

EDITORIAL

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ALL-PHARMACY BUILDING PROJECT IS BEING WELL SUPPORTED AND PROGRESS IS GRATIFYING.

IN discussing the present All-Pharmacy undertaking before State Pharmaceutical Associations, Chairman E. L. Newcomb has pointed out that while the average retail druggist may not be so deeply concerned relative to the establishment of a comprehensive pharmaceutical library, a research laboratory or a pharmaceutical museum, he is vitally interested in any move which will help to combine, concentrate and centralize the present more or less divided power and influence of American pharmacy.

The drug industries are at present represented by no less than nine national organizations; each is important in its sphere and they render valuable service to all branches of pharmacy. Each of these national organizations has specific problems for solution and coöperation of those directly concerned and those contributing to their growth and development aid in the solution of them; for the big problems of American pharmacy affect to some extent every department of its industries.

Lieutenant-Governor Hammill, of Iowa, recently said that the principal reason for the lack of success by pharmacists in congressional and state legislation was because pharmacists failed to acquaint the public fully with the service they are rendering and the importance of their profession to the country. Other professions and lines of business succeed in escaping unjust taxes and restrictive measures through thoroughly united organization efforts. There is much legislation which is necessary for meeting new conditions, such as drug store ownership, drug peddling, other unfair selling methods, regulations, etc. Perhaps never before in the history of the drug business have more taxes been applied to it and more rules and regulations formulated, necessitating a guide and imposing details which increase "overhead" costs. It is unnecessary to make specific mention because existing conditions emphasize the statement. These matters, however, concern every section of the drug trade and in the handling of the problems connected therewith the different organizations have, at times, worked as individuals, and not as a unit; coördinated coöperative action should obtain; the best results follow when differences of opinion relative to pharmaceutical legislation are winnowed and harmonized to render best service for common interests.

Other viewpoints have been presented and the message of this comment has heretofore been discussed. There is hardly a point that has not been stressed because of the general acceptance of the importance of the movement for establishing an All-Pharmacy building, and the enthusiasm developed thereby has brought into closer relation all the divisions of the drug trade; this alone has been well worth the undertaking. It remains for us to bring the effort to a prompt conclusion prior to the Buffalo Convention and for this most coveted goal "let us pull long, strong and all together!"

E. G. E.

ANOTHER STEP FORWARD.

UNDER the above caption an editorial in a recent issue of the Philadelphia *North American* supported the idea of using business as the basis for further development of international good feeling, and thus strengthening the bond of unity. The editorial was prompted by an address at the recent Rotary International Convention, and the business ethics of this organization.

The reasoning is sound. World fellowship, as well as that of individuals and organizations, depends largely on "mutual understanding of common ideals and co-operative effort toward realization in the practical dealings of every-day life." Herein is one of our reasons for this comment, and the purpose of an "All-Pharmacy" headquarters implies just that.

The editorial referred to, discusses other possibilities for strengthening the bond of unity; one, by religious efforts, which have value, but the spiritual aims of different races and national groups are widely at variance. "Trading, called business," the comment recites, "is universal. Always it has been the basis for the first bond between discoverer and discovered. Inability to understand each other's language and amazement at each other's appearance or manners never have stood in the way of trade. Indeed, all relationships between nations have grown out of this one." A relative interrelation applies to trades and professions and it is well worth while to promote this to the fullest extent.

Pharmacy does not always receive the recognition from related professions, nor are pharmacists invariably given the title earned by them; perhaps the motives should not be questioned but at times the purpose seems strongly indicated. Professions serve and whatever tends to give the best service for humanity is the only course for them to follow. It has frequently been repeated 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; there is a growing realization and coöperation in this direction; note the recent methods applied to important medical discoveries. The individual or the profession renders the greatest service that coöperates to give the largest number the greatest opportunity for development, contributing the best service to humanity and thereby adding to the wealth and health of civilization.

E. G. E.

PUBLICITY FOR PHARMACY.

THE bulletins of the Drug Trade Bureau of Public Information are giving good publicity for "All-Pharmacy." The larger daily newspapers, as well as those with lesser circulation, are assigning space for the information conveyed which indicates that the press and the readers are receptive, they want information on subjects pertaining to pharmacy, provided of course that it has a degree of interest.

The value of publicity is recognized by other professions and redounds to their advantage; it is almost unheard of that a physician or surgeon is referred to by a title other than that of his profession and it may be said with like assurance that a

chemist is infrequently designated as pharmacist, if he holds the respective degrees.

Some of the work pharmacists are doing is listed in the monthly bibliography of the JOURNAL, A. Ph. A. and the annual review of pharmaceutical botany and pharmacognosy, printed in the June number, includes a long list of pharmacists whose activities are centered in these branches but claim pharmacy as a profession.

Our comment is responsive to a press editorial on "Chemistry and Medicine," voicing approval of a pamphlet on "Chemistry in the Service of Medicine," issued by the "Committee to Extend the National Service of Harvard University." The particular import and object of the pamphlet is "to emphasize the value and necessity of close collaboration between Harvard Chemistry Department and the Medical School and to show how such collaboration is at present hampered by lack of due equipment in the chemical department." It is to be hoped and expected that the encouragement sought will be given, for the possibilities in this service are great.

Our effort always is to have pharmacy properly placed in the triangle wherein medicine, chemistry and the departments of special and direct concern to pharmacists render greater service because of such coöperation and strengthen the belief in one another. The further purpose of this comment is indicated in the first paragraph and to enlist the interest of pharmacists in this work by sending in to Director Robert P. Fischelis *important* items of general interest that may be utilized in these bulletins, and have them voice their approval of these news and educational items to the publishers if possible. Undoubtedly, when the pharmacy headquarters have been established the success of this publicity will be greater, but even now the laity will gain a better understanding of the mission of pharmacy and, in some instances, arrive at a different viewpoint.

Pharmacy and the achievements of pharmacy should more frequently be mentioned in press columns, and with an optimism that conveys assurance of its importance to those who are served thereby.

E. G. E.

WHY THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION?*

BY HENRY M. WHELPLEY.¹

It is an anomaly for me to bring you a message of greeting from the American Pharmaceutical Association as scheduled on the official program.

It is abnormal because I am one of you quite as fully as any other person present. My thirty years as secretary followed a third as many years of other Missouri Pharmaceutical Association activities. Thus you are now listening to a man talking to himself as it were. Thus I am that I am and also I am you. Nor does the anomaly end here. It has only just begun. Far more important is the very generally unrecognized fact that you are all a part of the A. Ph. A. Yes, each and every one of you who practice pharmacy to-day is a part of the A. Ph. A.

The seventy-two years of work by that organization have developed and saved to you all that distinguishes the retail druggist from the hardware man or the hand-me-out eat-shop proprietor. It is the A. Ph. A. part of you which justifies the ex-

* Read at 1924 Missouri Pharmaceutical Association meeting, Springfield, Mo.

¹ Ex-President and for thirteen years treasurer of the A. Ph. A.