

commercial return, but prices that prevailed in the olden times, of eight or ten cents a pound, will never again be accomplished.

In this connection, I again plead for government and state intervention in such directions as this. If it is proper to preserve a lingering group of bison, or to search the land over for our vanished wild pigeon, why is it not proper to conserve, with the help of the strong hand of authority, America's valued flora from absolute extermination?

THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION—ITS ORIGIN, RESULTS AND POSSIBILITIES.

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History is supposed to be a narrative of facts and events, arranged in chronological order, with an explanation of causes and effects.

It may be that some of the members of the American Pharmaceutical Association are not familiar with the causes and influences that brought the Association into existence and have made it a factor in the aims of those who are loyal to the highest ideals in pharmacy.

It has an interesting history that pays compliment to its founders and supporters.

The birth of the American Medical Association, whose members were practically interested in pharmacy, exerted an influence for the betterment of pharmacy and made possible official co-operation.

These two branches of medicine have been, and will always be, independent, and they should be harmonious in the endeavor to bring about the best results to both.

The American Medical Association was organized in 1847, and the American Pharmaceutical Association was organized in 1852. When the Medical Association came into existence, there were many medical colleges throughout the borders of its territory; when the Pharmaceutical Association was organized in 1852, there were within the limits of the United States, the Philadelphia, New York, Massachusetts, Maryland and Cincinnati Colleges of Pharmacy. These colleges, through their accredited delegates, were the active agents in perfecting the organization.

To revert to the primary object, it is necessary to make detailed statements of conditions then existing in the drug trade of the United States.

At this time, pharmacy was becoming more than ever a distinct and independent branch of medicine. Its commercial interest had become important and the colleges of pharmacy were educating students for a higher plane of usefulness.

In all the ages of the world, medicine, including its special branches of practice, has been, to a degree, in advance of the civilization of the times, and influenced by the advancement or retrogression of the learning and civilization of the ages.

It is doubtful that an unalterable science of medicine, or an unchangeable method of practice, will ever exist for a long period of time, but we may con-

gratulate ourselves in having advanced to a higher state of scientific and practical knowledge than has been known in the history of the past.

In the years since pharmacy, in the United States, has been detached from the office of the physician, marked improvements have been made in its practice and educational advantages have greatly increased.

One hundred years ago it was the custom of physicians in this country to compound and dispense prescriptions, and in many cases to make pharmaceutical preparations with the assistance of members of the family and servants, drawing their supply of crude drugs from the apothecary shops.

The "Bentztown Bard" gives a graphic word picture of the departure of the apothecary-physician, so genial and beloved by all the people of his day, when he was able to fully satisfy all the needs of medicine and pharmacy.

In the early years of the past century were found in the larger cities a few educated and well trained apothecaries, who came from the shops and schools of pharmacy in the old world, where law had provided the means of scientific and practical instruction. These men were recognized and encouraged by the best element of medical practice and soon became factors in building a strong foundation for pharmaceutical advancement in this country. All honor to these men, who made possible present conditions.

It must not be forgotten that the better class of physicians in the new world were glad to receive the assistance of qualified apothecaries, and in turn gave them every possible encouragement. From such influence the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy was suggested and brought into existence in 1821, and the first Journal of Pharmacy in 1829, both of which received valuable aid from physicians—the college with its faculty of physicians, and the Journal edited by a physician.

The success of this college and its Journal, with increasing strength and usefulness to the present, was an inspiration for the organization of colleges of pharmacy in other parts of the Union.

These two combined influences were the first step towards the organization of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

The college became interested in the condition of the drug market, and the Journal circulated the literature of pharmacy from all parts of the world.

The College of Pharmacy of New York was the next organization of pharmacists to give a helping hand. New York City, as a seaport and the metropolis of the nation, was the leading port of entry for foreign goods of all kinds, and largely so for drugs, and drug preparations soon became a point of interest because of the inferior quality of drugs imported into this country. The better class of physicians, pharmacists and druggists became mutually interested, and they found it necessary to seek the aid of the general government to protect the profession of medicine and the people from the abuses of corrupted commercialism in drugs, which abuses had been recorded in the American Journal of Pharmacy and in medical literature.

On the ninth of August, 1847, the New York College of Pharmacy held a special meeting to consider the best measures to prevent the introduction into the United States of sophisticated and misnamed chemical and pharmaceutical preparations.

Resolutions were adopted to call the attention of the Secretary of the Treasury to the fact that large quantities of spurious medicinal preparations were being introduced daily into this country, etc.

