

## EDITORIAL

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### AMERICAN PHARMACY AND THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

IT may be said that the plan of reorganization of the American Pharmaceutical Association adopted at Cleveland and put into effect at Asheville had two major purposes:

First, to correct an impression quite generally held, whether correctly or not, that the American Pharmaceutical Association was so organized and conducted as to mainly appeal to and serve those pharmacists who are interested to the greater extent in the scientific and educational aspects of pharmacy.

Second, and by far the most important, to so rearrange and correlate and broaden its organization as to make it more representative of American pharmacy as a whole and to best equip it to serve in solving those general and ever-increasing problems with which pharmacy has to deal in its own interest and in its responsible connection with the public health.

The American Pharmaceutical Association adapted itself to these purposes in the finest spirit, and in its willingness to accommodate itself to the new conditions has lived up to its already high tradition for disinterested service.

As reorganized, the American Pharmaceutical Association is now a fully representative national organization in which every pharmacist and every branch of pharmacy has and can exercise the right to a voice in deciding its policies and actions; it has the simplest and best organization machinery that could be devised, without losing any of the strength or advantages that it already possessed.

But no organization can function by itself and no organization machinery can operate to the best advantage without power and without direction. In this case, the power and direction must be supplied by those organizations and their members which are now or will become affiliated with the reorganized American Pharmaceutical Association, and which will then control in great measure its policies and activities.

Their point of contact with the American Pharmaceutical Association is the House of Delegates and, in the new form of organization, the power, and consequently the responsibility, of the House was increased more than that of any other division, so as to give the State Associations and others the important part in the control of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

The House of Delegates now becomes the legislative division of the Association; it initiates and directs the policies, it either elects or nominates the officers, it ratifies most committees, and receives and acts upon practically all reports covering the diversified activities of the Association, subject only to final review by the Association in general session.

The State Associations will have the largest representation in the House, as should be the case. The national organizations, certain departments of the Federal Government, the scientific and professional sections of the American Pharmaceutical Association, and its Board of Directors, will supply the other delegates.

The House of Delegates could only make a start on its new and increased activities at Asheville, but a study of the summary of its proceedings, as given in this issue of the *JOURNAL*, will suggest very forcibly what can be expected from it when it is in full operation and becomes, what is confidently anticipated, the clearing house for the State Associations and the other organizations represented in it.

The House of Delegates is to be congratulated on reaching, by steady and sound development, the important position which its founders so wisely foresaw for it, and on the selection of its present officers, who will guide it safely through the initial stages of its greater responsibility.

But for real success, it must have the helpful interest, the constructive criticism and the close coöperation of the State Associations and the other organizations represented in it.

The opportunity is now open to them to make the American Pharmaceutical Association the best possible association for their purposes and needs. This requires that its membership be increased, that its financial resources be strengthened, that the State and other organizations send their best equipped members as delegates, and that it be actually used as a clearing house for the discussion and decision of matters of mutual and general interest.

For sound pharmaceutical progress the State Associations in particular must learn from the experiences of each other, must reach mutual decisions and must act in concert and in support of each other.

The American Pharmaceutical Association through its House of Delegates offers the machinery and organization for this purpose. To quote from President Koch's address: "The American Pharmaceutical Association has gone on record as favoring an amalgamation of interests with the other Associations for the common good. Giving all, it merely asks in return the whole-hearted support and coöperation of those whom it serves."

E. F. KELLY.

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### THE JUNIOR COLLEGE.

**T**HE contributions in the Department of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties—"Should Students Be Selected?" and "Eliminate the Unfit at the Source"—seem to carry the idea of the Junior College, now being considered in many States and in force in some of them. The item of expense in educating students in the colleges enters into the discussion. Statements have frequently been made that it requires about a year in college to eliminate the unfit, and that the expense in such work is enormous requires no statistics. Because some students are not fit for college work does not indicate that they have no ability; there are many who go out from college without a feeling of fitness to assume any business or professional activities and do them well, and that does not mean that a college education is not of momentous importance and paramount value. Work which trains for specific service and definite accomplishment is worthy work.

States provide education under public support in "common schools" in high schools and in State colleges and Universities, there is now a tendency toward a revision of the present educational system with the end in view that the colleges

and universities may be better enabled to educate for definite lines of work. For years many educators have deplored the fact that professional graduates are not prepared to enter their life work until pretty well up in the twenties. This is not intended to discuss the advisability or inadvisability of store experience for students entering pharmacy schools, nor whether store experience under present conditions is worth while or not.

The coming of the Junior College is considered by an increasing number as an aid for earlier decision relative to the life-work of the young men and women and will subserve the colleges and universities in organizing their work for more direct training for the specific activities for which they are best fitted. To that extent at least the subject has an interest for pharmacists and therefore this comment.

