

EDITORIAL

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SECTION ON COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE programs of the Section on Commercial Interests for the past two years have been of the highest order and it does not seem possible to improve upon them as to character and quality. The interest that this Section has created among those in attendance bespeaks for it a "place in the sun" of sectional meetings.

There is no thought of "letting up" the pace now set for the work of this section. Every listener to men of big jobs, high ideals, and broad experiences is helped wonderfully in whatever his task at home may be. We have in mind maintaining this same high order of program at the next meeting. We believe that in dealing with the fundamentals of law, business and ethics, the minor details will care for themselves. The past two Chairmen of this Section certainly selected "big timber" in making up their programs and the fine response they had will serve as an inspiration and guide in future sectional meetings.

Commercial pharmacy as a subject for study in schools of pharmacy is here to stay and must be developed according to high educational plans and should be made a course that will direct the students' thoughts into channels of ethics, service, and responsibility as pertains to the business and profession of pharmacy.

CHAS. O. LEE.

PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH SHOULD HAVE A PLACE IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL.

IN a paper read before the Pennsylvania State Pharmaceutical Association Dr. H. V. Army interestingly presented and commented on the research work of pharmacists, and a considerable part of the rehearsal is concerned with that of American pharmacists, recorded in various pharmaceutical publications, in the Proceedings and the Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

The paper has particular value at this time when the interest in research is developing and attracting the attention of those who willingly give and are in position to provide large sums of money, if the results justify the endowments. The donors have vision and, doubtless, the splendid work accomplished under the direction of the National Research Council during the war has been an influential and persuasive factor for enlisting their interest. Those who attended the Washington meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association had the opportunity of learning about the organization of the National Research Council, so ably presented in an address by Dr. C. E. McClung, and responsive thereto, Prof. J.

U. Lloyd shed light upon the possibilities in pharmaceutical research. The importance of pharmacy has not been specifically recognized in these promotions, but the spirit which underlies research was conveyed in the remarks of the first speaker and indicated that the plan of organization was so comprehensive that without pharmaceutical research the organization would be incomplete. In fact, he was hopeful that steps would be taken to have representation for pharmacy in one or the other of the departments, and that the importance would be impressed by the work, resulting later in specific recognition for it.

Research has about as many definitions as there are classes of workers in it; while, undoubtedly, the term is used in too broad a sense by many there are others who apply a very narrow meaning. In an address delivered before the Association of American Universities last November, printed in the July issue of the *Scientific Monthly*, Dr. James Rowland Angell stated that it is very easy to magnify the distinction between research in pure science and research in applied science, "while the motives inspiring the work may be appreciably different the technique of the procedure in the two cases may be all but indistinguishable and either variety of research, if it is to survive the test of scientific criticism, must be based upon absolutely fundamental scientific principles. In the last analysis, the difference reduces almost wholly to the psychological question of motivation. The man working in the field of applied science has before him a concrete specific issue involving some immediate practical exigency. The worker in pure science has quite as definite a specific problem, but it is not one which has arisen out of, nor which necessarily exists in obvious relation to, an immediate demand. Beyond this I doubt if significant differences exist."

A number of the sciences underlie pharmacy and exemplify an important factor in research, namely that of scientific coöperation. E. G. E.

A HALF CENTURY OF SERVICE.

THE New Jersey State Pharmaceutical Association has completed its first fifty years of organized effort, and in commemoration of the anniversary has published an historical souvenir of over 100 pages containing half-tone reproductions of all of its presidents, biographical sketches of them, code of ethics, etc. Considerable time and labor were expended in the preparation of this book, and in securing the necessary data and photographs. The object of this writing, aside from making a deserved reference, is to suggest to other associations approaching the half-century period that their records should now be searched preparatory to a similar compilation. The activities of those to be remembered change during fifty years and many permanently lay down the pestle. It is not surprising that only few of the Charter Members remain among the living, for the addition of fifty years to that of their ages at the time when they formed the organization would make most of them centenarians.

A striking comment in the foreword by Prof. J. U. Lloyd has timely interest; he quotes from the third paragraph of the Code of Ethics, as follows:

"Recognizing the value of alcohol as a therapeutic agent, and the propriety of its being dispensed as such by pharmacists, yet deploring the widespread evil resulting from its intemperate use in its hundred insidious forms, we condemn any attempt to make it a prominent feature of our business as unprofessional, and we denounce the loose practice of allowing it to be used on the premises in any shape as a beverage, as degrading; and we urge upon pharmacists the duty of exercising at all times a conscientious care in dispensing a drug liable to such dangerous abuse."

Cervantes said: "History is the depository of great actions, the witness of what is past, the example and instructor of the present and monitor to the future."

E. G. E.

GIVE WHILE YOU LIVE.

THIS is an appeal to the alumni of all pharmaceutical schools for a deeper interest in the affairs of the institutions which gave them an opportunity to make a living and be of service in their respective communities. Now, as never before, the need of endowments for educational institutions is recognized. All pharmacists who have any interest in progress and the development of their city and state have contributed in one way or another thereto. Otherwise, they could not have consideration from their fellow-citizens; however, comparatively few pharmacists give much thought to the schools which had a large part in their success

Except perhaps in the larger cities, census returns are watched with interest; the feeling engendered in competing towns for rank evidences the enthusiasm, love and loyalty of the citizens, and among them are pharmacists. This rivalry extends to educational institutions, manufacturing plants and municipal progress of every kind. It should obtain in a greater degree among pharmacists in relation to pharmacy schools.

Emerson said that "What you are speaks so loud that I cannot hear what you say." Profession means very little unless actions proclaim its sincerity. Whatever is given to one institution, whatever accomplishments are made possible for it, gives encouragement for other promotions and to those of other schools. The alumni really profit most, and with them pharmacy, when financial aid is given to the schools of pharmacy that will enable them to keep abreast with modern progress. This applies with equal force to all schools, whether affiliated or attached to universities or not. The former need the support of citizens, and among them are pharmacists; the latter are entitled to that of university men, for their services are linked in one way or another; coöperation is the thing, and the advancement of pharmacy for greater and better service is the purpose of this note.

E. G. E.