It was further resolved to invite the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and other colleges of pharmacy and medicine to unite with them in presenting a memorial to Congress to devise means to suppress this most dangerous fraud, etc., etc.

In presenting a few of the many facts, the statement was made that bromide of potassium was imported and sold for iodide, some parcels being mixtures and others entirely bromide. The iodide was also frequently adulterated with large proportions of other salts. Many other cases were reported.

At a special meeting of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, November 1, 1847, a similar petition or memorial was sent to Congress, naming the many abuses, like those named by the New York College.

It was also resolved to send copies of the memorial that was adopted to the various colleges of medicine and pharmacy in the United States and request their co-operation.

On June 26, 1848, an "Act to prevent the importation of adulterated and spurious drugs and medicines" was approved by the President and became a law for the protection of the citizens of the United States, and a circular to that effect with instructions to the collectors and other officers of the customs was issued by authority of the treasury department.

But it was found that for some reason the object sought was not obtained in all cases.

There was need of a tariff standard for the guidance of drug examiners under the law, therefore further action was required by those directly interested.

The New York College of Pharmacy again became active. The board of trustees appointed a committee to investigate conditions.

The investigation suggested co-operation of all allied organizations, resulting in invitations being sent to the colleges of pharmacy of Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Cincinnati, to send delegates to a convention to meet in New York City on the twenty-fourth of April, 1851, for the purpose of considering the importance of recommending standards for the use of drug inspectors, which it was proposed to bring before the third annual meeting of the American Medical Association, to meet at Charleston, S. C., on the sixth of May.

By resolution of the New York College, the report was committed to a delegation, and Dr. C. B. Guthrie was appointed to present it. But the Association, while in favor of such a tariff standard, regarded the hastily prepared report as being incomplete, and for that reason it was laid on the table.

The convention of colleges of pharmacy and others interested, after organization and transaction of important business, adjourned to meet in Philadelphia in 1852.

The convention of colleges of pharmacy, held at 511 Broadway, New York, on the fifteenth of October, 1851, will ever be an illuminated chapter in the history of American pharmacy. It was the culmination of important events and the beginning of a great career in organized pharmacy in America.

The convention was hastily called—not giving sufficient time to many who would have been present had time permitted.

On the register of that national pharmaceutical convention are names that will always be remembered with reverence and respect. Those men had the keenest conception of pharmaceutical honesty and honor.

While the subject of standards for importations was under consideration, the pharmacists of the United States who were interested in the pharmacopoeal convention to revise and publish another Pharmacopoea, rendered all the assistance in their power to make the work successful. The men of the convention were pioneers in the cause of pharmaceutical progress and improvements, and had many more difficulties to contend with than is experienced by pharmacists at the present time; but they were able to establish a strong foundation and to pave the way for continued advancement. While our government has not exacted the uniformly high standards of European governments for the practice of pharmacy, individual ability may be found here equal to the most exacting demands of the governments of the Old World. No country has made greater advancement in a given time and none has greater promise for future development.

The convention of 1851 adopted a series of standards and rules for the examiners of drugs at each port of entry, and by resolution, the delegates of the New York College of Pharmacy were directed to present the published proceedings of the convention to the Secretary of the Treasury for his consideration.

The following were also discussed and adopted, viz:

“WHEREAS, To secure the full benefits of the prohibition of sophisticated drugs and chemicals from abroad, it is necessary to prevent home adulteration,

“*Resolved*, That this convention recommend to the several colleges to adopt such measures as in their respective states may be best calculated to secure that object.”

The convention adjourned to meet in the city of Philadelphia, on Wednesday, October 6, 1852.

The President of the Convention, Dr. C. B. Guthrie, of New York, on taking his seat to preside over its deliberations, extended thanks for the honor of being called to preside over the first convention of the kind ever assembled in the United States.

On the sixth of October, 1852, at 4 p. m., the adjourned convention assembled in the hall of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, on Zane street. At this meeting delegates attended from the following organizations:

The Massachusetts College of Pharmacy.

The New York College of Pharmacy.

The Richmond, Va., Pharmaceutical Society.

The Cincinnati College of Pharmacy.

The Philadelphia College of Pharmacy.

The Maryland College of Pharmacy.

Reports of the meeting in New York were received and acted upon, resolutions adopted and new officers elected and business in regular order was dispatched.

The business committee reported the draft of a Constitution, which was debated, amended and adopted. It was at this meeting the name was changed

from National Association to its present title, "The American Pharmaceutical Association."