When President Harper organized the University of Chicago (quoting an article in a recent issue of the *Dallas News*) "he divided the undergraduate work of that school into what he called the junior college students and the senior college students. When a student finished the junior college work his educational progress was marked by a certificate presented by the University. Two ideas were doubtless back of the plan—one to separate the younger youth from the older and the other to help shape the senior college work toward professional ends." To cite the co-operative idea, or economical, the California junior college law provides \$100 per year per student to match the \$100 provided by the junior college district.

There are opposition arguments but the plan is receiving favorable consideration in a number of States and more admit its possibilities—that junior college training preceded by modern high school education will enable the universities to shape their work for those who seek to enter professional lines so that these students will, as stated in the foregoing paragraphs, be efficiently prepared for their life-work at an earlier period than under the present system of education. The purpose of the comment, as before stated, is chiefly for taking cognizance of a movement which is gaining ground, and was prompted by the contributions to which reference has been made.

E. G. E.

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#### WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE UNITED STATES? WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH PHARMACY?

**I**N a recent article contributed by Ambrose Hunsberger to the *JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION*,\* the author analyzes the question of what is the matter with pharmacy and concludes that there is really nothing the matter with it.

An editorial in the *Philadelphia Evening Ledger* of October 18, prompted by the recent conference of Governors of thirty-seven States, discusses the question of what is wrong with the United States. The editor arrived at the conclusion that there is nothing greatly the matter with America and Americans. Excerpts from the editorial follow:

"It seems perfectly fair, and, indeed, almost inevitable that Americans at large should be trying to decide in the meantime what is wrong with the people who assume to govern them from political offices. For, of course, there is nothing greatly the matter with America and Americans.

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\* *JOUR. A. PH. A.*, August 1923, p. 723.

But there are some rather wide differences of opinion and sentiment between large groups of the population and the men who at the moment exercise the powers of high political offices.

"The average normal-minded citizen rages within whenever one of his zealous countrymen arises and wrings his hands in public and asserts that we are going lawlessly to the dogs. There is a great deal of disobedience to some of the new laws. But it is a question in many minds whether this sort of thing doesn't represent the fierce unwillingness of many people concerned to be treated as if they belonged in a nursery. A great many leaders in politics succumbed to the belief that law, if it is made rigorous enough, can be used as a substitute for good character or right moral convictions in the individual. Some passionately earnest people with the best intentions in the world are willing to call out the army and navy to compel others to be as good as they are. \* \* \*"

"We always have been by instinct a law-abiding people. Observers from the outside always were impressed by the disposition of Americans to cooperate voluntarily and enthusiastically with their Government. Yet we have more varieties of police than any other country under the sun. Government regulation extends nowadays from a man's office to his home, from railroads to the family dinner table."

Reasons or causes for law violation are traceable to the war but many transgressions are the result of "short cut" means of uplift by legislation of which many are becoming weary. Unfortunately we have not arrived at the time when greed and desire must not be reckoned with; thousands willingly gave their health or lives in the war, many "gave until it hurt," but there were others who took advantage of the opportunity to make money even if dishonestly.

We are justly proud of the part taken by the United States before, during and since the war. In times of real need the governing thought is to relieve the unfortunate—these actions as well as morals are guided through the minds and consciences of the people, but always some will be found deficient. The thought may be applied to pharmacy. Long before laws were enacted pharmacists restricted sales of items which might prove harmful and their motives were often questioned when they insisted on regulations for such sales. Codes of ethics for the guidance of those engaged in pharmacy voice the sentiments of a majority and the people should give aid in keeping those out of the profession whose moral standards are low and who are unfit to assume its obligations. Those owning pharmacies solely for investment and whose knowledge and thoughts are thus circumscribed, have not always the viewpoint of the pharmacist. Herein is an opportunity for educating the public—that it is necessary is evidenced by the patronage given to stores the services of which do not reflect credit on pharmacy, and opposition to enactments providing for higher standards; that it is possible has been shown by the passage of the New York law which restricts ownerships of pharmacies to pharmacists.

E. G. E.

#### NEW MAGAZINE IN HEALTH FIELD.

In an attractive new dress, in a more compact and readable form, with its value enhanced by the dignity of print, the most recent number of *Venereal Disease Information*, a monthly publication issued by the United States Public Health Service at Washington, has just come from the press.

For some time past this information has been furnished State health departments, venereal disease clinicians, hospital libraries, medical society libraries, medical school libraries,

medical journals, public health nurses' associations, training schools for nurses, social service agencies and other organizations in the form of mimeographed monthly abstracts. The wide use made of the information contained in these abstracts and their popularity so impressed the Public Health Service with the desirability of presenting the information in a more readable form that the new publication is the result. The subscription price for this new periodical is 50c per year payable to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.