

EDITORIAL

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OFFICIAL HEADQUARTERS AND PERMANENT HOME OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

A quotation may be relevant to a subject under discussion while the source or origin of it is not. This is true of lines that have come to mind in preparing this comment; they are: "If it were done, when 'tis done, then 'twere well it were done quickly." The words imply that there should be no delay; the best time for doing is while much can be accomplished; that enthusiasm is necessary for achievement and essential for enlisting the interest of others.

Annually, for many years, the question of providing a permanent home for the American Pharmaceutical Association has been brought up and discussed at the annual meetings, in pharmaceutical publications, and made one of the important suggestions, if not recommendations, of several presidential addresses. Never before has the signal step of providing ways for accomplishing the purpose been taken so that means might be provided for crowning the effort with success.

Every section of the country is represented on the Special Committee,* but the Committee can only direct, instill enthusiasm, and carry on the effort for the promotion of which they were appointed. There is more than a possibility of having subscribers from other organizations, corporations and individuals whose attachment for the American Pharmaceutical Association is strong and who recognize its greater possibilities in subserving pharmacy.

While the letter of Chairman J. H. Beal has gone out to the members only recently, some replies have come in, and the names of these donors, up to April 28th, are listed under "Societies and Colleges." The letter carries a message to every A. Ph. A. member and pharmacist; as a matter of record and reference, the greater part is included in this comment, confident that responses will enable the Committee to render a gratifying report at the Cleveland meeting of the Association.

"The long discussed project of securing a building to serve as Official Headquarters and Permanent Home of the American Pharmaceutical Association is now in process of accomplishment.

* American Pharmaceutical Association Headquarters Building Special Committee: J. H. Beal, *Chairman*, Summer address, 801 W. Nevada St., Urbana, Ill.; Winter address, Camp Walton, Fla.; John G. Godding, 278 Dartmouth St., Boston, Mass.; Leonard A. Seltzer, 60-64 Adams St., W., Detroit, Mich.; E. L. Newcomb, 719 6th Ave., S. E., Minneapolis, Minn.; Chas. H. LaWall, 636 Franklin Square, Philadelphia, Pa.; H. S. Noel, 4335 Park Ave., Indianapolis, Ind.; Wm. B. Day, 701 S. Wood St., Chicago, Ill.; Jeannot Hostmann, 115 West 68th St., New York, N. Y.; W. H. Ziegler, 213 Rutledge Ave., Charleston, S. C.; Joseph L. Lengfeld, 1505 Gough St., San Francisco, Calif.; E. F. Kelly, Lombard & Greene Sts., Baltimore, Md.; H. M. Whelpley, 2342 Albion Place, St. Louis, Mo.; Geo. W. McDuff, 2712 Magazine St., New Orleans, La.; F. H. Freericks, 1004 Mercantile Library Bldg., Cincinnati, O.

"The building is intended to contain offices for the Editor of the JOURNAL and General Secretary, laboratories for pharmaceutical research, and to house the historical collections of the Association, pharmaceutical library, etc.

"The laboratories will be available for the use of advanced students working out Pharmacopoeial and National Formulary problems, and other problems of pharmaceutical importance. In the historical museum will be collected the scattered treasures of American pharmaceutical history which otherwise would be dissipated and lost to the uses of posterity. The historical material already owned by the Association is now divided among several institutions that are taking care of it temporarily, while other materials of equal or greater value cannot be accepted by the Association because there is no place in which to store them safely.

"The building as a whole will be a monument to American pharmacy and pharmaceutical workers as well as to the American Pharmaceutical Association, and a source of pride to all those interested in any division of pharmaceutical work.

"The city in which the building is to be erected will not be decided upon until sufficient funds have been pledged for its erection, and will then be selected in some appropriate manner by the Association, doubtless after consulting the wishes of the subscribers to the Fund.

"All receipts from subscriptions will be deposited at interest, and kept intact until sufficient has been collected for the completion of the project. Any money not expended upon building and equipment will be invested as a permanent Endowment Fund for the maintenance of the plant.

"The Committee has the assurance of substantial aid from outside sources, *provided the members of the Association subscribe with sufficient liberality.*

"Every member of the Association should feel called upon to make some contribution, if only a small one. Please make your subscription as liberal as you feel that you can afford to do. If any subscriber cannot meet his promise at the date stated, the time will no doubt be extended by the Association.

"All subscriptions will be published in the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and members will be kept posted as to the progress of the work by frequent notices in the JOURNAL."

The possibilities and opportunities afforded by the laboratories to be provided for research and other work of investigation and on the Standards, the importance of the endeavor in general, that must and will bring about a better recognition of the service of pharmacy, and the establishment of a library and the preservation of historical material, should incite the greatest interest in this undertaking, worthy of the support and promotion of the American Pharmaceutical Association, its membership, coöperators and friends. Having started the movement we cannot stop short of accomplishment, therefore, *repetatur*:

"If it were done, when 'tis done, then 'twere well
It were done quickly."

