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SAMUEL A. D. SHEPPARD—AN APPRECIATION.*

BY J. H. BEAL.

Samuel Arius Darlington Sheppard was born in 1842, at Manchester, Mass. When eight years old his family removed to Salem, Mass., where he finished his English education, graduating from the Salem High School in 1858, when sixteen years of age. Immediately following his graduation from high school he entered the pharmacy of Browne & Price, of Salem, reputed to be one of the best conducted pharmacies in New England, where he received a thorough pharmaceutical training and where he remained for ten years.

In 1868, when 26 years of age, he entered business upon his own account, purchasing a store at the corner of Washington and Dover Streets, Boston, with the financial assistance of one of his former employers.

Although described as an old and run-down store, it soon acquired a wide reputation under Mr. Sheppard's energetic and capable management and became one of the best known pharmacies in Boston.

At this one location Mr. Sheppard remained during his entire business career, of more than 40 years.

When Mr. Sheppard purchased the store it was in a residential district, but in later years became one of the most thronged of down town business sections. Notwithstanding this change in its business surroundings, the store successfully retained its original character of a real pharmaceutical establishment, and never degenerated into a mere novelty shop or popular emporium.

Mr. Sheppard's even temper and pleasant personality can be inferred from the long terms of service with him of various employees. At the time of relinquishing active management of the store, one of his men, Mr. Henry Thacher, had been with him continuously for over 30 years, and others for terms ranging, respectively, from 12 to 26 years.

Notwithstanding the time and energy required for the building up and maintenance of a large successful drug business, Mr. Sheppard found time to devote to many collateral activities.

The Massachusetts College of Pharmacy early became a favorite object of his regard. He became a member of the college corporation in 1868, the year of

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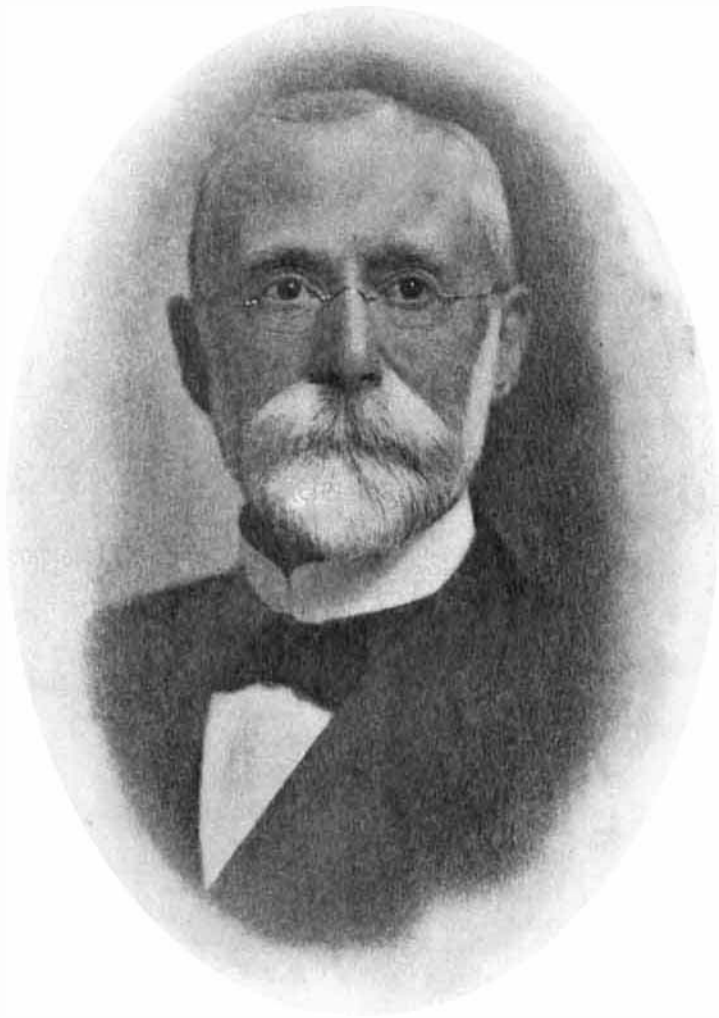
SAMUEL A. D. SHEPPARD*

(1842-1915)

BOSTON, MASS.

Treasurer of the American Pharmaceutical Association, 1886-1908
Honorary President A. Ph. A., 1908

*The condition of Mr. Sheppard's health did not permit his attendance at the annual meetings of the American Pharmaceutical Association during the later years of his life. The appreciation herewith offers an opportunity for placing on record a memoir by one who worked with Mr. Sheppard for quite a number of years, and who, with him, established the A. Ph. A. Endowment Fund.—ERROR.



S. A. D. SHEPPARD.

beginning his business career in Boston, and from the first day of his connection with the institution was assiduous in promoting its welfare. He was elected a trustee of the College in 1870, and from that time forward almost continuously filled some official position during his business life.

It is significant of Mr. Sheppard's modest estimate of himself that though deemed by his colleagues competent to serve as a trustee of the institution, he nevertheless the same year matriculated as a student of the College, graduating therefrom in 1874.

It was largely through the stimulus of his activities that steps were taken in 1885 to secure a suitable college building and equipment. In addition to contributing liberally from his own purse he was active in securing subscriptions, and in interesting persons outside of the retail drug trade in the success of the institution. It was very largely due to Mr. Sheppard's efforts with men of wealth and position that they were induced to contribute to the College. One of the first results was the "Warren B. Potter Memorial Fund" of \$200,000, which since then has been followed by other contributions for equipment and endowment until the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy has become probably the wealthiest corporation of its kind in the world.

