

EDITORIAL

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PUBLIC INFORMATION RELATING TO PHARMACY.

THE News Service of the Drug Trade Board of Public Information has interested the public in matters that concern pharmacy, and relative to service rendered by pharmacists. The growth of a newspaper depends largely on its news columns, but is also responsive to its efforts in giving the public other valuable information. The bulletins of the Drug Trade Board of Public Information* contribute to the latter service, and the very fact that they have been accepted for publication proves their value to the press, the public, and to pharmacy.

We are apt to be unmindful of the time and thought necessary for carrying on this work, and these lines are, in a very limited way, expressive of appreciation of the service rendered by and through the agency of the Director of the News Service.

The Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, for July, quotes applicable texts for popular lectures in chemistry; they are taken from the preface, written by Dr. E. E. Slosson for the revised edition of Smith's "Intermediate Chemistry." Three of the four paragraphs quoted that apply as well to pharmacy as to chemistry are reprinted:

"Chemistry has control of life and death. An animal or plant deprived for a time of the proper chemical compounds will starve or if it imbibes a minute amount of the wrong chemical compounds it dies at once."

"'Chemistry is the science of terror and pity for it provides both the materials for destruction and for healing. It is man's weapon against disease, insects, fungi, pain, and sleeplessness. It tears down and builds up.'

"'Chemistry is the democratic science. It bestows upon the poorest what once were the gifts of kings.' It is the joyous science and contributes most to the pleasures of life. 'Chemistry is a practical science. None touches every-day life at more points except its sister science, physics, between which and chemistry no clear boundary can be drawn. None has more avenues for profitable employment.'"

In the bulletins of the Drug Trade Board of Public Information the laity has been informed that scientific research is an activity of the American Pharmaceutical Association; that the standards of foods and drugs are provided largely, if not chiefly, by pharmacists. These thoughts will bear repetition—that efforts are made to protect patients from harmful effects of drugs needed to allay pain; investigations are continuously carried on, seeking to perfect and find remedial agents for the afflicted; standards are provided for drugs and foods to safeguard the public. What is needed to interest the laymen more in pharmacy is—a greater interest in pharmacy, its work and achievements, by pharmacists. E. G. E.

*See February *JOUR. A. PH. A.*, 1922, p. 140, and April number, p. 310.

THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES AND PENDING NATIONAL LEGISLATION.

PHARMACY has a deep interest in the future of American chemical industries and, therefore, is concerned in the recent action of President Harding, on the advice of the Department of Justice, instructing the Alien Property Custodian to take steps to secure the return to the custodian of all patents sold, under the "Trading-with-the-Enemy Act," to the Chemical Foundation, Inc. Another important action is that taken by the Senate in defeating the dye embargo provision of the pending tariff bill.

We quote parts of an address made by President Harding about two years ago, on "Responsibilities of Technical News and Obligations of the People:"*

"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.

"This work is the duty of men best qualified to do it. These men are the technically educated men, who form the industrial 'shock troops' of the army of civilization. They are civil engineers, mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, mining engineers and metallurgists, chemical engineers and chemists, and, lastly, that body of faithful men who constitute a condition precedent to all the rest, the teachers of technical men.

"Our government maintains great scientific agencies in the Patent Office, Bureau of Mines, Bureau of Standards, the Geological Survey and the Bureau of Chemistry and Experiment Stations of the Department of Agriculture. Here engineers and chemists and representatives of every department of applied science are employed under capable scientific administrators, to encourage the development of our natural resources, to discover new processes for their utilization, and to protect the inventive mind in the fruits of its prolific genius to which we are indebted more than to any other one source for the material greatness of our country.

"These agencies must be supported liberally, for their work is as seed which yield their harvest in the increased fruitfulness of all human endeavor in field, mine and factory.

"The great technical profession forms the cornerstone of material civilization. Their practitioners are derelict to their greater social responsibilities in their indifference to political affairs.

"I want to encourage that interest and will help to reward the effort.

"As one who appreciates the value of their work and worth, I pledge myself to aid our technical men in all matters looking to the popular recognition of their respective professions."

In the February number of *JOUR. A. PH. A.*, pp. 81-83, an editorial was printed under the caption of "Pharmaceutical Progress and the Chemical Industries," and the purpose of this writing is merely to make a record, pending further developments.

