

EDITORIAL

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THE NEXT STEP IN READJUSTING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

AS the season approaches during which a majority of the state pharmaceutical associations hold their annual meetings attention should be directed in every possible way to the plan adopted by the American Pharmaceutical Association at its last annual meeting for readjusting its methods and procedure so as to make it more truly representative of and helpful to American Pharmacy as a whole, and to give the state associations a most responsible part in its control and direction.

A very important provision of the plan is that it is to become effective when at least twenty state associations, under the conditions specified, have approved it. It is hoped that *every* state association will approve the plan and vote affiliation with the American Pharmaceutical Association under its provisions before the next annual meeting is held at Asheville during the week of September 3rd so that the Association may then proceed with the enlarged activities contemplated.

The plan with explanatory matter was sent to the officers of each state association some time ago by the officers of the House of Delegates who were charged with the details of putting the plan into effect. Four state associations have now approved the plan either through their Executive Committees or at their annual meeting.

The active interest and coöperation of every A. Ph. A. member in each state is now needed to see that this most important measure is given careful and thorough consideration at the annual meeting of their association. Such consideration should lead to favorable action for certainly the state associations cannot afford to lose this most favorable opportunity to secure the big part in the direction and work of the American Pharmaceutical Association which they deserve and which this plan offers them.

E. F. KELLY,

Chairman, House of Delegates, A. Ph. A.

COÖPERATIVE SERVICE IN BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC BY COÖRDI- NATED ASSOCIATIONS OF THE DRUG INDUSTRIES.

THE question of readjustment of American Pharmaceutical Association activities for better and greater service of American pharmacy has been discussed from almost every angle. Few, if any, who have given thought to the subject

will question the need for a stronger active body-pharmaceutic organized for the purpose of discharging certain functions and duties which concern the associations of the drug industries, and officered so that the interests of all of them will be promoted.

There are two outstanding general themes that have prompted this comment, and these relate to the bringing about of a better understanding and relation between law making and enforcing authorities and officials and the governed industries of the drug trade, and also the development of a higher appreciation of the service and protection afforded the people by those engaged in pharmacy.

The very fact that hearings are accorded in Congress and legislatures testifies that a stronger influence would be more effective in enlightening legislators relative to measures concerning pharmacy and the drug business, and in the same way officials would be more readily persuaded to give closer attention to arguments of representatives than those of individuals, or of a larger representative organization than of a smaller one. A sympathetic ear sometimes destroys good legislation, and political influence occasionally secures office for individuals who place their own interests above those they should subserve; as results, we have numerous ineffective laws, some impractical and unreasonable regulations, and occasionally an official who misinterprets his duties.

R. H. Tawney in "The Acquisitive Society" states that "a profession may be defined most simply as a trade which is organized, incompletely, no doubt, but genuinely for the performance of function. It is not simply a collection of individuals who get a living for themselves by the same kind of work. Nor is it merely a group which is organized exclusively for the economic protection of its members, though that is normally among its purposes. It is a body of men who carry on their work in accordance with rules designed to enforce certain standards both for the better protection of its members and for the better service of the public. The standards which it maintains may be high or low; all professions have some rules which protect the interests of the community and others which are an imposition on it. Its essence is that it assumes certain responsibilities for the competence of its members or the quality of its wares, and that it deliberately prohibits certain kinds of conduct on the ground that, though they may be profitable to the individual, they are calculated to bring into disrepute the organization to which he belongs."

In the proposed organization the relation of one branch of the drug industries to another will more definitely develop and a fuller realization of the possibilities of each will contribute to their greater usefulness; for after all, the largeness of their relationship determines their value. Other viewpoints are that the public should be educated to insist on a safe and qualified pharmaceutical service, and withhold their patronage from those in the drug business mainly because of mercenary motives, and there should be an insistence on the part of the organizations, as far as is within their power, to keep the unfit out of pharmacy—those who cannot or will not comprehend its responsibilities to the public—thereby law-enforcement is made more effective.

E. G. E.

IDEALS IN PHARMACY VS. NARCOTIC MENACE.

THE code of ethics of the American Pharmaceutical Association admonishes the pharmacist—"to always be ready to coöperate with the proper authorities having charge of the enforcement of the laws;" that he "should be willing to join any constructive effort to promote the public welfare and he should regulate his public and private conduct and deeds so as to entitle him to the respect and confidence of the community in which he practices."

The address of President Clair A. Dye, of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties, is published in the Proceedings of the A. C. P. F.,* just received, and is well worth reading and studying; for the purpose of this writing part of the closing paragraphs relating to "Ideals in Pharmacy," follow:

The position any business or any profession occupies in the mind of the public is governed by the educational, professional, business and ethical ideals of the individuals engaged in the business or profession. This position is to be especially guarded in the handling and dispensing of narcotics and alcoholic prescriptions and our business ethics. We should point out to our students the fact that, while a part of a pharmacist's duties are commercial, there are professional duties as well, and that in performing these there are certain ethical standards and ideals to be observed. As a background or foundation upon which to build these ideals we must have an educational training sufficient to enable the student to appreciate the importance of the work he has chosen and comprehend the relationship he bears to society. There is every reason to expect that the student will respond to such a program of ideals and interests and will grow away from many of the petty prejudices and provincialisms which surround pharmacy to-day. In so doing they will develop a keener appreciation of the importance and responsibilities of the pharmacist to the community as well as to his fellow-workers.

The attitude of pharmacists, members of the associations mentioned and of sister organizations and state associations is indicated by the foregoing. The Conference heartily endorsed President Dye's recommendations in this particular and the address in general.

This comment is to emphasize the principles which govern the great majority of pharmacists, mindful of the greatest charity—that which attributes honest motives to others. The public has not come to a full realization of its part in the narcotic menace because of the encouragement given others than pharmacists as vendors of medicinals. While in some instances such sales may be a convenience the opportunities for law violations are extended. This is deserving of most serious consideration, even though the large illegitimate distribution of narcotics is entirely outside of the drug trade—all avenues should be guarded.

Character endorsements for entrants to schools of pharmacy, graduation prerequisite in all states, lawful possession of narcotics permitted only to those registered under the law, and further scientific study of narcotic drug addiction in its several phases will assist materially in making narcotic control possible—the public will be helped by education along these lines.

E. G. E.

* Also published in JOURNAL A. PH. A., September 1922, pp. 130-140.