

EDITORIAL

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ENHANCING THE VALUE OF ASSOCIATION MEETINGS BY CONTRIBUTIONS RELATING TO LOCAL INTERESTS AND SUBJECTS.

AFTER the reading of a paper by Charles Mohr on "Vegetation of Louisiana and Adjoining States" before the New Orleans Convention of the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1891, H. M. Whelpley said in substance that if a similar contribution were made each year relating to vegetation of the section in which we met, our volumes would soon become very valuable as a reference on the subjects. The section of the country in which the thirty-ninth annual meeting convened was extremely interesting for most of those in attendance; this is not always the case, but there is some subject local members can present and thereby extend the knowledge concerning it. In one instance it may relate to manufacture, and in another to natural resources, both for the purpose of developing greater possibilities or better understanding.

Of course, Charles Mohr was exceptionally well qualified to write a paper of this kind. Prof. F. Lamson-Scribner said of him: "He has the distinction of having gone from the beaten track of the systematic botanists and considered the plants he studied from an economic aspect. He has not only increased the sum of our knowledge, but has added to our powers of direct usefulness."

The foregoing is quoted because it presents the thought and purpose which prompted this comment, and as a general reference suffice it to say that the author described various phases of the plant world of this section of the country, and directed attention to products of great importance, such as sugar, turpentine, fiber and paper pulp. The readers are, of course, more or less familiar with the blending here of southern and northern vegetation, and, therefore, of the number and varieties of plants considered in this paper, a large part of which was given to the pines, of their educts and products, going somewhat into the details of collection and yield, and also of the sugar cane. Items of lesser importance were the citrus fruits and fiber-producing plants.

The further reasons for the suggestion and comment will become apparent. The statement was brought out in the discussions that loblolly pine was suitable for making paper pulp, as was cotton-wood, and Joseph P. Barnum, member from Louisville, Ky., then interested in the manufacture from the latter source, informed the Association that a young lady, a graduate in pharmacy, had charge of their factory in Louisville. The next point: Mr. Mohr, after hearing the discussions on his paper, said: "I am glad to get information here of which I was entirely ignorant; and, being charged with the duty of bringing before our Govern-

ment all that pertains to the pines for this purpose, I thank you very much for the information received from you."

It will be noted that the contributor, as well as the members, received information. Papers of this kind have value; they interest and profit the members and the section wherein the meeting of the Association is held. "They increase the sum of our knowledge and add to our powers of direct usefulness."

E. G. E.

AN EXPLORATION IN THE INTEREST OF SCIENCE AND HUMANITY.

ALL important explorations have been undertaken either in the interest of science or humanity, but most of the explorers had visions of wealth or greatness. In the exploration to be made under the direction of Dr. H. H. Rusby the leading and directing thoughts are for science, extending or improving our materia medica, and completing botanical investigations and studies begun many years ago. The coöperation of business interests in this compact, actuated by high purposes, is gratifying. The aphorism, "Business is business," is not applicable in this instance; pharmaceutical manufacturers look beyond such application with a wider understanding, a sensitive and seeing mind. They have a wide knowledge of their work, of the trend that leads, and of the ideals that govern and direct those engaged in medicine and pharmacy, and in the service of humanity.

Prior explorations have been made into South America for related purposes, and have each time resulted in finding new sources of supply for drugs, and authoritative standards for others; larger results may be expected from this expedition, organized on a much larger scale. The plans nearing completion contemplate making the exploration also in the interest of biology, and to secure material from which the nature of tropical diseases can be studied; the subject of entomology enters into the study of carriers of infection.

There are many other investigations and studies to be undertaken and an extended account is expected from a contributor who can speak with authority. Pharmacy is represented by those who have given the necessary encouragement for the success of the undertaking, and others who will assist in the investigations to be made after the exploring party returns.

E. G. E.

ASSOCIATED ENDEAVORS OF PHARMACISTS IN MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN.

THE U. S. Pharmacopoeia and National Formulary are in daily use in pharmacies, and still there is comparatively little interest displayed by pharmacists in their revisions, now under way. Perhaps the list of deletions from the National Formulary was unnecessarily long. Should preparations be included

which are more or less used, even though the demand is local, the fact should be made known. It is not the purpose of the Committee to make unnecessary deletions, but a study of them indicates that only a few are deserving of a place in the National Formulary.

At the last meeting of the Philadelphia Branch, A. Ph. A. the list was carefully gone over, and less than a dozen proposed deletions were objected to by those present. It was voted, however, to address a communication to all city members, requesting an expression on the deletions, and recommendations for preparations to be included, together with formulas, if they were prepared to submit them. Work along these lines is progressing, and every local association should cooperate in making this standard more useful. Interest among druggists will be aroused by such cooperation and may bring them together for other purposes, if only to fraternize—that is helpful during the period of business adjustment. Recommendations for deletions and additions to the National Formulary may be sent to Chairman W. L. Scoville, P. O. Box 488, Detroit, Mich. What has been said of the National Formulary applies relatively to the U. S. Pharmacopoeia. The Committee of Revision welcomes suggestions.

Whatever will regularly bring a large number of pharmacists together in monthly conferences will prove mutually advantageous. Conforming an excerpt from a paper by H. V. Arny, printed in the October issue of the *American Druggist*: There is need of a deeper realization by pharmacists "that mass action is not confined to text-books on chemistry; that group influence is more potent than unorganized individual effort; that cooperative endeavor brings better results than one-man effort."

E. G. E.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF CANVASSERS OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Board of Canvassers report the following result of the election of American Pharmaceutical Association officers for the year of 1921-1922:

President, Samuel I. Hilton, Washington, D. C.; *First Vice-President*, Charles E. Caspari, St. Louis, Mo.; *Second Vice-President*, David F. Jones, Watertown, S. D.; *Third Vice-President*, Hugo H. Schaefer, New York, N. Y.

Members of the Council: Henry M. Whelpley, St. Louis, Mo.; George M. Beringer, Camden, N. J.; John G. Godding, Boston, Mass.

The vote on Referendum, raising the annual dues to \$7.50 per annum, and continuing the JOURNAL and Year Book, carried.

(Signed) ELIE H. LA PIERRE,
CARLTON B. WHEELER,
CHARLES A. STOVER,
IRVING P. GAMMON,
JOHN G. GODDING, *Chairman*.