

are hurtful not only to those who apply them but to those engaged in the same activities, and to the nation also.

The prohibition bills before Congress, at this writing, have what to us seem serious defects, namely, the great power given to an individual, his deputies or agents, and authorizing this Federal Prohibition Commissioner to issue additional rules and regulations which shall have all the force and effect of the Act itself, the unlimited right of search, and the very severe penalties, which may absolutely destroy a business and ruin an individual although there has been no intentional violation. Many druggists have in the past suffered because of the officious and malicious acts of some inspectors. There is evidence during the past decade of the Federal Government gathering to itself power which has affected every citizen. During the war it was necessary to give unlimited authority to the Government, but the time has now come when there is no need of these extraordinary powers which may endanger democracy.

With the advent of prohibition it would seem that the Retail Liquor Dealer's license goes out of existence. The majority of druggists will meet the conditions of the prohibition laws with careful thought and sincere patriotism, and loyalty to pharmacy. They, practically alone, will have the right to dispense alcoholics for defined purposes, and there is no question but that every scheme and device known to the ingenuity of man will be set in motion to tempt them to violate their obligations. As with narcotic legislation, and probably to a greater extent, there will be transgressors, but we feel assured that the great majority will be faithful. Further watchfulness will be necessary in taking care of physicians who will write prescriptions for those who seek to obtain alcoholic stimulants; in fact, the greatest danger is in such illegal coöperation between disreputable doctors and druggists, just as in narcotic sales.

Druggists are not opposing prohibition, and there is no sound reason why the legitimate sale and use of alcohol should be interfered with. Utmost vigilance should be observed, and it is hoped that the good judgment of legislators will prevail in perfecting legislation and regulations that will work no serious injury to the drug and allied trades, and encourage the manufacture of industrial alcohol for the promotion of American industries.

E. G. E.

COÖPERATION AS WELL AS ORGANIZATION.*

BY J. W. ENGLAND.

What is most needed to-day in American pharmacy is unity of effort—not only better national organization, not only better state organization, but also, better national and state coöperation.

* Presented at annual meeting of Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association, June, 1919.

The state bodies can and do take care of state interests, and successfully, but there are many questions of state interest that are of national importance, and many of national importance that are of state interest. In other words, the interests of each are the interests of both; they are interdependent.

The wonderful success of the American Medical Association as the spokesman of American Medicine has been due to its recognition of the vital importance of national and state affiliation, and to its campaigns of publicity, both professionally and to the general public; and American pharmacy may well profit by its example.

The main-spring of pharmacy is the profession of pharmacy. Eliminate this from the drug store and it becomes a drugless drug store..

During the past fifty years, the American drug store has undergone a radical change, and, rightly or wrongly, commercial pharmacy has become its dominant feature.

But there are two kinds of commercial pharmacy—a legitimate kind which consists in the buying and selling of drugs and such side lines as reasonably relate to pharmacy, and an illegitimate kind which consists in the buying and selling of almost any class of merchandise that brings money into the till, the pharmacy end of the business being simply incidental.

It is this trend toward illegitimate commercial pharmacy—towards commercialism, pure and simple—that is rapidly becoming a menace to the existence of drug stores. There is a real public need for legitimate commercial pharmacy; in fact, the service of the American drug store in this respect is of the greatest public convenience, but this is a far cry from the illegitimate commercialism that is masquerading in the name of pharmacy, and which is injuring the professional character and standing of retail drug stores with the American public, particularly with the medical profession.

It is hardly worth while discussing the responsibility for this condition. It is here and the problem is how best to meet it. But it may be said in passing that the medical profession is primarily responsible because it has been indifferent to the profession of pharmacy *as a profession*, failing to give it that support and co-operation that was essential for its proper functioning, ignoring the fact that there is a very vital relationship between therapeutics and pharmacy and what affects one will affect the other. The responsibility is due, also, to the economic conditions that have forced retail druggists to depend more and more upon commercialism to eke out a livelihood.

The solution of such a problem—the betterment of the conditions of pharmaceutical practice, is not a state problem merely, it is one that is of interest to the retail druggists of the whole country, and the way to solve it successfully is by state and national coöperation.

There are many other questions of like import. We need, for example, better relations with the medical profession. We want physicians to recognize the importance and usefulness of pharmacy to medicine. We don't want tolerance, but we do want and need the sympathetic support and coöperation of the medical profession with the profession of pharmacy, and the way to get this is by affiliation of the state associations with the American Pharmaceutical Association, which stands preëminently for professional pharmacy, and by the latter with medical organizations.

There are many ways in which such coöperation could be made mutually helpful. For example, there is needed to-day, in the cities and towns of the country, laboratory technicians—experts in bacteriology, biology, radiography, microscopy, clinical chemistry, etc. Pharmacists could readily train as such and be of real service to the medical profession in helping to confirm or solve problems of diagnosis. But such a service would not be used unless it had the endorsement of the medical profession.

Furthermore, the problem of compulsory health insurance legislation, national and state, is looming large on the political horizon, and unless pharmacists and physicians work together for the protection of medicine and pharmacy both will suffer seriously.

The subject of closer affiliation between the state pharmaceutical associations and the American Pharmaceutical Association should have the fullest and freest consideration from every angle. There should be no hasty action. But it does seem to me that the possibilities of closer affiliation are so obvious that it would be entirely safe, first, for every state pharmaceutical association to approve the general principle of closer affiliation, and second, to appoint the three delegates from the state association (who will represent it in the House of Delegates of the American Pharmaceutical Association) as a Committee on Ways and Means to consider the question fully and report their findings and recommendations at next year's meetings of the State Associations; and, if in order, I would suggest such an action by the Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

That we re-approve (The Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association) the general principle of federation as promulgated by the American Pharmaceutical Association, that we appoint our three delegates to attend the annual convention at New York in August, 1919, and instruct these delegates to state to the convention that the plan of combining the dues (A. Ph. A. and State Pharmaceutical Associations) on the basis of 100 percent membership is not feasible, but that if some feasible plan can be devised for combining the dues and giving State members the publications of the American Pharmaceutical Association, we would approve of the plan.

A GRANT FOR RESEARCH.

The American Pharmaceutical Association has available a sum amounting to about \$240 which will be expended during 1919-1920 for encouragement of research. This amount, either in full or in fractions, will be awarded in such manner as will, in the judgment of the A. Ph. A. Research Committee, produce the greatest good to American Pharmaceutical research.

Investigators desiring financial aid in their work will communicate before August first with H. V. Army, Chairman A. Ph. A. Research Committee, 115 W. 68th St., New York, giving their past record and outlining the particular line of work for which the grant is desired.

The committee will give each application its careful attention and will make recommendations to the American Pharmaceutical Association at its meeting in New York, August 25-29, 1919, when the award or awards will be made.
