

EDITORIAL

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THE GIFTS OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES.

IN the February number of *The American Magazine* H. G. Wells tells what he thinks will be the great development of the coming century. He refers to the past history of wonderful material achievements and contemplates on the possibilities when more intensive study is given to ourselves in developing wonderful men. He says that "the mind of the intelligent teacher rebels against the aimless work he does, the aimless discharge of young people into an uncharted world. Yet he realizes that he cannot educate with any effectiveness unless he has a clear idea of the sort of life for which he is educating.

"As we reshape our ideas of social justice and relationship, the character of our schools will change and education will realize its aims anew."

The President of the Rockefeller Medical Foundation in reviewing the methods, spirit and scope of modern medicine recently said:

"Medical science, in common with other sciences, relies upon observation, comparison, and experiment, or upon a combination of these methods. The anatomist by observation and comparison, that is, by dissection of human and animal bodies and by examination of the living maps, describes the intricate structure of organic forms and studies the laws of growth and development. The physiologist by physical means, by chemical analysis, by observation of men, and by experiment upon animals, gains insight into the nature of vital processes. The bacteriologist by observing through the microscope the minute plants and organisms which live in blood and tissues, by introducing them into animals under varying conditions, and by comparing results, discovers definite and verifiable facts about the causes of health and disease. The pathologist studies by microscopic methods, by examination of morbid growths, by experimentation upon animals, the nature and effects of organic diseases. The results which each man secures and the methods he employs are made public and are then tested by other investigators. Mere personal opinion and unverified assertion have no place in modern scientific medicine."

These references are presented because they point out in a way, as has been stated frequently before in these columns, that there is a widening field of medical science before us in which medicine, chemistry and the departments of special and direct concern to pharmacists will find much to do. The coöperation of related industries, their laboratories and those of the institutions of the arts and sciences referred to, are coming into closer contact and their coöperative investigations will result in greater achievements and services.

E. G. E.

EVERYBODY LIKES TO BE IN ON EVERYTHING THAT'S BIG.

IT is, perhaps, generally accepted that the greater number prefer to be on the winning side—to be with those who accomplish; some prefer to be champions of a minority cause. A discussion is not the purpose of the comment; it is to ask for whole-hearted coöperation of not only the majority—but of all pharmacists in behalf of the proposal to establish permanent headquarters for the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION—longed for and hoped for, and now a plan is being activated which will bring about accomplishment. Coöperation is an important part of the program.

There must be individual initiative and for success a wide general coöperation is essential. The undertaking is not large when compared with the number of those

who should be interested; twice the amount of the contemplated fund should be obtainable without burdening individuals, if all will do their part. This was the thought of President Frederick J. Wulling in his address of 1917,* and an encouraging message from him follows this comment.¹

E. G. E.

PHARMACISTS' STEWARDSHIP.

PHARMACY is a trust in the hands of the present generation who inherited it from its predecessor and will hand it on to its successor. Progress is the law and principle of civilization. Pharmacists have, therefore, distinctly a two-fold duty, one to themselves and one to their calling. The calling must be looked upon as an entity, an organism to which the members owe allegiance and support and which they must hand down to their successors in a greatly improved and enhanced condition. Many pharmacists forget this duty or are not aware of it and think only of themselves; hence, there is a lack of collective, fraternal and sympathetic support from the body pharmaceutic as a whole, of the very necessary things that need to be done but which can be done only in a big way. Pharmacy ought to have the constructive good-will of every one engaged in any division of the calling. The constructive, helpful effort of each and every member if united and combined will prove to be a force that will accomplish or furnish every reasonable and necessary thing for the lack of which pharmacy is now suffering.

One of the things now lacking is a general pharmaceutical headquarters. The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION has proposed to become the agency for actualizing the project. The preliminary steps have already been taken; the question whether such headquarters will be a good thing has been settled affirmatively. If all members of the great body pharmaceutic could understand fully that this project is theirs in their own respective proportions, and that they ought to contribute in those proportions, this great benefit to pharmacy at large and to every individual would be quickly realized and maintained. I think it would be reasonable to expect every individual, firm and corporation in pharmacy to assess their respective working capitals or their profits for fair and proportionate amounts. According to published statements, many millions of dollars in profits and dividends are earned annually by those engaged in all divisions of pharmacy. To raise a million dollars from a very considerable capital or from profits of this capital, or from both, ought to be comparatively easy and could not possibly be burdensome to anyone. Most businesses and enterprises have grown by using portions of the profits for enlargement or expansion. Those who contribute to headquarters fund do not in reality make a donation—they are making a re-investment that will be one of the best they ever made. The collective profits from this investment would be, in a word, a general elevation of American pharmacy in effectiveness and prestige. Let's have the vision and the wisdom to put this project over "big and quick." We would be doing something for ourselves and would in a large measure pay our debt to the past and would have the satisfaction of having endowed, in a modest way, future pharmacy as part of our administration of the trust we inherited.

FREDERICK J. WULLING.

* JOUR. A. PH. A., 6, 781, 1917.

¹ The message of last month's issue on pp. 5 and 6 was contributed by James H. Beal.