

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN
PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.*

JULIUS A. KOCH.

At a time when so much is dependent upon a spirit of forbearance, we may congratulate ourselves upon the choice of Asheville for this meeting. Here removed from the strife of our workaday life with its attending distractions we may again resume our deliberations and set about marking out a path along which pharmacy may develop according to our most lofty ideals. While many of us may differ relative to the manner in which it may be brought about, all of us are agreed in that we honestly desire the advancement of our profession. The unselfish aid given me during the year by my associates bears eloquent testimony to this fact. Secure in this knowledge I shall briefly recount some of the most important events that occurred during the year and thoughts occasioned by them.

The fourth meeting of the International Pharmaceutical Federation was held in London, July 23, 1923, in conjunction with the meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference. The Federation was organized at The Hague in

September 1912 and held its second meeting in 1914. Owing to the World War the third meeting was delayed until April 1922. Our Association received an urgent invitation to affiliate with the Federation and take part in its deliberations. The time being insufficient to bring the matter properly before the Council, I appointed as unofficial delegates Mr. William L. Cliffe of Philadelphia and Dr. Wortley F. Rudd of Richmond, both of whom were abroad at the time of the meeting.



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operation with outstanding men and associations everywhere, progress is seriously retarded. The Federation is laboring for the betterment of our profession. This Association should assume full membership in the Federation. Profitable participation in the activities of the Federation should be assured through the creation of a committee or delegation. The members of this delegation should be elected by the Association. The stability and permanence of this delegation should be guaranteed by providing at least three classes of delegates whose terms of service expire on different dates. In this way the continuity of the delegation may be effected and an opportunity afforded to provide a group that is at all times familiar with the work of the Federation.

Early in April an invitation to send delegates to an Anti-Narcotic Conference to be held in Washington May 3 and 4 was received from Rexford L. Holmes. Nothing could be learned regarding the authority behind Mr. Holmes in the calling

The International Pharmaceutical Federation is doing work that is of tremendous importance to pharmacy. It is high time that the American Pharmaceutical Association should do its full duty by assuming its part in the work of the Federation. Scientific achievement has depended always upon the efforts of the man of parts among all the nations. When any country becomes provincial in its outlook and does not take advantage of the stimulus afforded by helpful co-

* Resolutions based on suggestions in the address were formulated by the Committee on Resolutions of the House of Delegates, A. Ph. A.—see minutes in this issue of the JOURNAL.

of this Conference but as it appeared likely that the Conference would be attended by a number of persons prominently identified with narcotic control movements it was deemed advisable to have the American Pharmaceutical Association properly represented. E. G. Eberle, E. F. Kelly and A. G. DuMez were delegated to represent the Association. They took an active part in the Conference and Dr. DuMez will present a report of the transactions later.

The persistent efforts of the Committee on the Status of Pharmacists in the Government Service have at last been rewarded. Pharmacists are now eligible for appointment as officers in the Medical Administrative Officers Reserve Corps.

The World War proved that the lack of a Reserve was a great handicap. The hospitalization plan provides for the appointment of a number of pharmacists as lieutenants. This step seems to mark an epoch in the struggle for the proper recognition of the pharmacist in the army. Pharmacists who enlist in the Medical Administrative Officers Reserve Corps have an opportunity to serve their country as well as pharmacy in a large way. Intelligent pharmacists in the Reserve Corps will thus be enabled to demonstrate further the great value of pharmacy in the military service.

Being informed by Chairman E. Fullerton Cook of the desire of Surgeon-General Ireland to cooperate with us wholeheartedly in the upbuilding of an effective Corps of Pharmacists in the Medical Administrative Officers Reserve Corps, I extended an invitation to the Surgeon-General to send a representative to this meeting to present the matter in such a manner as to secure a full understanding of the plan and the enthusiastic support of pharmacists. In response to this invitation he expressed regret that, owing to a lack of appropriation for this purpose, he was unable to do so. He hoped, however, that it might be possible to have a Medical Officer in a nearby station attend the meeting.

