

EDITORIAL

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AN INTERNATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PHARMACEUTICAL LITERATURE.

TEOFIL LUGENDHOLD, of Lodz, Poland, recommends for the adoption by the Eleventh International Congress of Pharmacy the preparation of a bibliography of pharmaceutical literature. If, after consideration by the Congress, such an undertaking seems feasible and advisable, it is reasonable to assume that American pharmacists will give the proposition consideration. The thought is not new, except, perhaps, in so far as stress is laid on an international work in a number of languages.

After the appearance of the first British Year Book, the *Chemist and Druggist* of February 13, 1871, commented as follows:

"The first issue of this newly born annual, emanating from such an important body as the British Pharmaceutical Conference, is an event of too much interest to be allowed to pass with the few words which we were able to give to it last month. It is to be the first of a series which, in a pharmaceutical sense, is intended to preserve the story of our lives from year to year."

Editor Ince writes in the preface of this volume:

"It has become an impossible task for each individual to follow the progress of our art, even as it exists among ourselves, as journals of all descriptions, reflecting every shade of interest, crowd upon his notice thick as the leaves in Vallombrosa. Still less can he hope, trusting to his personal resources, to have a moderate acquaintance with the thought and experience of those who both think and feel exactly like ourselves, *but who speak in languages different from our own.* It has been the earnest wish of the British Pharmaceutical Conference *to link together*, with some degree of systematic arrangement, various ideas, *French, German, American and English*, bearing on our 'common mistress, Pharmacy.'" (Italics ours—Editor.)

We are taking the liberty of quoting from a letter from the Reporter on the Progress of Pharmacy, H. V. Army, to whom a copy of Mr. Lugendhold's preliminary prospectus was submitted:

"The present Bibliography of Pharmaceutical Research as it appears month by month in our JOURNAL is an attempt to cover the matter as far as current journals are concerned. When it comes to American pharmacy of the past fifty years (and quite a bit of European pharmacy, too) the PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and (since 1912) its Year Books cover the field quite acceptably. And as to work prior to that time, and bibliographies in such books as Tschirch's 'Pharmakognozie,' alkaloids, Gildemeister and Hoffmann's 'Aetherische Oele,' to cite merely a few of many classic works of this character, will serve as an acceptable basis for the vast investigation suggested by Mr. Lugendhold.

"Turning to the details of Mr. Lugendhold's proposition, we are at first confronted by the ever-present problem of finances; for such a work in its entirety will require a vast amount of clerical assistance. As cited above, I believe that the first aim should be to assemble existing bibliographies. Thus, my study of Professor Tschirch's monumental work leaves me with the impression that he has covered the field of past pharmacognosy as thoroughly as any man could do it.

But the mere mechanical assembling of the available material in one language would be a vast task and it would seem obvious if the plan of a bibliography of world-wide use is to obtain, such a bibliography should be prepared in at least three languages and perhaps in six.

"The first thing to do would be to secure pledges of subscriptions from college, private and industrial libraries throughout the world and thus see whether the demand for such a universal bibliography is sufficient to justify the undertaking of the great task."

We have in this country the Lloyd Library, quite a number of libraries in manufacturing establishments, in colleges, etc.; a comprehensive index to relevant subjects therein is sufficient to indicate what such an undertaking means. The proposal may develop a serviceable plan, but not as comprehensive as the one suggested by Mr. Lugendhold.

E. G. E.

ACQUAINTANCE WITH OTHER PEOPLE ESSENTIAL FOR PROGRESS.

THE world war shattered many ideals and precedents, but the fact remains that friendship among nations is essential for the world's progress. Our country is an example, a nation in which there is a blending of many nationalities, who in one way or another contributed to its greatness. Expansion of our commerce, growth of our industries, development of the arts and sciences, all depend to some extent on our relation with the people of other countries.

The bringing together of students representing fifty-seven nationalities in Philadelphia February 16th has a deep significance. The affair was arranged by the Chamber of Commerce and while, primarily, a get-together meeting with merchants, manufacturers, and financiers, the possibilities in bringing together votaries in every line of endeavor are apparent; in other words, opportunities are presented for extending knowledge relative to science and art, and the resources of other countries. The United States Ambassador to Japan presided as toastmaster, and among the student speakers were Bertram Adams, South Africa; Milosh Smeyanovitch, Serbia; Francisco Rivas, Chile; Chun Chen, China; and Tatsunosuke Ueda, Japan.

From significant statements in the addresses of several American speakers we quote the following:

"Plant your ideas and ideals in the hearts of others." "Take back to your lands the warp, woof and genius of America." "The spirit of a blending of the races finds an echo to-night in your being here." "While here don't be misled by travesties that undermine governments; there is only one worthy 'ism' and that is patriotism. Take back with you your loyalty to your own country." "Friendship among nations demands as its essential requisite mutual understanding, and this means interchange of thought between the peoples."

Glowing accounts no doubt will go to Europe, Asia, Africa, Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, etc., in the letters these students will write home. Many of our colleges and schools of pharmacy educate foreign students; it seems

that some coöperative endeavor could be outlined of mutual value and of service to the world. While many countries are represented in the membership of the American Pharmaceutical Association, more of the foreign students should become affiliated with the organization. We know what such education meant to a country that threw away, or at least lost, its opportunities. The words spoken at the banquet referred to are indicative of American ideals; science and art are developed along related lines. What Blackstone said may find direct or indirect application: "The sciences are of a sociable disposition, and flourish best in the neighborhood of each other; nor is there any branch of learning but may be helped and improved by assistance drawn from other arts." E. G. E.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TECHNICAL MEN AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE PEOPLE.*

BY WARREN G. HARDING, President of the United States.

No one can be more appreciative than myself of the great advantages of a college education. I took my post-graduate course in the university of country journalism. This appreciation of the value of college education, and of the value of college-trained men in a democracy, has deepened with maturity and experience in public service.

Our civilization is an industrial civilization. Its problems primarily are those of production and distribution, which, to be solved from the standpoint of the maximum welfare of all our people, must find their answer in an ever-greater volume of cheaper goods of higher quality; otherwise, a progressive standard of living cannot be maintained, and the law of life, which is growth, hence, will be thwarted.

The solution of these problems is, in the aggregate, a tremendous responsibility which rests directly with technically educated men who are trained primarily for this work.

It is not too much to say that the future of society to-day is in the hands of technically educated men, for they are concerned directly with the operation and management of the material forces which radiate their influence into every avenue of human thought and aspiration.

The rapid progress we have made in the fundamental, material things of life, is the result of the study and work of men of this type, and reflects the value to society of specialized ability, for in no other way than by specialization of effort could such great contributions be made to the common welfare.

The same specialization whose results in the aggregate are so valuable to society has its drawbacks which, in so far as the individual practitioners of the great technical professions are concerned, tend to confine their respective interests to their immediate work to the sacrifice of activity in the broader field of public affairs.

Government increasingly is becoming more technical, because its great problems more than ever before are essentially technical problems, particularly as they relate to internal affairs of development and more efficient utilization of our natural resources, which in many things are dangerously approaching exhaustion. Not only must these be conserved, but substitutes must be found and developed.

* *Chemical Age*, September 1920.