

EDITORIAL

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CHRISTMAS SPIRIT AND NEW YEAR HOPES.

"THE Christmas spirit overcomes moroseness and selfishness, dispels sadness and doubt, displaces peevishness and fretfulness, and creates joy by doing, strengthens faith by service and sacrifice"—its resources and results have related bounds.

The Red Cross, the Christmas Seals, the Crippled Children's Hospitals, involving no question of creed, color and nationality, are expressions of the Christmas Spirit, of gratitude and happiness. The part of each individual is small, but the aggregate result is great and impresses the value of coördinated coöperation.

It has become an established custom at this season of the year to give comfort and joy to those who are near and dear to us, and aid promotions that concern us or in which we have an interest. In the latter connection may we not have pharmacy in mind, the American Pharmaceutical Association, its mission and present endeavor to render greater service to pharmacy and all served thereby? May all share bountifully in Christmas joys and in the opportunities for doing good. "It's the smiles that we give and the help we bestow that fashion earth's joy as the days come and go."

LOOKING INTO THE NEXT YEAR.

The late Harry Lee Mariner, of the Dallas News, wrote these lines:

The world is full of joyous things for mankind, but alas,
Each bears imaginary signs that read 'Keep off the Grass';
We look across the fence and see green pastures rolling wide,
And view that sign that says that we must keep our feet outside.

Wherefore we view with longing eyes, and eager outstretched hand
The vision just across the fence, attractive, rich and grand,
That maybe is not near so good as that we have and hold,
But which, through prohibition, is as precious as is gold.

We are prone to view the opportunities of other activities as more promising, but proper search and endeavor reveal that the "acres of diamonds" are where we concentrate our well-directed efforts. Whatever the passing year may have been, a new year is expressive of hope, which, according to Jeremy Collier, "is a vigorous principle; it is furnished with light and heat to advise and execute; it sets the head and heart to work, and animates a man to do his utmost. And thus, by perpetually pushing and assurance, it puts a difficulty out of countenance, and makes a seeming impossibility give way." The quotation is given because pharmacy has, through persistent efforts of its votaries, accomplished encouraging results.

While by comparison with an average record the passing year will not suffer, we are hopeful that the encouraging progress made by pharmacy will gain strength, and the promotions of the American Pharmaceutical Association may prove their usefulness, and that the Headquarters' project will become an accomplishment in 1925.

Even though we realize that sorrows and gladness, health and sickness, success and failure, checker the lives of all, it is a pleasing custom, emphasizing the brotherhood of man, to extend wishes for a Happy New Year, and in this, by encouragement and comforting words, we may have a part.

E. G. E.

THE VALUE OF THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY AND THE A. PH. A.
HEADQUARTERS MUSEUM AND LIBRARY.

PRESIDENT Cheney, of the American Historical Association, in his annual address, attempted to lay down a number of fundamentals or laws applying to history; he named the law of continuity—the impossibility of any sudden break with the past; the law of impermanence—the inevitable rise, growth, and decline of social groups or nations; the law of interdependence—that no part of the human race can progress by the injury of another; the law of democracy—the tendency for all government to come under the control of all the people; the law of necessity for free human consent; and the law of moral progress—the slow but measurable increase in the influence of morals upon human affairs. The foregoing have been taken from an article on “Historic Determinism and the Individual” by James Truslow Adams in the October *Atlantic Monthly*.

The laws stated may be studied in connection with the history of pharmacy—we look through the records and find the continuity which links pharmacy of to-day with that of the past; during each period that which has failed to prove its value has been discarded, but there remains a connecting link, however worn it may be. The rise, growth and decline of social groups have marked the progress of pharmacy. The law of interdependence applies to arts and professions as well as nations, and this persuades us to say frequently that the people have a right to demand a service from the united endeavor of pharmacy, medicine, dentistry, and chemistry. Professions are useful to the world not only in proportion to the attainments of the votaries but their coöperation with one another—they cannot progress by hindrance nor by doing injury. The law of moral progress applies to pharmacy and has been influential in all periods and effective to-day. It is for us to provide the records for pharmacy.

Only to-day the writer was asked for historical information that is contained in the volume on the life of Dr. Lyman Spalding, the “father” of the U. S. Pharmacopœia. A desire to know if the name of Lyman Spalding was mentioned in a well-known Cyclopaedia resulted in not finding even a brief sketch—a serious omission—few books have a greater significance than the U. S. Pharmacopœia. It is our duty to see that such names as the one mentioned, of Charles Rice, C. Lewis Diehl, William Procter, Jr., Joseph Price Remington, Albert E. Ebert, etc., etc., are included in reference books used daily by a large number.

The purpose of this comment is also to impress the value of the Historical Museum and Library which is to be part of the A. Ph. A. Headquarters, and as a reminder to pharmacists in all of the pharmaceutical activities—retail, wholesale, manufacturing, publishing, teaching, etc.—that matter of historical value should be preserved and held for the time when the Headquarters will be established, which will be in the not very distant future. Notes and exact references, as far as possible, should accompany these contributions.