The Permanent Home Fund under the capable leadership of Dr. J. H. Beal is making favorable progress. I cannot help but feel that the culmination of our plan of establishing a headquarters building to typify our ideals and be concretely symbolic of our professional aspirations will give us an official status and powerful moral prestige difficult to exaggerate. Its vital importance from a materialistic, as well as idealistic, standpoint should cause us to subscribe liberally and quickly so that it may be constructed without delay. Certain it is that all members of the Association will want to be represented in some way in this monument to our profession. Let us all therefore assist to the limit of our ability in the work. In my opinion Dr. S. L. Hilton's suggestion that the Permanent Home be made to embrace the Procter Memorial, thereby uniting the two funds and augmenting the potentiality of each, was a sterling one and worthy of our most thoughtful consideration. It seems to me that we have now reached the stage when it becomes desirable, if not necessary, for us to decide definitely upon the location of our Permanent Home.

The esteem in which an organization, as well as an individual, is held, depends upon its products. The JOURNAL is the product through which this Association is most frequently appraised, and its continued excellence is very gratifying. It comes to us each month with its invaluable information. While all of us profit greatly by it, very often we neglect to acquaint others with its value, and thus lose an opportunity to help further it by our approval of its work. We all owe a deep debt of gratitude to Editor Eberle who has labored so hard and faithfully at great sacrifice to make the JOURNAL a success. It has been a long and arduous task. The tone of the publication is always dignified, as indeed it should be to conform with the aims of our profession. If there be some among us who differ in their conception of a policy for the JOURNAL, may it not be well to remember that ill-timed captious comment rarely accomplishes anything, while thoughtful constructive suggestions are always welcomed, and serve a useful purpose? Let us all, therefore, help in whatever way we may in assisting the growth and in enlarging the influence of the JOURNAL.

For a time it seemed as if we were to have the pleasure of the attendance of Professor Thoms, Director of the Pharmaceutical Institute of the University of Berlin, at this meeting. It would, indeed, have been a rare privilege to have this honorary member of our Association present at our deliberations as well as to receive the benefit of his wise counsel. Unfortunately, his itinerary was arranged in such a way that he was scheduled to sail from San Francisco for Japan prior to this meeting. However, a committee of which President-elect Army was chairman conveyed the greetings and best wishes of the Association to Professor Thoms at a dinner given in his honor in New York.

All thoughtful persons have viewed with alarm the increasing tendency of legislators to add to the maze of the existing body of laws. Some of the leading barristers and even judges have publicly voiced the opinion that the outcome is bound to be productive of much harm and may serve to lessen the proper regard for all law. When matters come to such a stage that decent law-abiding citizens break some law or other almost daily, one can readily see that law is in danger of losing its prestige and value in the eyes of the citizens. Our chosen representatives have the right to enact any law that does not contravene constitutional rights, but it would seem, at least to the average citizen, that what we need more than additional laws is the proper enforcement of the existing body of laws without fear or favor.

Pharmacy in particular has been heavily burdened with laws and regulations. Indeed, an impartial observer might feel constrained to state that American Pharmacy has been singled out in an almost unfair fashion in the attempt to control the distribution of certain things for which the pharmacist is the legitimate channel of supply to the consumer. It would seem that our legislators are laboring under the faulty assumption that the illegitimate sale or use of an article can be controlled by regulating its legitimate distribution. No real attempt seemingly has been made to control such articles at their primary source or to adopt effective methods of discovering and punishing those who ply their highly remunerative traffic in restricted articles. In the case of habit-forming drugs and liquors the government has enacted legislation that controls the distribution of these articles through their legitimate channels. In actual operation experience indicates that the returns from distribution through illegitimate channels are so great that a premium is being placed upon dishonesty among those sworn to enforce the law. When men accustomed to a moderate income are almost daily placed in a position where a convenient mental lapse or wink at an improper sale of restricted merchandise results in a financial return which upon occasions means economic independence, one can readily see that the temptation to succumb is very great. Particularly is this so in the case of liquors, as a very considerable portion of our people were not and are not in accord with prohibition in theory or practice. This has caused a divided public opinion and has contributed largely to the difficulty of strict law enforcement and the indifference of the public to law infractions in the case of liquors.

Irrespective of the wisdom or lack of wisdom of the Prohibition Amendment, all fair-minded persons must admit that so long as it is the law of the land, the wanton disregard of its operation by those sworn to enforce it, together with the attitude of indifference on the part of the American people, is indeed a matter of great and immediate concern to those interested in the general welfare of our nation. Pharmacists, since they are the legitimate distributors for liquors and habit-forming drugs, are placed in the unfortunate position of being the only group upon whom the law has a check, in consequence of which every infraction may be discovered, made public and the impression given that the pharmacists are the chief offenders in this illicit traffic. As a matter of fact, the amount of liquors or habit-forming drugs distributed through legitimate drug channels is relatively small in proportion to the total amount used, and the amount distributed illegitimately through drug channels is practically negligible.

