

EDITORIAL

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ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP A PRIVILEGE, DUTY AND OBLIGATION.

THE keynote of progress is coöperation; the greater the endeavor and the closer the coöperation the greater the progress. The successes of individuals, the accomplishments of professions, are due to coöperative efforts; many are entitled to credit for the achievements of the individuals who are obligated to others for the work they have been able to do. Looking back into the history of the American Pharmaceutical Association, we find the records of work done by many pharmacists who unselfishly gave of their time and means so that present-day pharmacists might benefit. This is true of those who comprise the membership now, and every druggist of the country profits directly or indirectly by their work; many of them fail to discern their reciprocal obligations. It is like the unearned increment in taxation; the right of inheritance is in a degree a species of graft. Neither the heir to a fortune, who spends his time concerned only for himself, nor the one who inherits property and leaves it to increase in value, through the enterprise and industry of others, while he sojourns abroad, earn anything. So it is in professions; the large number are either confident that there are zealous workers for and contributors to progress in the results of whose work they can share, without cost or worry, or they have failed to justly appraise their obligations to their respective professions. Our development is dependent on borrowed capital of suggested ideas, motives and desires; we should recognize our responsibilities to that capital, as co-workers, both in receiving and giving. The lessons of the last few years should bring about a change in the attitude of individuals relative to their responsibilities; the application of right principles is essential to effect right relations.

Association membership gives pharmacists a higher appreciation of their profession and also of those likewise engaged, and of those in related work—an inspiration to promote pharmacy and contend for its rightful recognition. We have both individual and collective responsibilities,—now as never before should the spirit of the Golden Rule be generally applied.

Aside from the duty of coöperation, membership in the American Pharmaceutical Association is really a profitable investment,—the Year Book and the Journal are of greater value than represented by the five dollars in annual dues paid by the members. Instead of the Association membership being three thousand it should include ten thousand or more pharmacists. E. G. E.