

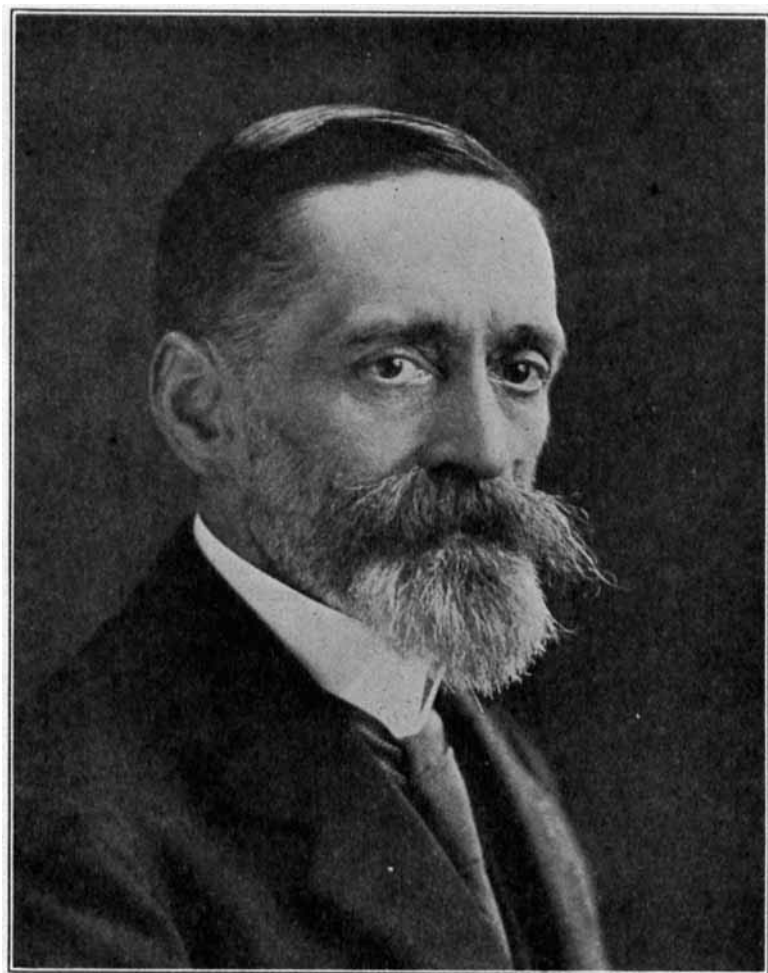
SIR WILLIAM SAMUEL GLYN-JONES

Pharmacist and Barrister-at-law

Secretary and Registrar to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

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Honorary Member of the American Pharmaceutical Association



SIR WILLIAM S. GLYN-JONES

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SIR WILLIAM SAMUEL GLYN-JONES.

Sir W. S. Glyn-Jones, pharmacist and barrister-at-law, Secretary and Registrar to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, Secretary to the Proprietary Articles Trade Association since its origin in 1896 and Honorary Member of the American Pharmaceutical Association since 1920, is one of the master-spirits in contemporary British pharmacy, and for the past thirty years has been a dominant personal force in pharmaceutical public life and affairs. The son of Welsh parents, he was born in 1869 in the ancient and renowned city of Worcester, and at an early age was apprenticed in pharmacy. After qualifying as a pharmacist in 1891 he started in business on his own account in the East India Road, a not particularly salubrious district in London bordering on dockland, and married the gracious and winsome lady who in adversity and in prosperity has so loyally shared all his joys and sorrows. They have a family of two sons and two daughters. The eldest son, Mr. Hildreth Glyn-Jones, pharmacist, is a barrister-at-law who has inherited his father's forensic gifts, and is already making good use of them; the younger son, John, is being educated at a public school; the eldest daughter is a graduate of medicine, and the younger one, who has had a distinguished academic career, is on the staff of the Borstal Institution for girls, where the experimental system for the reclamation of young women convicted of offenses against the law is being put to the test. The struggle for existence, which would have absorbed all the energies and subdued and perhaps broken the spirit of the average man, only aroused in the young married pharmacist of the East India Road a grim determination not merely to make his own way in the world, but also to attempt something on behalf of his professional brethren who were suffering from what in the United States used to be known as "scalping" and "scalpers," now generally described as price-cutting. It was in November 1895 that the curtain rose on the opening scene of the first act of the life-drama of our subject. It was then that, single-handed, he issued a modest circular publication yecept the *Anti-Cutting Record* with the object of securing alike for manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers an adequate profit on proprietaries. That the advent of this scheme was not hailed with acclamation is manifest from an editorial comment which ran "We may predict a long career for our contemporary if it is to exist until its purpose is fully accomplished." But for the possibly saving clause "fully accomplished" this forecast, like so many would-be prophecies, has completely miscarried, for the movement that owed its conception and inception to the producer of the *Anti-Cutting Record* has steadily enlarged its borders and grown in strength and effectiveness with the

