



**JOSEPH P. REMINGTON**

## JOSEPH PRICE REMINGTON, Ph.M.

Born Philadelphia March 26, 1847—Deceased January 1, 1918.

Joined the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1867; elected president in 1892; succeeded Dr. Charles Rice (deceased) in 1901 as Chairman of the Revision Committee of the United States Pharmacopoeia, and elected to the same office for the Ninth Revision. Presided at the Seventh International Pharmaceutical Congress in 1893, represented the United States at the Eighth Convention in Brussels, 1896. Presided over the Section on Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the International Congress of Chemistry, 1912. Dean of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy since 1893; succeeded William Procter, Jr., as Professor of Pharmacy in 1874.

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I have been informed that Professor Remington is very low, and that possibly we may never have the opportunity of another visit together. One may be excused, in a case like this, for addressing a mutual friend, even though the subject be painful to both, and thus I take the privilege of writing you, who, now resident in the city home of Professor Remington, as editor of the *JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION*, will be in affiliating sympathy with persons like myself, afar off.

These many years ago Professor Remington and I met first in Indianapolis, Ind., at the meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association, 1879. Professor Remington was then in the vigor of his early manhood. I studied him as a hero, because even at that date his magnificent services to pharmacy had led everyone to consider him as perhaps the most conspicuous incoming American engaged in pure pharmacy in all its outreaches. A professor in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy; a successful conductor of a drug store in the city of Philadelphia; schooled as he had been with such men as Procter, Parrish and Maisch, with the practical experience that came from personal effort under that Nestor of American pharmacy, Dr. Edw. R. Squibb, in whose laboratory Professor Remington, close to Squibb, served an apprenticeship,—this, too, years after he began his apprenticeship opportunity with the established house of Charles Ellis Sons & Co., of Philadelphia. One can but comprehend that to the present writer the chance, to one whose opportunities had not been great, of meeting this celebrated pharmacist, was an epoch, an event.

May this writer not add that possibly but for Professor Remington he might not himself have been long in the service of pharmacy? Remington it was who championed his cause in a personal way at Indianapolis, even volunteering, and reading, the paper prepared by the writer for that occasion, "On the Conditions Necessary to Successfully Conduct Percolation."

Close together have we been since that date, each serving in the field of pharmaceutical opportunity, these fields often seemingly separated, and yet united as a whole. In my praise of Remington, I voice what seems sure to me to be the sentiment of thousands of pharmacists who, in separated sections of the country, have been in close touch with this leader of us all, Professor Joseph P. Remington, in Philadelphia.

\* The editor has received permission to print this letter from Prof. John Uri Lloyd, a life-long friend of the deceased. The references to the latter's life and character have prompted this action. Owing to the nearness of publication day, other matter relating to Professor Remington will be deferred for the February number.

<sup>1</sup> See *Proceedings of the American Pharmaceutical Association*, 1879, p. 682.

My dear Mr. Eberle: May I not, in the frankest way possible, express to you these thoughts, and may I not accept in expressing them, as a lingering member of the associates of Professor Remington who have passed away, as well as thousands of pharmacists in America who may not feel at liberty, as do I, to take that privilege, that I may add to the foregoing even yet, a further word?

Among the past close friends of Professor Remington, none of whom are now with us, I recall Professor Saunders, of Canada, a bosom friend of Remington; they attended, the National meetings and roomed together. Together they visited England, ovations marking their course in that country. So very close were they that the terms Joseph and William only, were used in conversation. That very talented man, Professor John M. Maisch, a teacher-companion of Remington, attended, always in Remington's company, the meetings of the American Pharmaceutical Association; together they came, never a word of discord between them; companions were they, until came the announcement at our Chicago American Pharmaceutical Association meeting (1893) that Professor Maisch had passed away. Dr. Charles Rice, that remarkable man whose biography has never yet been written, and in my opinion, never can be, was to Professor Remington, as to all others, an inspiration. Of Edw. Parrish, to whom Remington was an assistant, Professor Remington always thought and spoke with the utmost veneration, which was also true of Professor Wm. Procter, Jr. And be it said that the wealth of pharmaceutical opportunity that came to Professor Remington from these teachers and companions, was distributed by him to the world-at-large. To thus name all the companions of the olden time, made by Professor Remington, would be to mention every teacher who had accomplished or contributed to the cause during the period of Remington's early activity.

