

## EDITORIAL

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### THE PHARMACIST AND THE WAR.

THE probable effects of the war on the pharmacist are so manifold and so far-reaching that it would be difficult to summarize them within the brief limits imposed on an editorial review. The subject is treated at some length in a special article by Caswell A. Mayo, which appears elsewhere in this issue. As Mr. Mayo points out, every individual in the United States will be affected in some way by our entry into the war, and almost every industry and every calling will bear its own special burden. In many of the industries, however, the artificial stimulus imparted by war will bring with it largely increased profits. The pharmacists have little prospect of reaping any compensating profit, but are assured of increased burdens of taxation.

The question of whether or not the war tax known as Schedule B during the Spanish War will be re-enacted remains to be determined. It seems highly probable, however, that some special form of stamp tax will be imposed on proprietary articles of all sorts, including medicines, cosmetics and perfumery. At a recent meeting of the New York Pharmaceutical Conference a resolution was adopted requesting that if such a tax is imposed it will be imposed in cents and multiples thereof and not in fractions of a cent. This resolution was adopted with a view to the possibility of passing on the tax to the consumer, as is done quite successfully in Canada, and as formerly with the stamp tax on express receipts and on telephone messages in the United States. Indeed, wherever stamp taxes are in force they are almost uniformly paid by the ultimate consumer and not by the manufacturer or dealer. This is as it should be, for taxation should always be distributed as nearly as possible over the entire community on the theory that the entire community benefits by the expenditure of the money so obtained.

The teachers in pharmacy will be much interested in the lines of activity proposed by Dean Wulling for the College of Pharmacy of the University of Minnesota and referred to in Mr. Mayo's article. It might be well if the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties would canvass this question with its constituents and be able to lay before the Government some concrete suggestions as to the best method of making use of the facilities and personnel of the colleges of pharmacy of the United States.

Relative to the recognition of pharmacy and pharmacists by the Government in the present crisis, and thereafter, in the Army and Navy, a letter of President F. J. Wulling, of the American Pharmaceutical Association to the Secretary of War, is largely drawn upon for editorial comment.

Pharmacy has no adequate representation in the Army and Navy and no representation has been accorded it on the Council for National Defense. Medicine is strongly represented. Medicine is not pharmacy, nor does it include pharmacy as evidenced by the existence of the separate pharmaceutical profession. National defense without adequate pharmaceutical representation and recognition can never be as effective as it can be with pharmaceutical participation under proper standard of recognition. Medical men are not pharmacists, neither do they claim to be. They cannot any more give expert pharmaceutical service than pharmacists can give medical or surgical service. In the failure to recognize and employ the expert pharmaceutical services available, the country falls short in that degree. It is fallacious to claim that pharmaceutical service in war or peace is negligible or of so low a grade that it shall be a handmaiden to any other division of the service.

The Council for National Defense has appointed a committee, of which the Secretary of War is chairman, to effect, among other things, a practical standardization of pharmaceutical supplies. Who is as competent as a highly trained expert pharmacist to direct this standardization and other purely pharmaceutical activities? Unless this kind of work is under the direction or responsible participation of such a pharmacist, the country is deprived of the best kind of service in this field and yet it is entitled to the very best that the country affords.

There are probably in excess of 500,000 persons engaged in pharmaceutical activities, and their good-will is advantageous; though this would not be withheld, it is reasonable to assume that proper and deserved recognition would stimulate and augment their help and loyal support.

The United States has not a pharmaceutical corps for the control and direction of medical and pharmaceutical supplies service such as all other great countries except Great Britain and Russia, have. In each of these large countries a corps of highly trained pharmacists with commissioned rank has the medical and pharmaceutical supplies service in its hands. The head of the service in Germany is of the rank of Colonel; in Japan, of the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel; in Italy and France, of the rank of Major-General. These officers are experienced and practical pharmacists of high attainments and qualifications, capable of directing their respective service. Our own country contains many such men who are at least as capable, if not more so, for this kind of service as a surgeon could possibly be. That American pharmacy is not represented in the country's service in the form of a pharmaceutical corps composed of men equal in rank to those in the medical service is undoubtedly due to the fact that American pharmacy has not exerted that pressure for this merited recognition and opportunity to serve under its own responsibility and standard that it is capable of, and now that there is opportunity for rendition of valuable service American pharmacy should receive some

recognition, commensurate not only with its possibilities, but with its services in the past.

If the post of Chief Medical Purveyor is not already in existence, it ought to be created and put in charge of an expert, qualified pharmacist with administrative ability. Such a one should be clothed with ample authority and should be of the rank not lower than that of Colonel. The importance of the medical and pharmaceutical supplies service can hardly be exaggerated. Our late war with Spain demonstrated the utter inadequacy and futility of methods then in use for the purchase, manufacture and distribution of pharmaceutical and medical supplies.