Under this broad and comprehensive name may we wish it a long and useful life, waxing stronger as the years multiply.

In the year of its permanent organization and the subsequent years of its infancy and youth, it was nurtured by those who had the strength and will of earnest manhood. Now that it has grown to maturity it stands a power of usefulness significant of the best there is in pharmaceutical organization. What is needed now is the loyal support of its membership. If its members continue to be as true to its aim and purpose as were those who have passed away, no one may need to blush for its character and reputation. It would be needless to relate in detail what it has done for those most interested in pharmaceutical progress. Those who wish to know more of its history than has been revealed through its published annual proceedings, should attend its annual meetings and see those men who stand for what is best for pharmacy, giving their time and earnest work from one meeting to another. Those who attend the annual meetings and read the published proceedings must realize that the united efforts of the higher type of men in pharmacy are exerting a good and useful influence in a department of science that should appeal to the better nature of man.

The report on the progress of pharmacy will more than compensate the practical pharmacist, who pays his annual dues to the Association.

What has been accomplished for the benefit of pharmacy, pharmacists and druggists, by the active membership of the Association must indicate the promise for the future.

In pharmacy and its collateral branches of commercialism, changes must come, relative to the changes that come in all branches of industry. The older members of the fraternity have witnessed the changes that have come to pass in the last fifty years—some for better, some for worse. Those on the Watch Tower should carefully observe and endeavor to ward off the evil and invite the good; for pharmacy should be considered in a practical sense as largely humanitarian, be it professional or commercial. There is no reason why commercialism should not be as honest and respectable as professionalism can possibly be. One term does not signify honesty and competency more than the other.

Therefore, to judge the future by the past, we may be hopeful that in this age of higher scientific knowledge and industrial development, the future of the American Pharmaceutical Association gives greater promise than has been possible in the past.

But in the roll of its honored members, when calm judgment shall have estimated the difficulties and disadvantages of the past in comparison with the present developments and advantages, and the anticipated increase of opportunity in the future, we should not indulge a less regard and esteem for the strong men who stood in the front ranks and bore with fortitude their heavy burdens. Their individuality, perhaps, was made strong by stern difficulties, and all the more invite our admiration and applause.

Without disparagement of any one of those who were present and assisted in organizing the American Pharmaceutical Association, the name of one who contributed largely to effect the organization may with propriety be mentioned at

this time, the name of William Procter, Jr., the Father of American Pharmacy—the one single individual who did more substantial work for the betterment of pharmacy in America than any other individual member of the fraternity.

For years before the organization, he had been quietly but earnestly at work with the preliminary elements of the Association. In 1831, he began his apprenticeship in the study of pharmacy. From the time of his graduation to the year of his death, he regularly contributed valuable papers published in the American Journal of Pharmacy. In 1841, he was appointed secretary to the committee on revision of the U. S. Pharmacopoea. In 1844, he opened a pharmacy at the southwest corner of Ninth and Lombard streets, which continued under his ownership and management to the time of his death. In 1846 he was elected Professor of Pharmacy in his alma mater, the first pharmacist to hold a professorship in the oldest college of pharmacy in America.

In 1846 he assisted Prof. Joseph Carson as co-editor of the American Journal of Pharmacy. In 1850 Prof. Carson resigned, and Prof. Procter succeeded him in editorial management of the Journal. A reference to the Journal and the proceedings of the American Pharmaceutical Association will demonstrate the value of his life to pharmacy.

THE MANUFACTURE OF GALENICALS BY THE RETAIL PHARMACIST.

Its Possibilities and Limitations.

HENRY C. BLAIR.

Pharmacy, according to Professor Remington, is the science which treats of medicinal substances, and comprehends not only a knowledge of medicines and the arts of preparing and dispensing them, but also their identification, selection, preservation, combination and analysis.

Accepting this as a correct definition, it follows that a pharmacist is one who knows theoretically and practically these arts.

It does not follow that he must practice these arts, or all of them, in the case of every medicinal substance that he uses in his business, though this seems to be the opinion of some writers.

On the other hand, a man who works in a drug store and who does not practice the arts of the profession can not be considered a pharmacist.

Where, then, shall the line be drawn? In order to serve the public properly, to derive from his business the largest return, and to practice pharmacy as a profession, the following rule in relation to galenicals will serve as a guide to the conscientious pharmacist:

Manufacture all galenicals unless they can be procured of a better quality than you can make or unless they can be purchased for a less price than they cost you to make, quality being equal.

The retail pharmacist should make the following galenicals because he can