

## EDITORIAL NOTES

Editor: E. G. EBERLE, Bourse Building, Philadelphia, Pa.

Committee on Publication: J. W. ENGLAND, *Chairman*; G. M. BERINGER, CASWELL A. MAYO, H. B. MASON, E. L. NEWCOMB, and the Editor-in-Chief of the JOURNAL, General Secretary, Treasurer and Reporter on Progress of Pharmacy, *ex-officio*.

### THE POSSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION BRANCHES.

The opportunities of an association are seldom, if ever, fully comprehended by individuals. Organizations are formed, and not infrequently before they have passed the first year of existence the interest of the members lags, for some reason or other. This is generally due to the fact that the energy and enthusiasm are centered on the first few meetings instead of mapping out a program of action for a longer period.

There is lack of understanding of many laws that apply to the drug business. Discussion among the members is helpful, and there is the further opportunity of having a lawyer or official explain obscure points before an interested organization.

It is unfortunate that legislators seldom seek information of those they legislate for; they have their hobbies and their views of reforms and necessary legislation. Druggists do not often come into personal contact with legislators, unless they are members of legislative committees of their associations, and then they are usually included among lobbyists. The monthly meetings offer the opportunity of having legislators, or, better, prospective legislators, address the association and exchange viewpoints. By proper arrangement it is possible to have every member of the State Legislature meet druggists in their respective districts, whereby their attitude may be changed toward druggists and their business.

The thought of the foregoing paragraph is applicable to the relation with medical associations. Not infrequently the regard of competitors for one another is decidedly changed by acquaintance. "If I knew you and you knew me" has frequently been quoted. And knowing one another has often improved business relations and conditions. Not long ago a branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was organized which brought about an agreement for shorter business hours, and this alone was considered worth the undertaking.

The revisions of the Pharmacopoeia and National Formulary now occupy the attention of the revisers, and will for a number of years to come. All pharmacists are interested in these standards, and their assistance is sought for the revisions. This offers subjects for each meeting, and it is this work aside from the duty of sharing in that of the American Pharmaceutical Association, which has prompted the superscription of this note. Pharmacists of the smaller cities may contend that branches are for the larger cities, but this is a misapprehension; it will be found that the members of the smaller branches derive as much or more benefit than those of the larger ones. There were a few members of the American Pharmaceutical Association in Wilkes-Barre before the Luzerne County Branch was organized; now this city has 100 percent membership. There are many other cities of like population that can do as well.

While local associations can accomplish much of that which has been suggested, the possibilities and opportunities are enlarged by national affiliation. The American Pharmaceutical Association seeks to aid the druggists, and in no sense confines its work solely to scientific subjects, as evidenced by its Scientific Section, and the Sections on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, Commercial Interests, Women's Section, Historical Pharmacy, Education and Legislation. The message is to enlist your interest in the organization of Local Branches of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

### INCONSISTENCIES IN LEGISLATION AND PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS.

The tendency toward paternalism, and legislation that is intended to enforce right living, is becoming more pronounced. Whether this will make better citizens remains a question for time to answer. The youth have been neglected in so far as impressing upon them their possibilities, limitations and tendencies, their deficiencies, weaknesses, and the results of transgression are concerned. Many pitfalls would have been avoided if these

matters had been understood by them in earlier years. Parents consider that they have done their duty without giving their children an understanding of why they should be moral, temperate, frugal, etc. True, they speak of these subjects but they fail to impress them sufficiently, and the superficial information is little more than an incentive to investigate, and then they pay for their experience, which experience, as H. Addington Bruce says, has again and again shown that a man may be an intellectual giant, yet fail as a member of society because of personal trends and desires which he has not been taught to control and overcome—which he has not even been taught to recognize as present in him.

Thus an uncontrolled trend to self-centeredness has made many a man of highly trained intellect a menace to his fellow beings. It has caused nervous wreckage in many another. It has led still other men through the gateway of insanity.

Moral cowardice, unchecked and unrecognized, is another prolific source of human failure and misery from which the intellectual are not exempt. The duty of parents, schools and colleges is to help the young to escape pitfalls like these no less than to attain mental vigor.

These remarks may seem distant from the subject but they are not; present laws are largely for the purpose of correcting the defects of training and attempts to make temptations impossible, and this can not be done; the thing is, the building of character. In this generation the children and students have too generally controlled the parents and directed the teachers.

With reference to the other subject, we cite recent attempts at rulings, decisions and statements by authorities. It has been under consideration by the Internal Revenue Department to tax the entire quantity of a preparation containing narcotics in exempted amount. Since the foregoing was written it has been decided that the exemptions of Section 6 of the Harrison law hold, but preparations containing narcotics in excess of such exemptions are taxed on the basis of 1 cent per ounce or fraction thereof. The stamp tax became effective February 25th and narcotic preparations of latter class must be stamped, unless in stock prior to that date. The latter must have a label affixed with the words, "In stock, inventory February 25th.