Pharmacists everywhere, individually and collectively, should use their influence with the Secretaries of War and Navy, their Congressmen and Senators, in gaining recognition for pharmacy. While at this writing the method of prescription has not been decided upon, pharmacists should serve in capacities for which they are fitted by training, experience and education. E. G. E.

#### THE JOURNAL AS THE POINT OF CONTACT.

**T**HE scope of the American Pharmaceutical Association, including as it does those who are interested in every branch of pharmacy, and therefore bringing within its membership retail pharmacists, wholesalers, manufacturers, chemists and teachers, is of great advantage to pharmacy, in providing a forum where these various interests may discuss, without prejudice, their common problems. This same broadness of scope is also a source of weakness in that the Association's efforts are spread over so large a field.

These considerations are brought to mind in connection with the criticisms that have been made from time to time regarding the JOURNAL, and, while not desiring to offer an apology for the JOURNAL, as in my opinion it needs none, yet there is something to be said in reply to these strictures. It seems trite to observe that every member of the Association should find something in every number of the JOURNAL which will appeal to him as well worth while, but *no* member should expect every article in the JOURNAL to touch his special interests. The criticism that has been made by a few that "the JOURNAL contains very little that I can use in my business" is not borne out by fact, for a great many articles of real practical value have appeared in the JOURNAL from time to time, and such contributions are certain to appear regularly in the future; but even if this accusation were true, it evinces a narrowness of view-point that no thoughtful pharmacist should tolerate.

In one of his essays, Stevenson wittily says: "Perpetual devotion to what a man calls his business is only to be sustained by perpetual neglect of many other things and it is not by any means certain that a man's business is the most important thing he has to do." While admitting the urgency of provision for the

daily needs of life as a limitation of this altruistic doctrine, yet it is certainly the duty of every pharmacist to keep in touch with the phases of the development of his profession even where these lie considerably outside of his own immediate interests.

No better opportunity for contact with pharmaceutical activities and to aid in promoting what is best in pharmacy is offered to American pharmacists than that provided by membership in the American Pharmaceutical Association and a careful reading of its JOURNAL. That the JOURNAL can be improved upon no one doubts. It has developed from a small beginning, for the Bulletin was practically no more than a commentary upon the Proceedings and a means of keeping the officers and committees in touch with the business of the Association.

A retrospect of the JOURNAL for the past four years will satisfy any fair-minded person that an evolution is going on which is to the advantage of pharmacy and the Association. The affairs of the Association are now presented in a more concise manner though there is probably still room for improvement in regard to the reports of the convention and the sessions of the sections. Briefer and more condensed reports with important actions featured would better accord with the style of modern journalism. A limit on the length of contributions, to be exceeded only when these are of unusual value or interest, has been proposed and favorably considered. A selection from among the papers presented, such as would afford as great a variety as possible would be desirable. But notwithstanding the difficulty of maintaining a hold upon so wide a field, as the Association now endeavors to cover, the promise for pharmacy is so great that the effort is well worth while. It would be most unfortunate for the future of the profession if this fine note of idealism—of altruism—so evident in the activities of the American Pharmaceutical Association, were lost.

W. B. DAY.

#### THE AMERICAN PHARMACY FAIRCHILD SCHOLARSHIP.

THE work of the Committee on the American Fairchild Scholarship has sufficiently progressed so that the award will become available this year for a prospective student, contemplating a course of study in one of the schools belonging to the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties. The value of the scholarship is \$300.00.

The examinations are to be held in the schools of pharmacy having matriculants who desire to compete for the scholarship. The questions for this competitive examination will be prepared by a joint committee of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. The dean of the college, or representative, and a state board of pharmacy member will supervise the examination. The examination papers of the candidates will be numbered, or some other identification mark placed thereon, and submitted to the Joint Committee on Examination Questions who will grade

them and then send them to the Editor of the JOURNAL OF THE A. P. H. A. The latter will report to the Committee on the Fairchild Scholarship and they will make the award. The relative value placed on the examination will be as 70 against 30 on the credentials submitted. The candidate must be a graduate of a four-year high school course and have had two years of drug store experience. These credentials must be submitted by the deans of the colleges to the Editor of the JOURNAL. Pharmacists, who have apprentices contemplating a course in pharmacy, and who can meet the preliminary requirements, should advise them to matriculate and inform the dean of the school that they intend to compete for the Fairchild Scholarship. It has been decided to hold these examinations June 25th.

