never pay the debt we owe  
To those who are dissatisfied.”

But to those only who are dissatisfied because they desire to improve, to be engaged in constructive work and assist in shaping the affairs of the Association for more extended usefulness; with disregard of self unless the body-pharmaceutical profits by their work, and this reaching out in its beneficial influence to those who are served.

There is then the further thought of being dissatisfied because pharmacy and pharmacists are not given recognition in matters that require pharmaceutical skill and knowledge, or in which pharmacists are directly concerned. Citing as an example that of the present alcohol situation, which is fortunately clearing up somewhat, it is very evident that some of the applying restrictions are unreasonable and that these regulations were not framed by persons informed relative to the drug business.

Pharmacists are ignored in the military organizations to an extent that not only involves waste, but renders the service inefficient—it is time for an aggressive assertion because pharmacists have a right to recognition, because the standing of their profession, which renders a distinct and necessary service to society, is concerned.

Democratic principles should obtain between professions; assumed autocratic powers by any one of them will eventually prove hurtful regardless of how important their services may be. An interdependence has been naturally created because it is impossible for an individual or an associated number, learned or engaged in one line of work, to take over or efficiently direct those of another, relative to which they are not informed.

Quoting President Frederick J. Wulling: “The nature of the service that pharmacy renders places it next in importance to only one other service, namely medical service, and if pharmacy is regarded as a medical specialty, as it should be, the necessity and therefore the importance of its service to society may be regarded as second to none.”

“Pharmacy has long been on the defensive because it lacked a unified force and weapon of resistance. I am asking and counselling that it awaken more universally and become consistently aggressive.”

E. G. E.

## USE YOUR INFLUENCE FOR THE EDMONDS BILL.

**T**HE need of a pharmaceutical corps in the U. S. Army has been discussed in nearly every issue of the JOURNAL for this year. This appeal for the personal efforts of the members in furthering H. R. 5531 (Edmonds Bill) is written prior to the hearing before the Committee on Military Affairs of the House.

It is safe to say that all legislation before Congress requires study and investigation on the part of legislators. In matters of national legislation the latter represent the whole people, but the sincere presentation of facts regarding any measure, from those they know personally, is helpful. They seek enlightenment so they may arrive at conclusions; their responsibilities are great, their reputation depends on acting wisely, and even by exercising every precaution they will make mistakes.

No one has a better conception of the need for a pharmaceutical corps than pharmacists; many have had practical experience in, or have trustworthy information from those in the service relative to Army pharmacy; all are aware of the skill and care necessary in their own practice, and no one will dispute that our soldiers are entitled to every possible protection, and the best of attention when wounded or sick.

Every member of the Association has had the opportunity of studying the proposed measure and organizations, like the one contemplated, in foreign armies. It is the essence of these facts that your representatives in Congress desire: they want your views, and they want them now—let them hear from you.

There is opposition to the Edmonds Bill, or the cause it espouses—some sincere and some may be actuated by selfish motives; Congressman Edmonds hopes to pass the measure because well organized military pharmaceutical service will conserve the health and life of our soldiers. At Philadelphia, last month, he expressed the opinion that if Congress can be convinced of the necessity for a pharmaceutical corps, such organization will be provided for; this is a reasonable view but indicates that pharmacists will have to produce evidence and argument.

While, as already stated, the hearing on the Bill may have been held when the December issue reaches the members, even if satisfactory, the enactment will require several months, and in the meantime the influence and coöperation of all druggists and pharmacists, individually and collectively, will be necessary. Let your communications be brief, expressive of your views, and emphasize the importance of a pharmaceutical corps in the Army. If your support is prompted by an interest in the welfare of those who have enlisted, in having this country provide the most efficient service, if you are solicitous that pharmacy be recognized as a profession, it is worth the time required to draft *your own* message to members of Congress, both in the House and Senate, and this will be worth much more than a simple endorsement, or even a repetition of excerpts from a well-prepared brief—put yourself into it.

E. G. E.