

EDITORIAL

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THE WASHINGTON PHARMACEUTICAL MEETINGS.

EDITORIAL comment relating to the convention of the American Pharmaceutical Association must be reserved for the June number of the JOURNAL; however, the comprehensive address of President Lucius E. Sayre, in which he discusses many of the problems and matters which were then considered, is printed in this issue.

In the preparation of his address President Sayre has drawn upon the experiences of many years of his activities—as a member of the Association, in which he has always exhibited a deep interest—that have given him a knowledge of his fellow-workers, their aims and ideals. It is also evident that he knows the needs and hopes of pharmacy and is well informed relative to conditions in its practice. Thoughts of coöperation follow the analyses of important questions; a spirit of helpfulness has shaped the presidential message, which will be read with interest and profit. At this writing the address has not received the consideration of the Association and, therefore, further comment is deferred.

To say that there is necessity for a broadened vision and foresight, for thinking in terms that bespeak progress, does not detract from the importance placed on the work accomplished by the American Pharmaceutical Association, the realization of its significant influence in shaping pharmacy, nor appreciation of the valuable services rendered by the members. Real progress never jumps.

Revision of the code of ethics and of nomination methods are under consideration by the Association, also of organization plans, of increasing the membership and income, and of developing its publications for more extended usefulness. All of these propositions constitute weighty problems, deserving of deep reflection. The American Pharmaceutical Association cannot afford to act hastily; it is always building for the future, and its influence pervades every pharmaceutical and medical activity. Its problems are as varied as the interests represented in the Association are complex; what may appeal as essential and necessary to some is regarded as an assumption by others, and the importance of certain methods is differently evaluated by the constituency. Though this has always been the case, the good judgment of the members and the wisdom of their actions have sustained the Association throughout its many years of useful service and won the approbation and regard of related organizations.

Thinking backward and looking forward brings to mind many who have honored pharmacy and rendered invaluable service, and also a number of active organizations that had their inception in the American Pharmaceutical Association and are now engaged in related and coördinated efforts—records which stim-

ulate and encourage pharmaceutical promotions. Few, if any, organizations can point to so many members who have been disinterestedly devoted to associated service.

The JOURNAL has made progress; notwithstanding the fact that conditions in publicational lines have been trying, the increased income has largely offset the higher costs of production. At the New York meeting a number of valuable suggestions were made for the development of the JOURNAL's usefulness; among them, an extension of the editorial notes, personal and news items; the inclusion of a bibliography of pharmaceutical research, conducted by the Reporter on the Progress of Pharmacy; and, more recently, the Department of Commercial Interests, in charge of Dr. Robert P. Fischelis. While some work has been done for those directly interested in the War Veterans' Section, much more is contemplated and will soon be made effective. The thought which actuated Frank H. Freericks has borne fruit; through the effective work of the officers of the Section aided by the A. Ph. A. Branches, state membership committees, the pharmaceutical press and other coöperators, 2,000 names have been added to the roll of membership, many of whom will doubtless permanently affiliate with the Association. It may also be said that the Association was 100 percent perfect in finding employment for ex-service men, of the drug trade and pharmacy, while others have been aided in making selections in their purchase of stores or in forming partnerships.

So many suggestions and papers on Pharmacopoeial Revision have been printed in the JOURNAL that further comment on its coöperation in that connection seems unnecessary. The conclusions of the U. S. P. Convention will be awaited with interest, and the JOURNAL hopes to be helpful in this important undertaking. The same thought applies to the National Formulary; the Committee for its revision is organized, and some preliminary work has been done. Further progress is anticipated in completing the book of Unofficial Formulas. Both of the latter are prepared by the American Pharmaceutical Association, hence the services of the JOURNAL is theirs to command. Conjointly with related organizations the Association has a part in the revision of the Pharmaceutical Syllabus; responsive thereto publicity has been given in the JOURNAL to the edition now nearing completion. Other comment concerning future promotions of the JOURNAL's activities for the Association and pharmacy are presented in the reports of the Publication Committee and that of the editor.

Progress toward better recognition of pharmacists in the Government service has been made, and conferences between the Surgeon Generals, the A. Ph. A. Committee and the National Pharmaceutical Service Association give promise of a better understanding of the correlation of pharmacists in the Army, and reasonable assurances of the passage of the Darrow Bill.

Meetings of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties and the

National Association of Boards of Pharmacy were held during Convention week. This reference must be based on what these two organizations have done in the past. One of the principal aims of both bodies is to improve educational requirements in pharmacy. Their efforts have shaped legislation; high school education is an essential demanded of the students for entrance to all recognized schools of pharmacy, and a large percentage of them exact high school graduation; boards of pharmacy prescribe like qualifications of candidates for examination, and are contemplating a general enforcement of pharmaceutical college education as a prerequisite. Very naturally there is some diversity of opinion among the members of both organizations relative to methods and exactions that should govern in advancing the standards of pharmaceutical education and training. Progress has been made, not in spite of these differences but because of sincere differences in opinion; realism and the present status of pharmacy and the drug business should continue to have due consideration in laying plans for the future. Unquestionably dissatisfaction should obtain with some conditions in pharmacy, but the dissatisfaction should be prompted by the right spirit. Much has been done; there are greater possibilities ahead.

E. G. E.

THE FUTURE OF ALCOHOLIC MEDICINALS.

The concluding paragraphs of the report of the Committee on Alcoholic Medicinals of the American Drug Manufacturers' Association, presented at their recent meeting in New York, read in part as follows:

"The members of this association are not unprepared for restrictions placed upon the manufacture of medicinal preparations by the operation of Prohibition Laws. This subject was discussed at the very organization of the association in 1912 and our proceedings show that it has received attention at various subsequent meetings and particularly at that of a year ago. Nevertheless new conditions are confronting us and it is the hope of the committee that discussions at the coming meeting of the association will take serious thought of the effect upon our industries of new conditions under which we must operate. Already the process of elimination of even preparations official in the U. S. P. and N. F. has begun, against the protest of many who are interested in professional pharmacy. It is true that the preparations affected, with several exceptions, may be spared without very serious injury to pharmacy or the public; but it is possible that other official preparations may be added to the list which are classified as intoxicating liquors. Attention should not be wholly centered upon official preparations, but thought should be given to the status of non-official preparations which are being listed by all manufacturers and which have been sold by them without question for so many years that a continuance of this practice is likely to be taken for granted. In the opinion of the Committee, this association should take the initiative in carefully scrutinizing the formulae of alcoholic medicinal preparations, now marketed for strictly legitimate purposes, to discover whether any of these may be perverted to improper use. Also it is not sufficient to know that these preparations have not been made or marketed for such use. The demand from the trade should be given consideration and orders for unusual quantities under suspicious circumstances should be refused.

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"At this time the Committee wishes to recommend the desirability of some action by the association through the appointment of a committee, or otherwise, to further the approval of a number of formulae for specially denatured alcohol for the manufacture of pharmaceutical products for internal use, as is now permitted in the case of Tincture of Iodine."