Relative to legislation on alcoholic prepara-

tions a comprehensive article would require many pages, but the purpose of this writing is to point out the arbitrariness of rulings. There is no definition of an intoxicating beverage in the war-time prohibition law. The Internal Revenue Bureau has assumed the power to make a definition of its own and it has ruled that a beverage containing more than one-half percent of alcohol is intoxicating. The question at issue is not whether a certain content makes a beverage intoxicating, but whether a bureau has the right to fix an arbitrary limit in the absence of any definite authority of law. In the Customs Department provision is made for an appeal from rulings but in some other departments officials set up their own judgment on the meaning of the law and have supplied out of their own consciousness all omissions made by Congress.

In Nashville, Judge J. D. B. DeBow has decided, and he is sustained by the Tennessee Supreme Court, that denatured alcohol can not be sold, unless "it is made so poisonous that to drink it means death." All, because some are able to withstand the immediate destructive effects of alcohol, denatured by the addition of methyl alcohol.

#### THE EFFECT OF THE DISCONTINUANCE OF THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFIC.

Louis Zeh, Secretary of the California State Board of Pharmacy, recently appeared before the sub-committee on legal service of the main legislative committee on efficiency and economy, and advised that the Board would need additional legal service when prohibition becomes effective. He showed that in the dry districts of California there is a steady increase in the number of prosecutions for the sale of narcotics, while the reverse is true in the districts where the licensed saloons are maintained. He produced figures to show that during the past nine years prosecutions of this kind had steadily decreased at San Francisco, notwithstanding an enormous increase in population; whereas in Los Angeles there has been a steady increase since saloons were eliminated there.—*Drug and Chemical Markets.*

#### THE QUESTION OF MILITARY RANK.

Pharmacists have been contending for rank for pharmacists in the Army and Navy. The need of this to assure best service has often

been denied. It is evident, however, to the unbiased that there can not be the most serviceable coöperation between medical men and pharmacists unless there is a degree of rank given to the latter, and the soldier is entitled to the best service; less is an injustice.

Prof. W. O. Stevens, U. S. Naval Academy, writing in a recent issue of the *Atlantic Monthly*, speaks of a British officer who was dismissed from service because of the "horrible crime" of having a sergeant dine with him. We quote in part: "The poor fellow (the officer) had grown so desperately lonely in that forsaken spot, that he summoned his sergeant and, after pledging the man to secrecy, asked him to dinner. Some time after, while in liquor, the sergeant boasted of his distinction. The matter was investigated, the subaltern was proved guilty of the horrible crime, and dismissed from the service. When I heard the story, I could not understand what there was so awful about the young officer's conduct, but was ashamed to betray the fact by asking questions. In later years, coming in contact with the military, I was given to understand that, while democracy may be all very well in politics, it has no place in the army or navy."

#### DRUG RESEARCH PLAN DISCUSSED IN ENGLAND.

*The Chemist and Druggist*, in discussing plans for drug research, states that there are distinct advantages attached to an independent institution which can work at drug problems apart from financial interests, and it is here

that the pharmaceutical institute would score. The field is, however, broad enough for both classes of research laboratories, and there are ample opportunities in the work to satisfy both the scientist and the investor. The work need not be confined, the article further states, to synthetic drugs; there is a vast field of study in plant substances upon which comparatively little modern work has been done. Many plants employed in medicine have not yielded up the secrets of their curative action. The study of drugs is a most promising one, and if it became the function of a research laboratory connected with pharmacy it would increase the reputation of pharmacy as a science.

#### ACACIA ADDED TO SALT SOLUTION TO GIVE GREATER VISCOSITY.

Professor Bayliss, the English physiologist, suggested the addition of acacia to salt solutions for injection in cases of shell-shock. Experience proved that the salt solution should have greater viscosity, and after considerable experimentation the selection was made of acacia, and has proven highly satisfactory. *The British Medical Journal* is convinced that many shell-shock patients of the war were saved who, without the injection of salt solution, with acacia, would certainly have died of the original injury or of the necessary subsequent operation, and comments "that medicine owes physiology a debt great beyond estimation. The debt mounts up, and this use of gum arabic is not, we think, the least of the items composing it."

### OBITUARY.

#### JOHN FRANKLIN PATTON.

John F. Patton, president of the American Pharmaceutical Association, 1900, died March 17, 1919, after an illness of only a few hours.

The deceased was born in Lower Windsor Township, York County, Penna., December 15, 1839, the son of Ebenezer and Rebecca (Smith) Patton.

John F. Patton received his early education in the schools of York County. In 1853 he located in York and three years later entered the drug store of Dr. Jacob Hay, Sr. In 1859 he engaged with Thomsen and Block, wholesale druggists, in Baltimore, and remained with them until 1866.

In 1869 he engaged in the drug business in York, Pa., on his own account, in a building

on the site of his present store. In 1873 a flood destroyed the two drug stores owned by him. At this time Mr. Patton had already started the erection of a new building, still occupied by the City Drug Store, of which he was proprietor, and here he continued in business until the day of his death.

Mr. Patton was a frequent attendant at the annual conventions of the American Pharmaceutical Association. He endeared himself to all who knew him by his genial disposition and good fellowship, and was familiarly known to his friends as "Uncle John." He served as president of the Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association in 1891, and at various times held important offices in both this organization and the American Pharma-