A Committee of the American Chemical Society was unsuccessful in securing a hearing by President Harding on July 19. The Society strongly supports the Chemical Foundation; the names of the Committee members follow: *Chairman*, Dr. Edgar F. Smith, president American Chemical Society; Dr. George D. Rosen-garten; Dr. John Teeple, New York, treasurer of the society; Prof. R. H. McKee, professor of chemical engineering, Columbia University; Dr. A. D. Little, Boston, member of the institute of chemical engineers; Prof. J. F. Norris, of Massachusetts Institute of Technology; E. R. Weidlein, director of Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh;

**Chemical Age*, September 1920.

Dr. Julius Stieglitz, University of Chicago; William Hosking, Chicago, and Dr. H. E. Howe, acting secretary, A. C. S.

The latter made public the following statement:

"It was indicated in connection with our request for a hearing at the White House that it was desired to let the President know the effect which we believe his action against the Chemical Foundation would have upon the whole American chemical profession and industry as distinguished from the dye situation alone; that other phases besides the making of dyes are involved, such as medicines and pharmaceuticals and drugs.

"It was believed that the President had not been able to acquaint himself sufficiently with the entire effect of this move against the Chemical Foundation. We wanted to submit additional information to him and to get any information which he might have that would enable us to decide whether we should change our attitude of defending the Chemical Foundation to one of supporting the administration."

The Government's attack on the Chemical Foundation influenced, to some extent, the action of the Senate in defeating the dye embargo provision of the tariff bill. There seems to have been some confusion of thought relative to the two questions, and Dr. Charles H. Herty has expressed his opinion that the measure will receive a favorable majority vote when it again comes up in the Senate.

The American chemical industry must be encouraged and maintained in the interest of American industries, trade, commerce, defense and public health.

The record of the war period and the progress made by the American chemical industries since then prove the superior qualifications of American chemists of all divisions, in these important industries.

E. G. E.

TRAFFIC IN NARCOTICS.

THE French Academy of Medicine has given publicity to the statement that, according to police data, the Paris cocaine traffic has increased four-fold since 1916. Other European countries evidence, by legislation and news items, that illegal sales of narcotics in import and export are increasing; smuggling is carried on systematically; traffickers in one country cooperate with those of another. A recent cable dispatch from Germany stated that "the demand for cocaine is something tremendous." The methods employed in carrying on this traffic are described.

There is a growing knowledge and a more general desire for placing the blame of illegitimate narcotic sales where it belongs; we quote from a recent editorial of a Philadelphia paper:

"Such scandalous implications as lie in the report of policemen in the narcotic drug business which followed a gun battle in the old Tenderloin do not involve the police department any more than they involve the voting majority in this city.

"People who regularly turn out to sustain the power of a corrupt political machine should not complain when outrageous abuses of authority are charged against petty agents of one or another boss. And if officials in high places seem to look kindly and with toleration upon the dope rings and their leaders, what is the use of blaming occasional policemen who venture into drug peddling in a small way?

"One of these days we may know the truth about the relationship of some of the minor police officials to the illicit whisky problem. Then there will be news worth reading."

The comment was responsive to a recent case in court, which was given much publicity, resulting in the return to prison of a convict who had been paroled. We

cannot do better for our purpose in this writing than to quote from other press editorials:

"But the man was released on a deliberate misrepresentation of the facts, made by somebody, and the men active in the release did not seem to be interested enough to make any attempt to find out what the facts were.

"They are on the defensive, and they should be kept on the defensive so long that other judges will hesitate before they lend themselves to any such method of perverting the ends of justice."

"Sterner laws are needed in every state to punish drug peddlers and restrict the traffic. And there is no reason why, when existing statutes are revised, they should not be made broad enough to bring into the class of criminals liable to legal punishment all those who deliberately aid and encourage individuals or groups engaged in the illicit drug trade or conspire, under any pretense, to make them immune under the law."

The important thing, however, is to put existing laws into effect, and enlist public cooperation in the selection and election of officials. Simplified regulations applying to dispensing of narcotics in prescriptions are possible; the grave danger is in the unlicensed sale, and the sinister influences which directly or indirectly are at work among those charged with the enforcement of laws. E. G. E.