But not alone with such as these did Prof. Remington fraternize. Not a student, within forty years, has been graduated from the College of Pharmacy in Philadelphia, but feels that he is a close friend of sympathetic Professor Remington. It has been my privilege to meet many hundreds of these graduates of that long-established institution, and never, so far as I can recall, did a discussion connected with pharmacy occur but that the name of Professor Remington came in as that of one the speaker knew personally. This, I will say, is literally true, because every member of the classes of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy for decades has been to Professor Remington a personal charge, and Remington, being in the department of pharmacy, is naturally very close to any student whose life-work is to be pharmacy.

But what of other companions? To my mind's eye they arise, everywhere. Wherever there was to be an event in pharmacy that would bring together men imbued with the cause of pharmacy, Remington was sure to be present, and not only was he present, but actively so. A leader among them all was he. If an address was to be made, Remington was the one selected for the purpose, in whatever direction it may have been necessary. And, Remington never failed. At alumni meetings and college reunions held by pharmaceutical organizations Remington was considered one of the members, as much so as though his college course had been in their college. Be it known, to Professor Remington the cause of pharmacy was cosmopolitan, and he considered himself to be concerned in every phase of pharmaceutical effort. Whoever was teaching, whoever was studying, whoever was contributing in any direction, and from any direction, was in his circle.

Perhaps the most enjoyable of all occasions at the various meetings of pharmaceutical associations that it came my privilege to attend, were those of the alumni of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, and in these always Professor Remington was not only an integral part, but a cherished guest; a representative of the world-at-large, as well as of the College to which he devoted his special time.

And not alone with those concerned in manipulative pharmacy such as becomes the charge of the apothecary, but of men engaged in pharmaceutical activities on a very large scale, such as came into the field with the entrance of the factory

manufacturer, "the manufacturing pharmacist," did Professor Remington affiliate, by right of education. His personal experience with Dr. Squibb, the connection his preceptors, Procter and Parrish, held with such as Tilden and Company, Charles Ellis Sons and Company, Wm. R. Warner and Company, Hance Brothers and White, Charles Bullock, Sharp and Dohme, Frederick Stearns, of Detroit, and others of the struggling pioneers of those days, led Professor Remington to a kindly affiliation with those establishing, and conducting such industries as these. He appreciated that they had become a part in American pharmaceutical evolution, and that in their activities the factor of pharmaceutical education of the individual should dominate. And hence we note his kindly affiliation and helpful services to those who came in later, principal among whom may be mentioned Parke, Davis & Co., of Detroit, and Eli Lilly & Co., of Indianapolis. Well do I remember how, when Mr. Eli Lilly, founder of the house, gave a home banquet on a special occasion two decades or more ago, Professor Remington made the journey from Philadelphia to Indianapolis. And surely Remington would have made that journey if for no other reason than to please his pupil, J. K. Lilly, whose pharmacy instruction was taken under Professor Remington in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. Well do I remember that happy occasion, which it was also my privilege to enjoy.

As would be supposed from the congenial nature of Professor Remington, which so impressed everyone he met, his family relationship is most delightful. To touch this phase of his life is a very delicate subject, even in a letter to a mutual friend, but yet I cannot refrain from expressing to you the pleasures that have come to me in the visits to and from Professor Remington's family, and members thereof. To enter that home, is like entering one's own, because of the whole-souled hospitality of each and every member. To this it may be added that Professor Remington's love and affection for his wife and children, as shown to his personal friends, is only paralleled by a reciprocity from themselves. Taken all in all, a very happy and a very charming family is the Remington family I have in mind.

My dear Mr. Eberle: I feel that this letter is much too long, and yet its space would be much too short were one to attempt to present even the high lights of a biography of Professor Joseph P. Remington. I have recorded but a touch of what came to me in the passing along of a discursive letter, as thought crushed upon thought, event upon event, opportunity close following opportunity in the direction of what I felt needs be said, and yet for lack of space could not be said. Painful though it is to think that I am writing this letter during what may possibly be the closing period of the life of this companion and friend, it is yet a melancholy pleasure to feel that I am not passing the bounds of prudence. All I have said and more, will be felt by others who were more fortunate, others who were in daily touch with Professor Remington, as it was not my privilege to be, and who may not, as do I, assume the responsibility of intruding a personal letter.

Strange how insidiously Time moves us in and out. Of those close in the companionship of Professor Remington and myself in days long gone by, very, very few are living.

May I not close this letter with a sentence from "The Code of Manu"—

"As drifting logs of wood may haply meet  
On ocean's waters surging to and fro,  
And having met, drift once again apart,  
So, fleeting, is the intercourse of men.

"E'en as a traveller meeting with the shade  
Of some o'erhung tree, awhile reposes,  
Then leaves its shelter to pursue his way,  
So men meet friends, then part with them forever."

Sincerely yours,  
JOHN URI LLOYD.