Mr. Sheppard early recognized the importance of associations for the development of pharmacy.

He was an active member of the Alumni Association of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy from the time of his graduation, was a charter member of the Boston Druggists' Association, and also a charter member of the Massachusetts State Pharmaceutical Association, his activity in the work of creating the latter organization being indicated by the fact that he was elected its first President, in 1882. He was largely responsible for the enactment of the Massachusetts Pharmacy Law, and when the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Pharmacy was created the Governor appointed him a member for the first full term of five years.

Mr. Sheppard became a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1865, while still a drug clerk at Salem. He was local secretary at the Boston meeting in 1875, and at the Philadelphia meeting in 1876 was elected First Vice-President of the Association.

He took an important part in the changes which resulted in the creation of the Council in 1880, was a member of the first Council elected, and served as Chairman of the Committee on Finance until 1886. In the latter year he was elected Treasurer of the Association, and gave unstintedly of his time and energy to the duties of that office for a period of 22 years.

Accompanied by Mrs. Sheppard, he was a regular attendant of the annual meetings as long as his health permitted, was invariably present at all of the sessions, and conscientiously devoted himself to the work of the Council and other committees of which he was a member.

He was called upon to assist in the reorganization of the business methods of the U. S. P. Convention, at the time of its incorporation under the laws of the United States in 1890, and was elected a member of the first Board of Trustees, which position he continued to fill until failing health compelled the relinquishment of active pursuits.

Mr. Sheppard's executive and solid business qualifications were such that he was frequently drafted for service in non-pharmaceutical lines.

In the town of Newton, a suburb of Boston, where he at one time resided, he served for some years as Alderman and as a member of the Board of Health. For many years he was a Trustee of the Boston Penny Savings Bank, one of the most substantial of New England's financial institutions, and was also a Director of the South End National Bank of Boston.

Early in his professional life Mr. Sheppard began the accumulation of a pharmaceutical library, paying particular attention to the collecting of the pharmacopoeias of all periods and countries. In this work he enlisted the services of

that eminent authority on pharmacopoeias, the late Dr. Charles Rice, which resulted in the accumulation of approximately 275 volumes properly entitled to be called pharmacopoeias, probably the most complete collection of works of this character in existence.

His entire collection of pharmacopoeias, botanical works, dispensatories and works on pharmaceutical chemistry and allied subjects, amounting to something like 2500 volumes, was by him donated in 1889 to the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, where it was made the foundation of the "Sheppard Library" of that institution. With its later accumulations it has become noted for its content of rare and little known works relating to pharmacy, and is frequently made use of by students of special subjects who come there from other institutions to avail themselves of authorities not readily found elsewhere.

The above are but a few of Mr. Sheppard's many activities, and are cited here because, better than adjectives, they serve to illustrate his useful and busy life, his generous contributions to altruistic purposes, and his high ideals of service to pharmacy and to his fellowmen.

In 1908 the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy conferred upon him the honorary degree of Master of Pharmacy, and in 1915 the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy honored him with the degree of Doctor of Pharmacy, the second time in the history of that institution that it has conferred this distinction upon any one.

He was frequently besought by his friends in the American Pharmaceutical Association to permit himself to be made President of the Association but steadfastly declined, though in 1908, after his retirement from the treasurership, the Association as a small mark of its appreciation elected him as its Honorary President.

Mr. Sheppard had an abiding dislike for positions of conspicuity and whenever possible avoided them. He did not like to be the official head of any organization or body with which he might be connected.

He perhaps realized that the most effective work in any organization usually originates from the floor rather than from the chair. In whatever enterprise he engaged his abilities were quickly discovered by his colleagues and his vigorous personality was such that he was frequently the real leader, even when not officially recognized as such. He was a natural organizer and executive, and every institution or enterprise with which he was associated quickly showed in its organic framework and in its proceedings the effects of his vigorous mind and executive ability.

In the papers and reports presented to this and to other associations and in the debates in which he frequently took part he displayed a style that was devoid of rhetorical embellishment, but was simple, direct and convincing.

He was a puritan in his steadfast devotion to principle, but was entirely without the puritan's frequent bigotry and intolerance for the beliefs and opinions of others. His even temperament and broad tolerance for the opinions and rights of others enabled him to work harmoniously with many with whom he differed on particular points of policy. He felt that little was to be gained by the forcible thrusting of truths down the throats of people who were not ready to receive them. He believed that if his position upon any particular proposition was correct its correctness would in due time be recognized and adopted.

While on the way to his winter home at Pinehurst, N. C., Mr. Sheppard stopped for a short visit with his son, Robert, at Newton Center, Mass., where he was stricken with pneumonia, and died after a brief illness, November 28, 1915.

The *Koran*, the Mussulman's Bible, says:

"When a man dies they who survive him ask what property he has left behind. The angel who bends over the dying man asks what good deeds he has sent before him."

Mr. Sheppard's life was filled with good deeds. When confronted by an opportunity for service he never asked himself "What is there in this for me?"

but only, "What can I do to serve the association and the purpose it represents?" While his prudence in business brought him a modest fortune, he was unsparing and unremitting in his efforts to advance the moral and material interests of the community in which he lived and of the profession of which he was a part.

He gave liberally of his time and money to many causes from which he could expect no financial or other material reward. Upon the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, upon the business management of the United States Pharmacopoeial Convention, and upon the American Pharmaceutical Association his work has left an impression that will last as long as these bodies shall continue.

May we not say with the Greek poet Callimachus, "'Tis ever wrong to say a good man dies."

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HEADQUARTERS BUILDING FUND.

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