

EDITORIAL

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CHRISTMAS.

THE following lines of Eugene Field, written nearly a quarter of a century ago, are applicable to every year of our country's history:

"So long as he's American, it mattereth not the least
Whether his crest be badger, bear, palmetto, sword or pine.
His is the glory of the stars that with the stripes combine;
Where'er he be, what'er his lot, he's eager to be known,
Not by his mortal name, but by his country's name alone."

The following is part of an introduction prepared by the late Hamilton W. Mabie for a volume of Christmas pieces, and carries the same thought in the wider application of the Spirit of Christmas:

"The long line of Christmas fires glows like a great truth binding the fleeting generations into a unity of faith and feeling. When we light our fire we are one with our ancestors of a thousand years ago; we evade the isolation of our time and escape its provincial narrowness; we re-join the race from whose growth we have unconsciously separated ourselves; we open long-unused rooms and are amazed to find how large the house of life is and how hospitable. It has hearth room for all experience and for every kind of emotion; for the thoughts that move in the order of logic; for the emotions that rise and fall like great tides that flow in from the infinite; for the vigor that is born of will, and for the power evoked by discipline. It is when the different ages, with their diversities of interest and growth, send their children to sit together before the Christmas fire, that we realize how wide life is and how impossible it is for any age to compass it. The faith against which one age shuts the door stands serene and smiling in the center of the next age; the joy which one generation denies itself lies radiant on the face of a later generation; the imagination which the reign of logic in one epoch sends into the wilderness returns with full hands to be the master of a wiser period."

The famous paragraph of Robert Louis Stevenson's "Christmas Sermon," "To be honest, to be kind, to earn a little, and to spend a little less," is particularly applicable to the present times.

The quotations given from masters of English language make comment insignificant, but as on preceding occasions, the object is to make us think of our Association, the ties that bind us not only to those we are associated with, but to the Association's founders and those who are earnestly engaged in pharmacy throughout the world; for the uplift of pharmacy and a wider sphere of its usefulness to humanity.

Just now the world seems to be suffering from a moral and spiritual disease; physicians must study the remedy which pharmacists are to compound. In our opinion legislative drugs are contraindicated; what is needed is a different outlook upon life, a better understanding of our neighbors, and a clearer realization of our duty to society.

Our Christmas wish is expressed in applying the preceding thought to pharmacy and the Association; we need to look upon the greater possibilities of pharmacy, develop a better understanding among pharmacists and a clearer realization of our duty as pharmacists to society. As was said last year, we should acquire a morale that signifies belief in one another.

It is true that the problems of pharmacy to-day are different from those that have preceded; new conditions confront us and new emergencies surround our paths. We must meet them; how—depends upon our vision and understanding, but there is a way out of every difficulty. Let us realize our part in the work and credit our associates with honest efforts. He is valuable to the Association who strives for a self-improvement which enriches his fellows.

A Merry Christmas!

E. G. E.

THE YEAR BEFORE US.

“**H**E who can see in the cocoon the butterfly, in the addled egg the bird, in the decaying seed the flower, in the weltering chaos the new creation, is a prophet; he who can interpret his vision to his age and inspire it with hope encourages it to go forward.”—*The Outlook*.

In reviewing the days and the deeds of the year that is passing it is not difficult for pharmacists to give expression in words indicative of satisfaction and in phrases signifying disappointment. Business has been good but the ever-increasing number of laws and regulations have multiplied the troubles and dangers of and in it. Having become more or less familiar with and accustomed to the various tax measures, pharmacists must now study with even greater care the regulations applying to the sale of preparations containing alcohol. Much that has been written relative thereto might be repeated; pharmacists would gladly remove preparations from their stock which come under regulations of the prohibition enactment, but they realize their duty in serving the public. Statements made at the hearing in Washington during the first week of December give reasonable assurance of sincere coöperation between officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the retail, wholesale and manufacturing drug industries. The attitude and spirit are all-important.

Nineteen nineteen has been one of the most successful years of the Association in a large accession of membership, and the Treasurer's report, in this issue, speaks of its financial status. We have before us a year that will be affected by "H. C. L." Coöperation and coördination are essential for successfully promoting the Association's affairs. Accomplishment is as important as are ways and means—this is the paramount thought which should possess the members and actuate them with a devotion to activities that will serve to strengthen the Association and further its purposes. Reward comes to them from a consciousness that they are contributing according to their best ability to a common good.

As individuals, "let us recognize the present unrest as a refining process, a struggle which gives moral strength and higher purpose to those who engage in it on the side of justice and righteousness;" that we derive benefits from the Association according as we give to it in service.

Best wishes for 1920!

E. G. E.