Certain it is that we as a group should unqualifiedly set ourselves upon record in unmistakable terms as favoring strict enforcement of the existing laws. Pharmacists who prove themselves unworthy of our respect and aid by betraying our ideals and besmirching our fair name through improper practices should be punished according to law and if possible driven from, or at least ostracized by, the profession. If we all emphatically voice our objection to the many highly colored and often romantic press reports, invariably adverse, and if we correct misstatements in our local and national publications regarding pharmacists, we may be able to compel more care in press statements and prevent a great deal of unsought, unfavorable and, in its operation, unfair criticism.

A great danger to our calling lies in the possibility of an uncontrolled influx of non-pharmacist owners. Such owners unacquainted with, or unmindful of our traditions may subordinate everything we hold dear to their desire for gain. While we must freely admit that a non-pharmacist owner may have as high an ethical standard as a pharmacist, yet the peculiar conditions now attending the practice of pharmacy make it hazardous to permit individuals to enter the profession of pharmacy without submitting the necessary character as well as scholastic credentials required of the pharmacist. The New York law limiting the ownership of future new pharmacies to pharmacists is a forward step. It is hoped that the law will be successful in its operation and will serve to aid the pharmacists in maintaining their high reputation by confining the practice of pharmacy to those of proved merit. Profiting by this example of beneficent legislation, may we not hope that this leaven will spread until the conduction of pharmacy everywhere will finally be limited to those properly qualified by inclination and training to practice it?

The chief aim of the American Pharmaceutical Association has always been to develop pharmacy along truly professional lines. From the beginning the great leaders of pharmacy have given of their time and energy unreservedly and without stint to accomplish this. Such ideals fostered by zealous high-minded men who spent their years in inculcating similar enthusiasm in others would seem to have assured success to the fullest extent. Has American pharmacy progressed toward this ideal in any way commensurate with our expectations, and, if not, may it not be well for us to inquire into the reasons?

A few decades ago the amount of merchandise other than drugs and allied articles sold by the pharmacist was practically negligible. To-day we have a condition where the reverse is almost true. It has been estimated that about eighty per cent. of the total business of the pharmacies of the United States is from articles classed as side-lines. This emphasis on side-lines has tended to intensify the commercial aspect of pharmacy and to throw commercial pharmacy into bold relief, indeed in some cases to the extent of totally submerging professional pharmacy. The reasons for this disproportionate commercial development are well known to all of us. Strange as it may seem to us in these days of laws and regulations it was chiefly the lack of legal restrictions that led to a condition whereby it was made easy for people to enter pharmacy. Consequently more pharmacies were established than could be adequately supported by the available drug business. For this reason pharmacists were compelled to add one side-line after the other in the attempt to obtain sufficient income for their maintenance. The resulting commercialism that now confronts us presents a problem for our consideration. Ours is the task of appealing to the honorable pharmacist merchandisers to lend us their willing aid in placing American pharmacy on the high plane which it should of right enjoy.

To serve our fellow men in the best possible way is now a sound principle of American life. In this the pharmacist has always been a compelling figure. Possibly no other class of individuals performs more gratuitous services. Here the merchandising pharmacist has upheld and if anything enlarged the pharmacist's creed of "To serve fully."

To divorce professional pharmacy from commercial pharmacy completely has seemed highly desirable to some. While this worked well in practice in certain European countries, any one at all conversant with American political and economic life would view the possibility of a successful outcome here with much doubt. Eventually natural developments will tend to bring about such division; in fact, proper efficient service will no doubt demand it. A slow evolution will serve much better, be more thorough and satisfying and will not expose us to the danger of added restrictive legislation? Our experience in these matters pronounces against placing much hope in untimely legal enactments.

In the meantime may it not be more advantageous to mark out a path along which professional and commercial pharmacy may go hand in hand supplementing each other's work to a successful conclusion? Commercial pharmacy owes much of its success to the high regard the public has always had for pharmacists. Generations of dealing with pharmacists has trained the public to expect and receive fair treatment. In the public mind the pharmacist has invariably been associated with quality merchandise. All successful merchandising pharmacists realize this fact keenly; even those who do comparatively little professional business know that the badge of professional pharmacist is a valuable asset.

