

instead of defending professional pharmaceutical practice and protecting the public from unlicensed practitioners who invaded the field, commercialized their calling and aided in converting the vocation into the nostrum business until it became practically impossible for the medical profession and the lay public and even the pharmacists themselves to recognize the difference between true pharmacy and the so-called "patent," "proprietary" or "quack" medicine business. Will someone please tell me where the line exists that separates true pharmacy from the nostrum business? Where does true pharmacy end and the nostrum business commence?

It has been truly said that the drug business differs from every other business on earth in that the druggist cannot recommend or advertise his wares without becoming a quack and a pretender. The very fact that this is true clearly shows that pharmacy cannot be practiced as a commercial business employing commercial methods of advertising, without ceasing to be pharmacy and becoming a menace to public health. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Surgeon General of the Army and his advisors regard so-called pharmacy as unworthy of recognition by the establishment of a pharmaceutical corps in the Army. The Surgeon General has doubtless conferred with his advisors on the subject and finds that physicians, sanitarians, political economists, philanthropists and the educated lay public quite generally share the opinion that much of what is now called pharmacy is nothing more nor less than the nostrum business.

We believe that the establishment of a pharmaceutical corps in the Army, the same to be conducted in the manner described in the Edmonds Bill, would not only increase the efficiency of the Medical Corps, but also exert a salutary influence on pharmaceutical practice in civil life. We believe that it would aid in separating the pharmaceutical sheep from the nostrum goats that are bleating everywhere. We believe that it would give prestige and influence to the practitioners of true pharmacy in the entire United States. We believe that it would excite interest in pharmaceutical education and thus promote the welfare of our educational institutions. We believe that it would aid in restoring the confidence of the medical profession and the public generally in drugs as remedial agents, and thus materially promote the public health. Therefore, we favor the Edmonds bill as a step toward the separation of true pharmacy from the nostrum business and restoring it to its position as a branch of medical science and practice.

MILITARY RECOGNITION OF PHARMACISTS.*

BY L. E. SAYRE.

So much has been said upon the proper recognition of the pharmacist in military service that it would seem rather rash for one to use this title for a paper at this time without some apology.

However, the importance of national service which our profession is capable of rendering in this hour of our country's need will excuse the use of over-used titles and material.

In the report of the Committee on Drug Reform, presented in this Section, the statement is made that the problem of the proper representation of the pharma-

* Read before Section on Education and Legislation, A. Ph. A., Indianapolis meeting, 1917.

cist in the Army had been squarely faced. President Wulling, it was stated, had been active in representing the Association in the investigation of this subject which, while it is very important for pharmacy as a whole, and important as being among the agencies which will stimulate and activate pharmacy's share in military service—service which pharmacy is capable of rendering—it is of little consequence in stimulating patriotism and loyalty which the profession has already shown through its noble young men. Let it be said at once, if pharmacy, in urging proper recognition, is taking advantage of an opportunity to lift itself beyond the grade it deserves, this should be denounced as a species of cupidity unworthy of our noble calling. This is a time for proving our loyalty, rather than for seeking profit by any process of appeal to our Government whose needs at this time are so desperate.

If, however, the military service of the pharmacist will be made more efficient, leaving out of consideration all other points—important as they may be considered—it is the duty of this body to see to it that the greatest efficiency of the pharmacist in national defense is made possible. If the pharmacist is discriminated against by any antagonistic influence, thus hindering the full measure of efficient service, this influence should be discovered and if possible removed, for this, in a measure we not only owe to the profession but is due to the country we wish to serve.

Notwithstanding this lack of proper recognition, the thing to do above all is to equip ourselves to perform properly the duties in the station we now occupy. If we can show a willingness to take up these duties despite discouragements we shall be in a better position to present our petition for the introduction of pure pharmacy in the various arms of the defense service.

It is gratifying indeed that the medical profession is recognizing the importance of the services of the pharmacist. In an editorial of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* of June 16, 1917, it is stated that,

“It will materially lighten the arduous duties and responsibilities of the physician to have in the army trained pharmacists who will be able to give intelligent coöperation. But it is imposing too great a strain on the patriotism of those whose special knowledge is obviously a large asset to the army, to expect them to enlist as privates without any recognition of their national worth.

“Pharmacists should be given a rank commensurate with their importance, first because it is but simple justice to the pharmacists themselves, secondly, because the usefulness of the medical corps will be greatly augmented and, lastly, and of most importance, because the efficiency of our army demands it.”

The report of the Committee on Drug Reform, alluded to before, calls attention to the suggestion of Dr. A. R. L. Dohme, namely: That the six National Drug Associations constitute a Conference, through appointed delegates, to represent the drug trade on all such important questions as this. Would it not be well to have this suggestion discussed at this annual meeting. Such a plan would bring the strength of the whole body of pharmacists to bear upon all such important matters.

In connection with this matter of military recognition it is worthy of note that the Pennsylvania and the Wisconsin Associations have adopted resolutions

which are deserving of special notice. As passed by the latter association, they are as follows:¹

"WHEREAS, The public welfare at all times, especially during the war, demands that the services of both the medical and pharmaceutical profession and of all of the branches of the drug trade be fully utilized,

"WHEREAS, A medical sector has been created in the Advisory Commission of the Council of National Defense, no representation has been provided for pharmacy and no adequate representation for the drug trade; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That it is the sense of the Wisconsin Pharmaceutical Association, in thirty-seventh annual convention assembled at Milwaukee, June 25-29, 1917, that proper representation in the war administration for pharmacy and the drug trade forthwith be provided; and further,

"Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy, and to all organizations working to this end."

These resolutions embody, in substance what might well emanate from this Association. Might it not be well for this Section to petition the General Session to adopt some such resolutions? If it were possible to create soon a federation of the principal drug associations as above referred to, would it not be wise for this Association to initiate this movement and petition for this federation to procure a hearing in Washington on this important matter of proper recognition of pharmacists in military service?

THE GREAT DUTY.

As we go about our daily tasks in peace and safety men are dying every minute on the battlefields of Europe to save civilization. Our own gallant soldiers are shedding their blood in France and our sailors engulfed in the waters of the Atlantic as they go in defense of America's rights and honor.

Upon our performance of the work committed to us depend the lives of thousands of men and women, the fate of many nations, the preservation of civilization and humanity itself; and the more efficient and prompt we people of America are in doing our part, the more quickly will this war come to an end and the greater the number of our soldiers and sailors who will be saved from death and suffering and the greater number of the people of other nations released from bondage and saved from death.

To work, to save, to economize, to give financial support to the Government is a duty of the nation and to the world and it is especially a duty to our fighting men who on land and sea are offering their lives for their country and their countrymen.—*The New Age*.

¹ Action was taken thereafter at the meeting in Indianapolis.