The first year's work of the Committee will in a degree be experimental, necessitating perhaps a change in some of the details of the award in succeeding years. The examinations for 1917 in chemistry will be confined to questions relating to the preparation and properties of the elementary gases, hydrogen, oxygen, chlorine and nitrogen, and their best known compounds; to the mineral acids of the U. S. Pharmacopoeia; and elementary questions will be asked on the fundamental principles of chemistry.

The questions relating to materia medica will be confined to the animal and vegetable drugs of the U. S. Pharmacopoeia. Candidates will be expected to know the scientific names of animals or plants yielding such drugs, their natural orders, habitats, and the parts used in medicine. The questions will, as far as possible, be confined to drugs which apprentices and assistants are accustomed to handle frequently, so as to bring out the knowledge acquired by their observations.

In practical pharmacy and prescription reading, candidates will be asked questions relative to the preparation of the diluted acids of the U. S. Pharmacopoeia, fluidextracts, syrups, decoctions, infusions, liniments, ointments, pills and suppositories. They will be expected to know something of the methods by which the soluble or active constituents of drugs are extracted by means of official menstrua, as in preparing fluidextracts and tinctures. Candidates will be expected to translate the Latin of prescriptions into English, and to be familiar with both the apothecaries' and metric systems of weights and measures. Candidates will be expected to know the special conditions under which certain articles kept by druggists can be sold, but the questions will not involve further knowledge of the laws than is usually imparted by employers to their apprentices or assistants. They will be expected to have an elementary knowledge of general business principles as applied to the retail drug trade.

In donating this annual scholarship, Mr. Fairchild has exhibited his attachment for pharmacy, and the act is worthy of emulation in a similar or related way by others. The students to whom the scholarship is awarded will doubtless reflect credit on pharmacy as the years go by, and their accomplishments will be a source of gratification to the donor.

E. G. E.

## WAR AND THE PHARMACIST.

BY CASWELL A. MAYO, Ph.M.

Again we have embarked on the great adventure. After years of peace and prosperity we have taken up the dreadful task of war. Since our skirmish with Spain the word war has taken on a wholly new and horrid significance. All its pomp and circumstance, all its grandeur and its glory, all its glamour and its romance, have vanished. As we see it now close up, divested of its trappings and its regalia, it is a frightful and a sordid thing. It is a thing of manual toil, of mud and filth, of hunger and thirst, of horrible suffering and anguish, of degradation and of death. Money and machinery are its prime requisites. The neighing charger has given way to the caterpillar tractor; the telephone and the range finder have taken the place of the lance and the spear; chlorine and liquid flame have been substituted for the cavalry charge, and the chemist has supplanted the *beau sabreur*. The Iron Cross is won by the stoop-shouldered, bespectacled savant in his studio, not by the dashing young giant at the front. But there are those of us who hope that when this war comes to a close the world will have been purged of imperialism, that democracy will rule in the East as it does in the West, and that there will be no more wars. If, indeed, that hope finds fruition the sacrifices we may be called upon to make will not have been in vain.

### THE EFFECT ON THE PHARMACIST HIMSELF.

The war will affect the pharmacist personally in so far as he or the members of his family are liable to service. It will affect him professionally in so far as he can render professional service to his country, and it will affect him financially in his liability to increased taxation, special as well as general.

The personal relation of the pharmacist to war depends upon his age, his physical fitness for military service and his educational attainments. The war department has no use for the highly trained pharmaceutical chemist. A few men of this type may be engaged as civilian employees in the medical supply depots, but will receive no official recognition or standing in the service. The medical supply service is administered exclusively by doctors for doctors, consequently the university graduate in pharmacy who wishes to serve his country in some capacity in which his education will be of the greatest value both to himself and to the United States will find in the officers' reserve corps the best opportunity to be of service.

The war department has urged all young men of collegiate education who wish to serve their country to apply for entry into the officers' reserve corps, where, if accepted, they will be given three months' training in camps, fourteen camps having been dedicated to this service. The Adjutant General has announced that the officers in training will not be paid any salary. This announcement has been received with a vigorous protest from every quarter. Such a policy would mean that only young men of means could afford to become officers and such a policy would tend to build up a military aristocracy in contravention of the basic democratic principles on which our government and our army are organized.

Undoubtedly the public clamor against this action of the Adjutant General will be heeded and the young officers in training be paid, as they should be.

The pharmacist who is not a college graduate will find in the Navy the best outlet for his patriotism and the best opportunity to make use of his knowledge of pharmacy, for there pharmacy is at least not a bar to promotion as it is in the Army. The young man who enters the pharmaceutical corps of the Navy may eventually become a warrant officer, whereas the pharmacist joining the medical department of the Army can never rise above the rank of Sergeant no matter how great his attainments, how valuable his services, nor how long he has served. In no other department is promotion from the ranks barred. For this reason we advise the ambitious young pharmacist to enlist in the line rather than in the medical corps. In the line he may become an officer, in the medical department he can never become one.