E. G. E.

PHARMACEUTICAL ETHICS.

WILLIAM Procter, Jr., in an address delivered before the American Pharmaceutical Association during the first decade of its existence, gave expression to a sentiment which deserves more than passing consideration at this time:

"Pharmacy partakes of the character of a liberal profession and demands of its votaries that they uphold its ethics even at the sacrifice of gain."

No profession or calling makes true progress save through the labors of the members who exemplify its highest ethical principles and practice. The profession of law commands respect on account of the high ethical standards upheld by the majority of the members of the bench and of the bar and in spite of the shysters and scalawags who infest it in all communities.

Medicine has attained its present eminence through the constructive work of a minority of its practitioners, although quacks and charlatans have hampered it in all ages.

Pharmacy as a profession has never "found" itself. There have been and are organizations whose codes are irreproachable examples of high and noble idealism but in many cases the growth has been so rapid and the trend of thought and practice so different from a generation or two ago that the existence of a code of ethics is not even suspected by the majority of the membership.

No healthy growth can take place under such conditions. If pharmacy is to attain its desire to be respected as a profession, it must be through a realization and open acknowledgment of its responsibilities. These responsibilities have been entrusted to its members, by the public, along with certain privileges which give an advantage to the possessor over the members of other callings which are purely mercantile.

The slogans "Try the drug store first," and "Your druggist is more than a merchant," and others which have sprung up recently, are an exemplification of the attempt to capitalize the professional reputation of the ideal pharmacist. There is an implied superiority in these phrases which is pleasantly convincing to many, but unless the drug store is *worth* trying first or unless your druggist is more than a merchant, the final outcome will be a net loss instead of a gain.

The pharmacist who buys his prescription drugs, chemicals, and preparations at the lowest possible price without comparing quality and with no regard for official standards, is the one who is a menace to ethical and professional pharmacy.

There is greater profit, of course, in the sale of a gallon of ice cream or of an expensive bottle of perfume than there is in the dispensing of a gallon of lime water or the compounding of a difficult prescription, but should the question of comparative profit ever enter into a transaction which involves human health?

There is no real conflict between good ethics and good business, and there is no intent at disparagement for the seller of the ice cream or of the perfume if he pays conscientious attention to his professional duties.

If every pharmacist were to proceed in all transactions having to do with the purchase, sale, compounding or dispensing of medicines as though the health and safety of a loved member of his own family were at stake there would be little need for a code of ethics, for in their essence all codes of ethics may be epitomized in "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you."

C. H. LAWALL.

SEVENTIETH ANNUAL CONVENTION, AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION IN CLEVELAND, OHIO.

BY EDWARD SPEASE, LOCAL SECRETARY.

The seventieth annual convention of the American Pharmaceutical Association will be held in Cleveland, during the week of August fourteenth. This will be the first time the convention has met in Cleveland since 1872; it is the golden anniversary.

The headquarters will be at the Hotel Statler, which is located in the very heart of Cleveland and within five or ten minutes' walk of all the principal hotels and all the larger business houses. Plans have been perfected with the hotel to mail cards to every member of the Association. These cards will give the hotel rates, and when the hotel receives the return card the room will not only be reserved but assigned to the individual and he will be notified of his room number, so that this room will be ready for him when he arrives. There will be no other convention in the Statler Hotel during this week. It will devote its entire energy to entertaining our Association, the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy.

Plans have been partially perfected to date for a splendid entertainment program, as well as that of the business sessions. There will be a report of the Committee on Reorganization of the Association, which will be received and discussed at this convention. The House of Delegates, A. Ph. A., will present its first report on cooperative work with the state associations.

This is the one pharmaceutical convention of the year that all branches of the drug business attend. There are administrative, executive, legislative, scientific, manufacturing, and commercial sections. Every state association, every manufacturing house of any consequence, every school, and every state board of pharmacy should have, and usually does have, a representative at this convention. This is the one great gathering of American pharmacy.

The easy access to the lake port resorts is an added feature; many will come and take their vacation just prior to or just subsequent to this convention, at one of the lake ports. Cedar Point, one of the longest sand beaches in the world, is only a few hours' distant by boat, and here you can spend the week-end after the convention. For fresh water bathing it cannot be excelled.

Make your preparations to come.

Chairmen of Convention Committees: A. F. Conrad, Automobiles; E. D. Davy, Program; A. B. Ejbl, Entertainment; C. H. Flandermeyer, Transportation; W. H. Hagemester, Finance; L. A. Lesser, Badges; Jacob Lustig, Registration; E. R. Selzer, Hotels; E. G. Winger, Publicity. Convention Officers: L. C. Hopp, *Honorary Chairman*; O. E. Muhlhan, *Chairman*, 10500 Cedar Avenue; Edward Spease, *Local Secretary*, 2045 Adelbert Road; H. F. Guenther, *Treasurer*, 16139 St. Clair Avenue.
