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The American Pharmaceutical Association is to be congratulated upon its having buried the "hatchet" and having elected such a man as Professor Thoms of Berlin an honorary member. While we take keen pleasure in commending our oldest national organization on its action so soon after the war, a sense of sorrow mingles with our pleasure when we recall that this action was impossible in March 1919 when Professor Thoms' sixtieth birthday was remembered in more than one European country.

In honoring Professor Thoms, the A. Ph. A. has done more than to pay tribute to an individual. Scientific pharmacy possibly owes a greater debt to Germany than to any other country. Even while Germany was but a geographic conception, pharmacy, like chemistry, flourished on German soil. Book literature and journals reveal the extent of the progress made. Many an American pharmacist went to German universities for a year or two to complete his scientific education and after his return to this country implanted upon American soil some of that love for the advancement of our science so characteristic of his teachers.

Yet with all this progress, the University of Berlin was for a long period without a real home for pharmacy. Men whose names are well known to the scientific world had lectured on pharmaceutical subjects, but they were associated with either chemistry or botany. Only recently we had occasion to read in Tschirch's own words (*Erlebtes und Erstrebtes*) how this enthusiast for pharmacy had attempted to create a pharmaceutical center in Berlin, but that he had not succeeded. Possibly it was Tschirch's leaving for Bern that roused German pharmacy and made it possible for Thoms to succeed in establishing the foremost scientific institute for pharmacy at the German capital. Aided though he may have been by Tschirch's failure, he had no easy task. His life-work consisted as much in overcoming obstacles as in rearing a structure that may well serve as a model the world over.

While the collected "Arbeiten aus dem Pharmaceutischen Institut," which should not be wanting in any college library of this country, are a monument to the scientific energy of the staff, of which he was the inspiring leader—an energy

which was not seriously impaired even during the trying years of the war—his efforts reached out farther than the German capital and its university. The Deutsche Pharmaceutische Gesellschaft, the "Berichte" of which should likewise be on the shelves of every college library, is essentially his creation. These two instances must suffice to illustrate the general activities of the man. Suffice it to add that, with Professor Moeller, he edited the volumes of the second edition of the "Real-Encyclopaedie der gesammten Pharmacie." How any college library can make any pretense at being a pharmaceutical library without this masterpiece of pharmaceutical encyclopedias calls for a special explanation.

The American Pharmaceutical Association has honored itself by honoring this man and all that he represents. However, we have honored ourselves primarily in not allowing war hatred to interfere with the long-merited recognition. But, are we going to stop here? German students are working in coal mines in order to pay their way through the university. German professors may have meat on their table once a week and be grateful. Neither the menial labor which the students perform nor the semi-starvation diet of the teachers seemingly interferes seriously with either studies or investigation. But when a single reagent is so high priced as to be beyond the student's means, when the professor no longer can afford a research assistant, when the income of the institute makes the purchase of foreign journals absolutely impossible, then it is time to remind the members of the A. Ph. A. of the motto on the Flueckiger medal:

Scientia non est unius populi sed orbis terrarum

True, we are doing none too much for our own scientific institutes, but this should not make us unmindful of the crying needs of pharmaceutical science as represented in that country which has done so much for the uplift of our calling and of which country Professor Thoms is one of the principal living representatives. To our calling Professor Thoms has devoted a long and busy life. Appreciation, no doubt, is dear to his heart, but, I am certain, he will find greater satisfaction to see German scientific pharmacy assisted in this hour of greatest need, than to have volumes of flattery showered upon him.

Almost immediately after having penned these words, the writer received a letter from Professor Thoms stating that his Japanese friends have invited him to visit their country. On his way to Japan, Professor Thoms will cross our continent and will stop at several pharmaceutical centers. Thus the opportunity is unexpectedly extended to us to show that we are no less appreciative of one of the foremost representatives of scientific pharmacy than are our Japanese colleagues; if these can make a present of a trip around the world to their former teacher, what will the pharmacists of the United States do to show themselves at all worthy of their Teacher?

EDWARD KREMERS.

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