

Other stores can arrange their service so that a lesser number of pharmacists will be employed by assigning them to supervisory duties and to work that must be done by qualified pharmacists.

As far as educational requirements are concerned, let pharmacy go onward not backward. With this thought in mind let us give every possible consideration to the young pharmacists who enlist in the service of our country.

E. G. E.

THE FEDERATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL BODIES.*

BY H. V. ARNY.

It was the writer's fortune or misfortune to be honored with the chairmanship of the committee appointed by President A. R. L. Dohme, of the American Pharmaceutical Association, to consider the federation of American pharmaceutical organizations under the aegis of the oldest national pharmaceutical body in the country, the A. Ph. A. This Federation Committee began its work the early part of the current year and is still continuing its deliberations.

The idea of a federation of the several national bodies representing various branches of the drug trade was put forward by Henry P. Hynson, in 1916, in his masterly address as chairman of the house of delegates of the A. Ph. A. Dr. Hynson's idea was to make the house of delegates the rallying point at which all pharmaceutical bodies, including State pharmaceutical associations, could gather to their mutual advantage.

In his presidential address at Indianapolis last year, President F. J. Wulling discussed at length a plan of federation in which a Greater A. Ph. A. in conjunction with other national bodies would form a great organization of far-reaching influence, with journals, research laboratories and other means of disseminating pharmaceutical knowledge. He expressed the opinion that the raising of one million dollars for these beneficent purposes was a task by no means impossible.

Since assuming the presidency of the A. Ph. A., by reason of the untimely passing of our dear friend, Mr. Charles Holzhauser, Dr. A. R. L. Dohme, with his characteristic energy, has gone into the federation idea with all of the enthusiasm for which he is noted. He has submitted a plan of federation that is familiar to most of us here present, since it has been given prominence by the pharmaceutical press during the past few months. Briefly summarized, Doctor Dohme's plan proposes federation more quickly than can be expected if the project is to depend upon the prior raising of a large sum of money. He believes that the present national drug associations, with their already existing machinery of organization, with the wealth behind some of them, the numbers behind others, can be federated into a great body wielding tremendous influence, potential of great good to the public as well as to pharmacy. His plan employs for the federating, the present Council and House of Delegates of the A. Ph. A., with, of course, amended personnel and with enlarged powers. He also suggests several bureaus of service; a bureau of chemical aid and research, a bureau of legal information, a bureau of employ-

*Read at meeting of New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association, June 1918.

ment, a bureau for the exchange of certain goods and last, but most important, a legislative bureau designed to protect pharmacy from the continual assaults made against its interests by overzealous or half-baked legislation.

That Doctor Dohme's plan is highly attractive goes without saying; that it will be difficult to accomplish is obvious; but that it is impossible as some of its critics seem to think, is not the opinion of the writer, who has been forced by his work on the Federation Committee to give it careful attention.

It would be the height of bad taste for the writer or any member of the Federation Committee to express positive opinions as to details of any federation plan until the committee as a whole has arrived at some positive conclusions. The problem is too big to decide in a few weeks or even a few months. Our committee has already learned that it is well-nigh impossible to arrive at a decision by mail; hence plans are now being inaugurated to hold a committee conference in Chicago prior to the meeting of the A. Ph. A. in August.

On the other hand, a discussion of the general features of federation is both timely and important and this paper is being read for the main purpose of finding out the opinions of the members of this Association on the subject; to begin a discussion that may be of value to the Federation Committee in arriving at conclusions. In beginning this discussion the writer will quote what he has published elsewhere on the subject:

The general idea of federation is worthy of our most serious consideration, for the plan is laden with tremendous possibilities for good, if wisely planned, and is fraught with distinct danger if carelessly and hastily contrived.

No one can gainsay the immense influence that could be wielded by a united pharmaceutical America, retail, wholesale and manufacturing, when banded together in a common cause. Think of the legislative influence that could be wielded by the 100,000 Americans directly or indirectly interested in the drug trade, if welded into a flexible whole. Again, think of the possibilities of pharmaceutical betterment suggested by a huge federation with means enough at its disposal to conduct laboratories, legal bureaus and other aids available to every member of the federation. Most alluring is the picture thus presented.

