

EDITORIAL

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THE NATIONAL ANTI-NARCOTIC CONFERENCE.

AT the time of this writing we are only advised in a general way relative to the Anti-Narcotic Conference in Washington, May 2-4. No one will question the need of continued watchfulness relative to illegitimate transactions relating to narcotics, nor of the closest supervision over all manufacture and sales of them—the seriousness of addiction cannot be too forcibly impressed. It is a subject that concerns all citizens, whether they are charged with the duty of dispensing narcotics or not. The educational viewpoint should be emphasized, so that those who are tempted may be informed regarding the consequences of the habitual use of narcotics. For the illegitimate sellers, the bootleggers and their kind there can hardly be any sympathy. They are criminals of the worst type and about the only thing that can be done with them is to ferret them out and place them where they must desist from destroying morals and life. The unfortunate habitues are entitled to charitable consideration.

States and municipalities are gradually coming to a better understanding relative to the treatment of addicts—that institutional environments of those committed should, as far as possible, bring the unfortunates to a higher concept of right thinking and right living. These habitues will in most instances, in due course of time, under proper care and medical treatment suffer no inconvenience from withdrawal of the narcotic. But this is only the first step for permanently restoring the addict to normal life; the more important effort and duty is to awaken a determination in him to become a useful citizen, displace the habit that has held him—right encouragement is a strong factor. The methods that have too generally been followed are not conducive to this end—in that connection the coöperation of officials and of all citizens is essential. This is a subject that is being given more careful study, and with the application of methods which will give the unfortunates better opportunities and improve their surroundings, while confined, more permanent cures will result. It is to be hoped that the narcotics under consideration will eventually be supplanted by agents that do not induce addiction—to some extent this has been accomplished.

The legitimate manufacture and dispensing of narcotics is well in hand in this country; it is the illegitimate traffic that constitutes a serious menace—the big proposition is to stop smuggling and illegitimate selling. These comments are introduced because of the statement made at the beginning—that we are not fully advised at the time of this writing, relative to the purposes and conclusions of the Conference in Washington.

Congress has asked President Harding to urge foreign governments in whose territory opium and coca leaves are produced to restrict production to an amount necessary for medical and scientific supplies of the world. It is understood that

the United States will have representation at the Geneva Conference in support of this humanitarian purpose, which will enable all countries to control the traffic in narcotics more effectively and, essentially, confine their uses to legitimate purposes—" 'tis a consummation devoutly to be wished."

E. G. E.

THE GRADUATES OF PHARMACY COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS.

COMMENCEMENT season is with us—the schools and colleges of pharmacy will honor many young men and women with credentials, testifying to their qualifications for the practice of pharmacy. The endorsements signify that these graduates have completed the course prescribed by the institutions from which they pass—that they have been prepared by study, practical experience and observation for the work in which they will engage. Society accepts the credentials with assurance that these young men and women will not disturb or destroy its welfare by their actions—that they are competent pharmacists.

The graduates of schools of pharmacy have had the greater present-day advantages for studying pharmacy. The schools have selected their matriculants from among those qualified by advanced preliminary educational attainments and high character recommendations. The almost universal esteem in which patrons hold the owners of the drug stores where they trade and have medicines prepared is a commendation in which we have pardonable pride. It is a source of greatest regret, therefore, that there are some, however, few, who lend themselves to questionable transactions—no trade or profession is entirely free from delinquents. In this connection *The Pharmaceutical Era*, in a recent number, closes an editorial "To Those about to Graduate" with the following admonition:

"Above everything else the young graduate should look out for the man who approaches him with the proposition to start a new store. The situation should be gone into very carefully, and no matter how alluring the prospect may be, if liquor is to be sold unlawfully, or even within the law if criminal intent is apparent, as it often is, the opportunity should be treated in just exactly the same manner that an invitation to contract leprosy should be. No young man can afford to jeopardize his future by entering into such an arrangement, for he has a long life before him, and the best way to live it is to go straight.

"Getting started is important. A young man is so constituted that he doesn't like to take advice, but—well, let us repeat: in a measure the destiny of pharmacy is in the hands of the classes of '23."

It is to be hoped, and it is expected, that the young men and women about to graduate will comprehend and exemplify in their business life the ideals of pharmacy adapting the words of Prof. C. A. Dye, as president of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties, they should not lose sight of the fact that "the long and honorable history of pharmacy has been due to men of ideals and always a vision for the future." They should be loyal to their *Alma Maters*, to whom they owe allegiance, and give these institutions encouragement and support, for their achievements reflect credit on the alumni.

E. G. E.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE ANTI-NARCOTIC CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON.