passing of the years, and is one of the many living monuments to Sir W. S. Glyn-Jones' consummate powers of initiative, moral courage and genius for organization in the face of apathy and antagonism that might well have daunted and discomfited a less resolute and resourceful man. The founding, development and administration as chief executive officer of the P. A. T. A. was only the first of the many signal services for the betterment of pharmacy with which the strenuous subsequent career of Sir W. S. Glyn-Jones has been replete. It would occupy more space than we can spare to recount the series of achievements that stand to his credit and which, singly and cumulatively, attest his high capacity and striking success alike as organizer, administrator, lawyer, whether as member of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society (1899-1904) in which at first his independent spirit and progressive ideas fluttered the doves, as member for Stepney of the British House of Commons (1911-1918), Alderman and Chairman of the Middlesex County Council, or in his present capacity as Chief Executive Officer of the Pharmaceutical Society to the business and policy of which his unique knowledge and experience of all sides of pharmaceutical life and thought are applied with inexhaustible energy and address. His forensic *nous* and skill were revealed decisively before he was called to the Bar in 1904 by his appeal on a crucial technical point in a case under the Food and Drugs Acts, in which he was defendant, and in the vital decision elicited by him in *Farmer vs. Glyn-Jones* (1902) which restored to British chemists the dormant statutory right to sell "known, admitted, and approved remedies" to the great and legitimate gain of the chemist in retail business, while his textbook on "The Law of Poisons in Pharmacy" (1909) is the only standard work on the subject. As Parliamentary Secretary to the Pharmaceutical Society (1908-1919) Sir W. S. Glyn-Jones did an immense amount of valuable work for pharmacy both in and out of Parliament, including a foremost part in the promotion of advantageous amendments of the Poisons and Pharmacy Act 1908, the insertion in the National Health Insurance Act 1911 of the provision reserving to the pharmacist, unless in exceptional circumstances, dispensing for insured persons, while in the case of the war-time increase in the Medicine Stamp Duties and Spirit Duties his intervention protected chemists from serious inconvenience and heavy loss. Under the second Coalition Government during the war Sir W. S. Glyn-Jones' distinguished political abilities and services were recognized by his appointment as Parliamentary Secretary to Dr. Addison in the Ministry of Munitions, and afterwards under the same chief in the Ministry of Reconstruction, and in 1919 he received the well-merited honor of Knighthood.

One of the most important war-time services rendered by Sir W. S. Glyn-Jones was in connection with the manufacturing and wholesale drug trade which sought his aid in organizing and stabilizing the relations between employers and employees during that trying period. This was so effectively accomplished through the agency of the Drug and Fine Chemicals Association, formed on the advice and with the assistance and carried on under the direction of Sir W. S. Glyn-Jones, that in negotiation with the Drug Trade and Chemical Workers Unions, and by arbitration in case of disputes, industries that were of vital necessity to the national safety were, with the exception of a small unofficial strike, kept in continuous operation in maximum efficiency and output for the duration of the war.

Since his appointment as Secretary to the Pharmaceutical Society, many important developments have taken place, notably the High Court decision in the test case, the effect of which is to prevent the Society as a chartered body from dealing administratively or otherwise with such trade subjects and interests as the regulation of wages, prices and like matters, which are now handled by the Retail Pharmacists' Union, an organization formed as a result of the judicial decision in question, which has taken over the care of the National Health Insurance and other interests formerly looked after by the Pharmaceutical Society. The practical effect of this devolution is that the Society is concentrating on the scientific and professional side of pharmacy, and is developing its School, pharma-

ceutical research, both in its laboratories and through the British Pharmaceutical Conference for which the Society is now responsible; the systematization and control of pharmaceutical education and training, and the adaptation of the examinations to present-day standards and requirements generally. In connection with the special legislation for the control of dangerous drugs as embodied in the Dangerous Drugs Act 1920 and the Dangerous Drugs and Poisons (Amendment) Act 1923 and the regulations thereunder, the Secretary's special knowledge of law and of Parliamentary procedure, and the methods of Departments of State has been of highest value in the combined efforts that have been necessary in every case to have the new laws put into a workable shape. These references are the barest summary of the vast volume and variety of Sir W. S. Glyn-Jones' amazingly strenuous and fruitful life work in and for pharmacy, all sides of which he has touched, inspired and elevated. He is a man of daemonic energy (in the classical not the sinister meaning of that phrase), of an indomitable and indefatigable spirit and steadfastness of aim and purpose that often enable him to accomplish the apparently impossible. In social intercourse whether with his colleagues and acquaintances in official or public life, or in private, among his friends and at home, his inextinguishable zest in everything that touches humanity and his almost boyish relish for the droll side of things makes him a most stimulating and entertaining talker and companion. He is, too, a capital *raconteur*, with an inexhaustible fund of *facetiae* appropriate to every subject and occasion and as an after-dinner speaker he excels in enlivening wisdom with diversions of wit and humor that often set the table in a roar.

It sometimes happens that a man's past is the damnation of his future, but in Sir W. S. Glyn-Jones' case his antecedents constitute unchallengeable credentials and guarantees for even higher prospective service alike for the Pharmaceutical Society and for pharmacy generally. For his natural force is unabated, and his will and power to do and to serve are still at their meridian. In 1911 when he was entertained at dinner by leading representatives of pharmacy on the occasion of his election to the House of Commons, the guest of the evening epitomized his pledge of future service for pharmacy in the words that he would "endeavor to see that no unfair treatment was meted out to our calling, and not only to our calling, but to the small retailers throughout the country." It is in this spirit of ministry to his profession and as protagonist of the principle and cause of justice and fair play to all that Sir W. S. Glyn-Jones has consistently and unceasingly labored ever since, as a retail chemist in the East-end of London he tested in person and endured the burdens and buffetings of a retailer's life. If one had to choose an epigraph appositely descriptive of Sir W. S. Glyn-Jones' character and career, what better could offer than the phrase that he has done so much to render familiar, namely, that by all and everywhere they are both "Known, admitted, and approved."

EDITOR'S NOTE.—The foregoing sketch will interest American pharmacists because the work of Sir William S. Glyn-Jones for pharmacy in Great Britain is well known here; also, the first editorial of the May issue of the JOURNAL A. PH. A. refers to the home of British Pharmacy and hence it is a very timely contribution for which we are indebted to a British pharmacist who has had exceptional opportunities of personal intimacy with, and knowledge of Sir William's work and worth.