It is to be assumed that the Library will contain modern and historical volumes, prints, photographs, paintings, and complete files of publications; in other words, be a useful research and reference library that will give a distinctive service to all engaged in pharmacy. *A will to do* will hasten the day of realization. E. G. E.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND EDUCATION.

DEAN Jacob Diner was one of the speakers at the November meeting of the New York Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association, discussing "Higher Educational Requirements." At the conclusion of his remarks he suggested post-graduate courses for pharmacists. The suggestion is good, not only for the study of pharmaceutical progress and additions to the Pharmacopœia, but for study of business subjects as well.

At intervals medical practitioners, surgeons and dentists go back to the class rooms, the clinic and lecture halls, to receive the benefit of later science in surgery and dentistry or the general or special practice of medicine.

The wholesalers consider the services of the Harvard University of Business Research well worth the expense; conferences with insurance companies for the discussion of insurance problems have reduced the premiums and fire losses; all other phases of the business receive consideration and, as a result, the overhead, which, due to real estate advances, increased taxes, higher living costs and salaries, would have soared, is held in reasonable check.

That the related professions and business interests can realize the value of postgraduate work, or what may be so termed, should suggest related lines of thought for pharmacists. The institutions from which pharmacists received their credentials have improved their facilities and will welcome their sons and daughters so they can give them information, enabling them to serve the public better and also their own business and professional interests. Every once in a while we learn of a pharmacist who has returned to school or college for a laboratory course that will fit him for corresponding work. We have a number of pharmacists in mind who, in recent years, have made such changes in their professional activities. There are others who have studied business methods and successfully applied them in their stores.

Business experience and study give to those who apply themselves a broad education not only of their particular calling but of all activities; development results from contact, observation and study, and employing wisely the perspectives of others with their own and adapting their serviceable ideas.

Not only are all branches of the same industry related but there is some point of contact that evidences a common interest of all activities for general and individual advantage. It is as necessary for the votaries to know the business details and practical side of their calling as for them to possess a broad and liberal culture that will enable them to think right, act well, and live a useful life.

This writer stated in an editorial of December, 1922, p. 994, that the situation as far as pharmacy is concerned is somewhat different from that of other professions; relatively more information can be gained for the pharmacists' application from books and other publications than is possible for surgeons, physicians and den-

tists through their publications, because observation is of great importance; and the pharmacy owner can employ men and women who have had later opportunities in schools. It is possible, however, for a greater number to utilize colleges and schools, the A. Ph. A. branches, local, state and national organizations to a larger extent for reëducation in pharmacy.

Wholesale houses of the larger cities, where colleges of pharmacy are located, can, probably, make arrangements for certain of their employees to receive training for their work and with this a better understanding of the ideals of pharmacy—a knowledge of the drugs, chemicals and sundries they handle, their sources, properties, preservation, etc. Such a course for employees of wholesale houses was instituted several years ago in Paris and the director was at that time, and may still be, our honorary member, Professor Émilé Perrot. Many a wholesale house would have profited by a training of this kind of certain of their employees, salesmen and others. This training should be built upon the foundation of a good school education.

E. G. E.

THE CRAMTON-STERLING BILL.

No evidence so far brought forward has taken away force of argument against the measure; in fact, the organizations of the drug trade stand as a unit against the bill which is now on the Senate Calendar as the Sterling Bill, No. 3422; it is the Cramton Bill of the House, No. 6645. Pharmacists, druggists and manufacturers in related lines should continue their efforts in opposition to the bill, which carries the ear marks of opposition to all alcohol manufacture, use and sale, without regard for its necessity, and an opposition that seemingly seeks largely the gratification of carrying a point and blinds itself to what this may mean to the sick, science, manufacturers, commerce, etc.

This is written before the meeting of the National Drug Trade Conference—call for which has been made by President Henry, for December 3. This was the first organization to oppose the measure, and its opposition was frankly stated to Representative Cramton and General Counsel Wayne B. Wheeler, of the Anti-Saloon League.

The points of the bill and the opposition by individuals and organizations have been frequently stated in the JOURNAL in the reports of various associations; never has there been greater unanimity of action by these organiza-

tions, and their conclusions have been reached after most careful consideration.

The *N. A. R. D. Journal* presents a forceful argument along with others of equal or greater weight in the following:

"The attempt to stampede the senate in favor of this bill by raising the false alarm of 'wet' and 'dry,' as was done in the House, can only be regarded as a resort to the use of a subterfuge of the lowest type, for this is not in any sense a battle between the 'wets' and the 'drys,' but a clear-cut issue between a solid group of experienced business men, on the one hand, as against a small group of inexperienced though powerful theorists upon the other."

A bulletin of the N. W. D. A. on the subject presents the argument in this way: "The Cramton bill does not present an issue between the 'wets' and the 'drys.' The only question involved is whether the great industries of the country which use alcohol as a chemical raw material shall continue to obtain their supplies from the experienced and businesslike officials of the Internal Revenue Bureau, who are in sympathy with industrial progress, or shall be forced to look for their alcohol, etc., to the officials of the Prohibition Unit engaged in policing law violators and who seem to have great difficulty in differentiating between honest business men and potential bootleggers."