AFTER the editorial in this issue of the JOURNAL was written, the resolutions as amended and, thereafter, adopted by the Anti-Narcotic Conference in Washington have appeared in print, whole or in part. The following are reprinted from a report in the press:

Resolved, That this conference calls upon the pulpit, the press, and all educational and welfare organizations to realize the impending danger to the youth of the world; that all such forces join hands in suppressing this evil addiction and the fiendish traffic in soul-destroying narcotics, and that the evil effects of narcotics be taught in our schools; and

Resolved, That it is the sense of this conference that municipal ordinances, state and federal statutes be enacted and strengthened, and with a greatly increased field force effectively administered: and

Resolved, That the President of the United States be commended for sending abroad a commission pursuant to the Porter resolution, for the purpose of securing unified, world-wide action in ascertaining the world requirements of narcotics for medicine and science, and that specific agreement of all the nations be secured to limit the growth of the poppy and coca plants, and the manufacture of morphine, cocaine and their derivatives to the medical and scientific needs; and

Resolved, That this conference endorses the conclusion that medical use should be considered the only legitimate use of opium, and that all non-medical use should be regarded as an abuse, and that the use of opium as a stimulant cannot be considered legitimate even in tropical countries; and

Resolved, That in the opinion of this conference, if the Opium Advisory Committee, sitting in Geneva, reaches the conclusion that the Opium Convention of 1912 is not sufficiently adapted to meeting effectively the problem of restricting cultivation at its source, that convention should forthwith be amended, and

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be personally presented by Chairman Kober to Warren G. Harding, President of the United States.

These resolutions present the thoughtful consideration of the body.

The seriousness of the menace has been discussed in an editorial of this issue of the JOURNAL, which expresses some of the writer's thoughts on the subject and, therefore, no further comment is made at this time. E. G. E.

REORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

It need not be stressed that the pages of the JOURNAL are always open to the members, and expressions on the question of reorganization are most welcome prior to the annual meeting for the guidance of the Executive Committee. Without such direction the members of the Committee must be guided by their views and their interpretation of what is desired by the members of the Association. "Wisdom does not so much consist in knowledge of the ultimate; it consists in knowing what to do next."

In the April issue of the JOURNAL, p. 291, Chairman E. F. Kelly presents the subject as an editorial; under Committee Reports, p. 365, of the same number a communication addressed to the State Associations is printed under the caption of "The Need for a More Thorough Organization of American Pharmacy," and under Societies and Colleges, p. 371, the advantages under the proposed plan of

reorganization are outlined by the Chairman of the House of Delegates, A. Ph. A. Ex-President A. R. L. Dohme has contributed an article for this number of the JOURNAL, and a communication from H. A. B. Dunning follows. E. G. E.

AN ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL PHASES OF PHARMACEUTICAL INTERESTS NEEDED.

I have been urged to express my views on the present plan for the reorganization of the American Pharmaceutical Association and I am doing so with some hesitancy, on account of not having been as intimately associated with the work of our Association in recent years as formerly. I am, therefore, not thoroughly conversant with the progressive steps which have been made and have resulted in the present seriously considered plan of reorganization. I am also not duly qualified to criticise constructively the details of this definite plan for reorganization. I am referring to the plan clearly discussed and analyzed in the September 1922 issue of the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION in an editorial by E. F. Kelly. However, it seems to me that this plan might be made more simple and more direct, but I understand the difficulties involved in adjusting any plan so that it will be acceptable to a number of people having different views and I, therefore, endorse this plan accepted by the American Pharmaceutical Association membership at their last meeting, as the first step toward an effective reorganization of our Association. I have expressed myself indefinitely respecting the details of reorganization of our Association, but I have no doubt of the necessity of an immediate reorganization if the Association expects to remain effective. It is true that pharmacy and those interested in pharmacy need, at this time, as never before, an organization representative of all phases of pharmaceutical interests and representative of the full strength of those interests. This is the opportunity of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

At present, our forces are divided, as are our interests. We have a strong National Association of Retail Druggists, Manufacturing Druggists and Wholesale Druggists, but no organization that represents the entire interests, influence and force of all these organizations. It is splendid to note that the retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers, state associations and all pharmaceutical bodies now in existence and active, are interested and willing to cooperate in the reorganization of the American Pharmaceutical Association so that it will be representative of all phases of pharmacy and will exercise its influence for the betterment of pharmacy, will act as a force for its protection and will serve humanity more effectively. As a retail, wholesale and manufacturing pharmacist, as a member of my state organization, as a long-time member of the American Pharmaceutical Association, I urge the members of all State associations and the members of the American Pharmaceutical Association to keep up their active interest in carrying through the new plan of reorganization until it is effected. American pharmacy needs, more than anything else, for its welfare, an organization consisting of many thousands of members distributed throughout this great country, rather than a few thousands. The improvement of the organization can and will come afterward.

H. A. B. DUNNING.