

EDITORIAL

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THE ASSOCIATION YEAR.

The year 1921 with the years preceding will soon be blended into a New Year, and even though the failures of the old years may have tried us, if we stood the tests, if the experiences are applied rightly, the sum of accomplishment will make our work more valuable.

To serve is the purpose of professions. The blending of the best in the years gone by with the best in the years to come will enable us to contribute more largely and efficiently to a service in which there should be a closer interrelation with medicine. In the direction of other branches of the drug business the linking is stronger seemingly; reason would indicate that coöperation is quite as essential in the former relations, as the final purpose is service.

What of our part within the profession and the associations? Some years ago Dr. Frank Crane said: "Every one of us is such a bundle of sensitiveness, with so many sharp corners of prejudice and opinion, such clamorous and undisciplined desires and headstrong tastes, that it is a wonder we can live together at all."

Neither the individual nor an associated number can adhere strictly to a large plan; to a principle, yes. As in the life of an individual there are interruptions which deflect a schedule, so also the purpose of an activity, of a coördinated number of activities, of an association; there are bound to be changes and different viewpoints; the public after all has a very important part in shaping our way of doing things. The realization of a definite purpose is an important forward step in progress and the recognition of other men's sincerity a stimulus to coöperation.

"Sometimes the other fellow does a thing that I detest,
Sometimes I hear him scoffing at the things which I like best,
Yet I know that he is kindly, and I know that he is true,
And I know the big and fine things are the deeds he wants to do."

The passing year has been one of progress, with a determination among pharmacists to go forward; this has been clearly shown by the attitude of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy in the matter of preliminary education and prerequisite requirements. With these advancements comes a higher appreciation of the services rendered by pharmacists and a reasonable insistence on being counseled within matters that concern pharmacy, a right denied at times in no uncertain terms. The intimated attitude also obtains in legislative halls, where only recently the voice and rights of pharmacists brought about a change of viewpoint. Constructive public service in and by pharmacy will have a large part in fixing public and professional estimates of pharmacy, even though the sphere of such influence will as a matter of course vary with locality.

The reports of important movements set on foot at the New Orleans Convention of the American Pharmaceutical Association are nearly complete; their promotion has only begun; therein is our duty, and to these efforts your hearty coöperation is invited during the year 1922.

E. G. E.

THE PUBLIC NEEDS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING RELATIVE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF ALCOHOL IN THE INDUSTRIES.

The manufacture of spirituous liquors for beverage purposes is illegal, but it is deplorable that so useful and necessary a product as ethyl alcohol is constantly associated with a prohibited use of it; in fact, the first thought with many is relative to its unlawful consumption, whereas the legitimate uses are so great and so important that comparatively few products have as wide an application and as great possibilities. American industries may be adversely affected by such general assumption and resultant regulations which unnecessarily restrict lawful manufacture and rightful use; and thereby the cost of production is increased to an extent that makes impossible competition with other countries in products in the manufacture of which alcohol enters directly or indirectly, unless a protecting tariff is placed on them to equalize the trading basis. The latter method secures home trade, but our citizens pay a higher price for goods, and foreign trade is handicapped, unless our manufacturers offset losses in the foreign markets by overcharging at home.

It is lamentable that otherwise reasonable minds are so unreasonable in this connection that they cannot or will not devise means of handling the important question of alcohol taxation without constantly bringing up its illegitimate consumption. The arguments in and out of Congress and State legislatures distress the industries. Those requiring alcohol constitute a very large part of those engaged in all activities. As is well known, alcohol is necessary in manufacturing articles into the composition of which it does not enter; in other manufactures it is converted into compounds of entirely different properties, in some it is solvent or vehicle. Alcohol possesses more different qualities than most substances that are inherent, adventitious and incidental; it can be cheaply produced from many substances, from waste and unsalable material and that for which up to the present no use has been found, and thereafter the residue can be utilized in manufacturing other products. Its manufacture brings profit or makes a lower price possible on other items concerned in its manufacture; its wider applications, for fuel, light, power, etc., have not reached the possibilities to be attained under proper encouragement; few substances have such interest for the inventive mind.

These running statements relative to alcohol are made to more strongly impress the inconsiderate or fanatic attitude of a large number, not only among prohibitionists, but those who are willing and desirous of stopping manufacture of alcohol because they cannot have it for drink or sell it for beverage purposes. It is almost inconceivable that men can be so prejudiced in a matter of such momentous importance and possibilities; it impresses the need of publicity relative to the subject, and this really is the message of this comment, for notwithstanding its long and general industrial use there is a great deficiency of knowledge on the part of the public as to the importance of alcohol. Indicative of this are the references already made, recent discussions in Congress, hearings in State legislatures, press items, and such expressions as the following, made by persons of more or less prominence: "It (alcohol) is all booze, therefore it must go." "The people have spoken, alcohol manufacture must cease." "If there really are industries dependent on alcohol in any form, I would gladly see them ruined if by so doing we could obviate the possibility of one poor soul securing alcohol for beverage purposes."

Denatured alcohol offers a solution that may be the only way of regulation, but reasonable publicity will more firmly and safely establish the industry and develop more rational viewpoints.

Selfishness and insincerity have no place in a question of this kind, but the maintenance and continued growth of our industries have. There should be evolved a pervading spirit of greater mutual confidence and respect. "A fact that is distorted ceases to be a fact; that which is not a fact is false," whether spoken by a fanatic or a liberal. Recently we heard much of the "Gospel of understanding;" the thought is so far-reaching that it may not be inappropriate to say here that an era of better understanding and greater confidence should come, and we have a part in bringing it about—an understanding with the Government, with the people, and among ourselves.

E. G. E.

EDUCATIONAL WORK OF THE AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF PHARMACEUTICAL FACULTIES AND THE JOURNAL, A. PH. A.

FOR a number of years, many men, prominent in the work of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties, have expressed the feeling that greater publicity should be given to the educational work of the Conference. At the same time, the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, through its editor and otherwise, has offered its pages to the Conference. In his presidential address at Washington in 1920, Dean W. F. Rudd stressed the need and importance of greater publicity for Conference matters. Dean Rudd's recommendation No. 3 was adopted by the Conference. The recommendation reads as follows: "That monthly publicity of the affairs of the Conference be secured and that the President, the Secretary-Treasurer and the Chairman of the Executive Committee be empowered to put this plan into execution, without waiting to report back to the Conference."

Little progress was made during the year and at New Orleans the Conference placed the responsibility of this work upon the Chairman of the Executive Committee. The Chairman is now planning the work for the coming months.

Little space is available in the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION until three or four months after the Annual Convention because of the necessity of reporting the work of the various sections. Beginning with January or February number, sufficient space will be available for the Conference.

In view of the fact that a number of prominent retail pharmacists have made the statement that they are convinced that the proper place to get experience in the art and science of compounding is in the college rather than in the retail drug store, it is up to the colleges as never before to improve their methods of teaching. Furthermore, in addition to the mere teaching of the compounding with the usual minimal amount of laboratory training, enough experience must be given in compounding so that when a student graduates he has become expert in the science. In order to do so it may be necessary to lengthen at once our courses in this subject; or in related subjects, it may be necessary to give such practical laboratory experience as will make it possible for the student to become a skilled technician.

With this added responsibility being placed upon the college, we will, all the more, welcome the abandonment of the two-year course in pharmacy in 1923.

In view of the facts stated above, the Chairman believes that a discussion of the methods now being used in teaching and giving experience in compounding in