American pharmacy will continue to be evaluated by the public in terms of the actions of all the pharmacists irrespective of the nature of their business. It thus becomes necessary for the ardent advocates of professional pharmacy to face the pressing need of the recognition of the value of ethical commercial pharmacy in furthering our ideals. While the dominant note in pharmacy is and should continue to be professional, nevertheless ethical commercial pharmacy is also of tremendous value to us. Neither of these fields need be jealous of the other. United they may achieve great things. Divided they will continue to dissipate their energy and the results will be disappointing.

All true lovers of pharmacy are ready to make any necessary sacrifices that will make progress. The American Pharmaceutical Association has gone on record as favoring an amalgamation of interests with the other associations for the common good. The Association has evidenced thus its willingness to relinquish many privileges of control of its destiny to meet with others in solving the problems of pharmacy. By adopting the Reorganization Plan in Cleveland in 1922 the American Pharmaceutical Association has unselfishly shorn itself of much of its power. This action on the part of the American Pharmaceutical Association is in keeping with its tradition, as it is the logical exemplar for all pharmaceutical organizations. Giving all, it merely asks in return the wholehearted support and cooperation of those to whom it appeals.

While it is but natural that each organization should be jealous somewhat of its peculiar privileges and methods of achieving its aims, judgment demands that each group take a wide view of the problem and the desired result and make the necessary concessions. Basically the aim of all groups is practically identical, as all are striving to place pharmacy on a high plane and all are interested in the betterment of the lives of men.

Since the Reorganization Plan has been acted upon favorably by more than the required number of state associations, it is now an established fact. To reorganize in keeping with the provisions of the plan is the chief business of this meeting of the Association. It would seem that in accordance with the spirit of the plan the task devolves upon the House of Delegates to initiate the means to put the plan into actual operation after the necessary alterations in the Constitution and By-laws have been effected by the Association.

In our day the spirit of research has been extended until it has canvassed for the most part the entire field of human endeavor. Research and the application of the scientific method have been employed in the attempt to solve all sorts of problems. Science has become intensely practical in its methods and the interpretation of statistics in regard to many activities has value of a high order.

Love of research has been kept in the foreground by this organization. Contributions of original research have characterized every year of its history. Our progress must be attributed largely to this. Every member should recognize that it is his duty to do all he can to add to the knowledge of pharmacy and the allied sciences. Mr. F. W. Gamble, chairman of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, in his annual address after pointing out that research had always been the dominant interest of the Conference, voiced the following warning which it might be well for us also to observe, "If this Conference becomes political, its spirit will evaporate, its utility will be lost; science unites, politics divide." Invariably science evidences the spirit of sacrifice, while too often politics in organizations degenerates into desire for personal advancement. Can there be any question of our choice?

If we put our trust in this spirit of research that has permeated all groups and conditions of pharmacists, from those interested in purely scientific matters to those concerned more with business research, we shall find a common ground and a means of carrying to a successful conclusion our fondest dreams.

ADDRESS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,
A. PH. A.

EVANDER F. KELLY.

At the last annual meeting the plan of reorganization of the American Pharmaceutical Association adopted at that meeting was referred to the House of Delegates to be put into effect. The first step was to secure its approval by the respective state associations and the report of the Secretary of the House of Delegates will inform you in detail of our effort. It is sufficient for the purpose of this report to mention that thirty-three states voted affiliation under this plan, and that these associations represent a large majority of the members of the American Pharmaceutical Association. Emphasis should be placed upon the fact that while the other states did not take favorable action, not one single state has taken unfavorable action. The approval by such a majority of the state associations of the purposes of the American Pharmaceutical Association as expressed in this plan, should be of the greatest encouragement to this Association, and its significance can be best expressed in the words of an editorial appearing recently in one of the prominent pharmaceutical journals:

"This action on the part of the state societies is important for two reasons. It shows that pharmacists throughout the country have faith in the American Pharmaceutical Association and that they are eager to cooperate more fully in a greater national organization in an effort to solve the problems that confront them in the practice of their profession. The proceedings at Asheville will be watched with keen interest, as will be the working out of the reorganization plan."

Some question was expressed in this same editorial as to the effect of this plan on the membership of the American Pharmaceutical Association and, as a consequence, of the ability of this organization from a financial standpoint to render the service contemplated for it. The reports of the Chairman of the Committee on Membership and of the Treasurer will, I feel sure, resolve any doubt on this point.

We have had the largest annual net increase in membership in the history of the Association, for which result particular credit is due the First Vice-Chairman of the House of Delegates, who undertook this part of our campaign.

A year is, of course, a very short time in which to discharge fully such a task