#### NO PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICE IN THE ARMY.

It is most unfortunate for the United States and for its soldiers that the government has adopted, and persists in maintaining, the policy of excluding pharmaceutical chemists from consideration in the organization of its medical department. The self-satisfied doctors who control the policy of the medical department refuse to learn either by the experience of our own wars or by observation of the workings of the medical departments in the great continental armies. They take the ground that the doctor knows everything and can do everything connected with medicine better than any one else, and unless a pharmaceutical chemist has an M.D. attached to his name he is given no more consideration than any laborer or clerk and must enlist as a second-class private at the munificent wage of \$15.00 a month.

Several of the leading manufacturers have been called to Washington to consult with the Council for National Defense and have been organized as a Committee on Standardization of Medical and Surgical Supplies. This gives ground for hope that the medical department has at last decided to make use of the expert services so freely offered by the manufacturers. Since this was done large bids for medical supplies previously advertised by the medical department have been withdrawn. This is still further indication of a reform in the medical supply service and probably means that hereafter the orders placed by the government will take cognizance of trade usage. If this reform is accomplished much time and money will be saved in the purchase of medical and surgical supplies.

The teachers in pharmacy will find their classes depleted by the call to arms. War feeds on youth. Boys constitute the rank and file of the army. The effect on classes will depend on the duration of the war. If only one draft of 500,000 men is made the effect will not be serious. If this is followed by additional drafts there will be a material depletion of the classes. If, however, as seems probable the minimum age limit is raised to twenty-one the classes will not suffer so much.

#### EFFECT ON THE SCHOOLS.

Just what service the schools of pharmacy can render is indicated by Dean Wulling in a recent report to the president of the University of Minnesota to the effect that the School of Pharmacy could undertake the manufacture in bulk of pharmaceutical preparations, the testing of supplies, the examination of food,

the cultivation of medicinal vegetable drugs on a larger scale than is now carried on, and the direction and supervision of the collection of vegetable drugs now growing wild in the State of Minnesota. Similar services could be rendered, and no doubt would be rendered by every college of pharmacy if called upon.

#### THE FINANCIAL BURDEN.

As a citizen and taxpayer the pharmacist will be called upon to share the increased burden of taxation involved in the issuance of seven billion dollars of bonds. This means that every man, woman and child in the United States has been saddled with an additional debt of \$74.00. This debt will begin to draw interest as the bonds are issued, and a portion of it will no doubt be handed on to our heirs. This burden no person can escape, though the tax may be collected in such a roundabout manner that the individual taxpayer will not realize the fact that he is paying it.

As a retail druggist the pharmacist will surely be called upon to pay a special burden of taxation. An increase of \$2 a gallon in the tax on alcohol is suggested and will undoubtedly be imposed. While efforts will be made to exempt alcohol destined for use in medicinal preparations from the imposition of this tax, these efforts are doomed to failure. A Congress which is dealing in billions will not consider such trifling exemptions as this.

The retail druggist and the manufacturer of proprietary remedies will also be confronted by a proprietary stamp tax. The authorities talk of a proprietary stamp tax covering medicines, toilet goods and perfumery and it has been proposed to re-enact Schedule B of the Spanish war tax. Here again protest seems destined to failure, though a vigorous campaign of protest has been inaugurated by the proprietors, the wholesale dealers, and a considerable portion of the retail drug trade. If in spite of these protests a stamp tax is imposed on proprietary preparations of all sorts, it would be wise for the drug trade to ask that this tax be imposed in such a way that it will be passed on to the consumer. This has been done in Canada and under the impetus of aroused patriotism the public seems to have paid the tax with but little protest. In view of the fact that the increased tax on alcohol used in medicine will virtually fall on the shoulders of the drug trade, there is ample justification for efforts on the part of the drug trade to pass on the proprietary stamp tax to the public. Indeed the principle of stamp taxation contemplates the widest possible distribution of the burden.

The proposal to lower the limit of exemption of income subject to tax will also affect many pharmacists. The present limit of \$3000 for single men and \$4000 for heads of families probably eliminates from the tax the large majority of retail druggists of the country. If this limit is lowered to \$2000, probably a majority of those hitherto untaxed will be affected, though there are no reliable statistics available as to the average net income of the retail drug trade.

No matter in what field the pharmacist may be engaged he cannot escape the effects of the war. He must either serve in the ranks, must pay additional taxes if engaged in business, must have fewer pupils if a teacher, and must in all cases pay the higher cost of living. If this war brings democracy to Europe and puts an end for all time to imperialism and to war, the sacrifices we shall be called on to make will be made most willingly.

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