On the other hand, the creation of such a federation will be accompanied by many difficulties. How can such diversified interests as manufacturing, wholesale and retail pharmacy, get together upon a broad basis of mutual agreement? It can be done only by settling upon points of agreement and by leaving the points of disagreement to the separate trade organizations. The differences of view-point existing among the various lines of pharmaceutical endeavor are no farther apart than are the view-points of Oklahoma and New York, let us say. The experiment of federal government has stood the test of over a century, including a veritable test by fire, the Civil War. The success of this national federation of conflicting interests is largely due to the fact that basic principles of our Government are a federation for mutual defense; a confederation for mutual benefit. As long as our Government stands for these two principles, as long as it abstains from attempts to force the local opinions of New York upon Oklahoma, and *vice versa*, its success is assured.

In the proposed pharmaceutical federation, the same spirit should prevail. We have ever with us a need of defense in the thousand different kinds of legislation that zealots outside of the calling try to force upon the trade. The first principle of the federation should therefore be uniformity in legislative matters and a strong committee consisting of members of the legislative committees of the several national associations should be the first duty of the federation. The Drug Trade Conference has shown what can be done in this line when action is based on mutual interests rather than class advantages, and if the pharmaceutical federation becomes an accomplished fact, it will take over the present functions of the Drug Trade Conference.

One of the greatest bonds that binds the several States of our Union together is the service rendered by the Federal Post-Office Department and similar bureaus whose heads form the

National Cabinet. Even so, if the pharmaceutical federation is to succeed, it must have service features that can be used by all diversified branches of American Pharmacy. As mentioned above, it is in this direction that the Dohme plan is peculiarly attractive.

That is as far as the writer cares to go in expressing, for the present, his views of the proposed federation. He desires to hear the views of others, notably of those who have had active connection with other national pharmaceutical bodies, which must be included in the federation if it is to be a real success. He stands ready to explain, to the best of his ability, details of the several plans of federation that have been thus far proposed. And above all, he urges this Association to see that it is represented by its strongest members at the meeting of the House of Delegates of the A. Ph. A. in Chicago when the federation idea is to be discussed from all angles.

THE ACID TEST.*

BY J. W. STURMER.

In these trying days the motives of men, their aims, their capabilities—and their weaknesses as well—are more apparent than was the case when times and conditions were normal. For the conditions under which we now live, and work, subject us all to the severest tests. American pharmacists have never been tested as they are being tested at this time of stress. If they stand the test, the future of pharmacy will be assured. And so far they have shown up splendidly.

But there are false prophets and bad advisers. These like the poor, are with us always. Certain influences are at work to repeal or emasculate our pharmacy laws. And the argument, forsooth, is that we must adjust ourselves to war conditions. So we must, indeed. But were pharmacy laws passed for the pecuniary benefit of pharmacists, or were they passed for the protection of the public? Are the barriers to be raised or lowered in accordance with the supply of clerks—without reference to other considerations? If so, these laws are to be considered as class legislation, and would be un-American and in fact unconstitutional. If these laws were enacted for the public good—and we at least know full well that such was indeed the case—then the question is pertinent, do war conditions confer upon any man, or any group of men, license to ignore the dictates of public policy? Is human life less sacred because we are engaged in war? Now that our boys are fighting on foreign soil, are we, who have been intrusted to hold the last line of defense, to be less alert in the protection of the families of these boys in the first line trenches, just because we are becoming inured to a long casualty list? The answer may be deduced from the fact that our governments—national, state and municipal—are putting forth greater efforts than ever before in controlling epidemics, in reclaiming the physically unfit, in reducing infant mortality, in safeguarding the laborer at his work, in conserving our food and our fuel. Life must be risked in battle. For that very reason, it must be conserved at home. Under these circumstances, the duties and the obligations of pharmacists are clear, and the agitators who at this time, endeavor to weaken our pharmacy laws, will find no supporters within the ranks of the real pharmacists. It is to the lasting credit of pharmacists and pharmaceutical associations that they lead the fight for

* Read before Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association, 1918 meeting.