DISCONTINUANCE OF THE OLDEST DISPENSARY OF THE UNITED STATES, AS A SEPARATE INSTITUTION.

THE Philadelphia Dispensary, the first dispensary in the United States, closed its old colonial doors last month, after 137 years of service. The Dispensary was first opened in a building rented from Christopher Marshall, of a lineage of Philadelphia druggists. Other names well known to pharmacists associated in the founding of the institution are: John Bartram; Joseph Parrish, antecedent of Dillwyn and Edward Parrish; the latter was president of the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1868; John and Joseph Carson. In order to link the past with the present, it is stated that Stephen Parrish, the artist, is a son of Dillwyn Parrish, and Maxfield Parrish, also famed in the art of color illustration, is a grandson. It is of further interest to note that Dr. John B. Carson, descendant of one of the founders, was the last secretary of the institution. Among the early contributors and founders are many others prominent in the affairs of that period.

The Dispensary is not closed on account of lack of funds, for the annual expenses have practically been met by the income of its investments which amount to more than \$150,000; its services will be continued through the Pennsylvania Hospital. During 1921 more than 21,000 patients were treated in the Dispensary, and nearly 57,000 prescriptions were filled; during the first year of its existence 719 patients were given medical attention.

Strict rules for the guidance of the institution have remained in force, the old phraseology being retained in part. According to the *Bulletin*, July 17, 1922, the "Book of Rules" for the present year provides that the resident physician shall keep the establishment in neat and reputable order; the assisting physician and apothecary are allowed the privilege of absence in the evenings and on the first

day of each week, provided both are never absent at the same time; they are admonished to be kind and courteous in word and manner; the district physicians are required to attend promptly any case brought to their notice and "to be kind and forbearing in all respects, as in respectable private practice;" to observe simplicity in prescribing, "to select the least expensive articles and to avoid directing more medicine than will be required for the treatment of the case," and not to allow their office "to be made subservient to the use of any school, clique, institution or person whatever."

When this institution was founded there was strong antipathy against "going to a hospital," and the announcements of its services were carefully worded, as will be discerned in the following quotation from one of them: "the sick may be relieved in a manner perfectly consistent with those noble feelings of the human heart which are inseparable from virtuous poverty, and in a manner also agreeable to those refined precepts of Christianity which inculcate secrecy in acts of charity and benevolence."

E. G. E.

SELF GOVERNMENT IN BUSINESS.

In an address to the National Lumber Manufacturers' Association, Secretary Hoover suggested that the best way to keep the Government out of business was to introduce more self-government into it—that is business should establish its own standards and its own system of inspection.

The *New York Commercial* comments editorially, in part:

"No one who has come in contact with its operations will fail to agree with Mr. Hoover that bureaucratic government is cumbersome and inefficient. The tendency in recent years has been altogether too much toward that form of Government supervision, and it is only now that its danger is beginning to be understood. We are no longer the free people we thought we were, certainly not so far as business is concerned. With the growth of the country, business has grown also, and we now have to regard it from the national standpoint. With the development of communication and transportation, business has naturally spread itself over the entire country, and, as this is a big country, business has to be big too.

"Unfortunately the minds of our legislators have not grown in proportion, and the bigness of business scares them. They realize that the Government is big, because the Government is the people, and so they conclude that big business must be held in leash by that which

is bigger than itself, which is the Government. This is right enough up to the point where the laws have to be revised to meet the new conditions so that there is working machinery to enforce the principles of common honesty and fair play. But to go beyond this point and to tell business how to conduct itself in detail is going too far. Subordinate Government officials earning less than \$5,000 a year are expected to tell business executives earning anywhere from \$25,000 to \$100,000 a year what to do and what not to do. To avoid this Government interference two things are necessary: one is to broaden the minds of those who make our laws, and the other is for business to introduce that measure of self-government suggested by Secretary Hoover that shall remove from the Government the excuse for interfering.

"The only hope of good government, in Mr. Hoover's opinion, a view that will be shared by students of affairs generally, is to keep Government functions down to a minimum. The trouble is that there is too great a tendency now to introduce politics into business instead of business into politics. There is too great a temptation for the demagogue to make political capital out of baiting big business, and as we have good reason to know, a politician has no heart or conscience when his own political welfare is involved."