

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-

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pressive slogan, "Your Druggist Is More than a Merchant." It is the A. Ph. A. blood in your commercial veins which makes it safe for the general public to "Try the Drug Store First."

I will, however, with pleasure and privilege formally extend to the Missouri Pharmaceutical Association and through it to you the fraternal good-will of the A. Ph. A. President, Prof. H. V. Army, and President-elect, Mr. Chas W. Holton, who is a retail druggist.

In doing so, I know that every active member of the A. Ph. A. desires to join with his officers in the spirit of this message.

The A. Ph. A. work began in 1852 and continues uninterrupted to-day.

The A. Ph. A. operates on an altruistic basis free from politics.

The present-day concern of the organization outside of routine work is to render the benefits of the A. Ph. A. accomplishments more available to the general masses of retail druggists. The A. Ph. A. should appeal to druggists of every capacity and occupation. Even as it is now, each and every one of you breathe the atmosphere of the A. Ph. A. and daily realize in a financial, if not a mental way, on what has been done for your calling by the Association in nearly three-quarters of a century.

You say you do not belong to the A. Ph. A.? Perhaps not, but that is an anomaly, for you are a part of it and it is a part of you in spite of all protests.

You may be like a bank with only a receiving teller, but the A. Ph. A. accomplishments like money are the all-essential to your very existence.

You can resist joining as a child can run away from home, but you cannot avoid being a part of the A. Ph. A. as long as you are a druggist any more than a runaway child can cease to be a member of the family unless death severs the physical relation.

You are a part of the A. Ph. A. right where you are. As Einstein claims, we go somewhere without going anywhere.

Having attended forty consecutive meetings of the A. Ph. A. and taken part in the various activities, I speak knowingly as well as feelingly.

The A. Ph. A. is the only national organization in which all drug interests have an equal right and a mutual interest. The only one out of eight national drug organizations in operation to-day.

Napoleon was one of the first great leaders to recognize the practical value of the science of chemistry. Now chemistry holds a commanding position in the thoughts and lives of men and nations.

The drug journals of late have been filled with statements of what the A. Ph. A. has accomplished.

Who will be the Napoleon of the retail drug trade to recognize the practical every-day value of having a Pharmacopœia, a National Formulary, Drug Laws, Colleges, Boards, the N. A. R. D., the A. C. P. F., the N. A. B. P., the Drug Trade Conference, Pharmaceutical Research and multifarious other things that go to make up the conditions in drugdom?

Someone is needed who can humanize the past of the A. Ph. A., as Wells has humanized the history of man from his very beginning.

Someone who will make you thirst for a more intimate knowledge of the A. Ph. A. past and realize the full bearing it has on your present and on your future.

The Missouri Pharmaceutical Association has from almost the very beginning been constantly represented in the A. Ph. A. and assisted in directing its activities. Let us now give greater coöperation.

If all drug interests would unite, the accomplishments would soon make the World War victory look like small change.

The A. Ph. A. should reflect the local, state and other national conventions in any way devoted to the drug interest.

Most of these things I have said in retrospect but they are intended for the forward-looking safe and sane element which is dominant in the Missouri Pharmaceutical Association—those who are not adamant but ready and anxious to be helpful to the calling from which they are making a livelihood.

It has been said that every association has at least one cynic. I know that some have a few to spare, but Missouri is fortunate in being cynic-free. And this, in spite of the fact that here as elsewhere man is Dame Nature's insurgent son.

Reformers and progressives even unto the point of extremists are all right and proper in their place. Even ultra-conservatists have their function in human affairs.

After all is said and done, the "middle of the roaders" keep the world moving in a safe and sane course as the history of the human race continues to unfold.

It is fortunate, indeed, and a wise provision of the Ruling Power that the middle of the road, instead of the sides or tangent outgrowths, is the one which is traveled most constantly by far the greater portion of humanity.

Every organization varies in value according to the individual viewpoint. Remember that the viewpoints of all in drugdom focus on the A. Ph. A. We are all following the same path of intent and purpose, but some have gone a little or a great deal farther than others.

The A. Ph. A. is not leading a life of apprehension and uncertainty. If anything, it is too safe and sound and self-content.

In my rambling remarks, I have not attempted to plead for the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION but to awaken in you a realization of your relation to this great monument to pharmacy in America.

THE ORIGIN OF "PHARMACIEN."

M. Fialon (the veteran pharmacist who presented the "Musée Fialon" of ancient drug-pots *et hoc genus omne* to the Paris Faculty of Pharmacy a few years ago) contributes some notes on the history of the terms "apothecary" and "pharmacist." The latter term has designated the retail dispenser in France since the Revolution, and replaced the former, used under the "ancien régime" of the Monarchy. "Pharmacy" is an old word, but "pharmacien" seems only to have entered the French language in early Stuart days, and to have been used in the provinces before it came to Paris. Dr. Dorveaux cites its occurrence in works dated 1607 and 1609. M. Guitard has found a document dated 1640 (relative to the founda-

tion of a Guild of Apothecaries at Marennes) in which sundry members are officially designated as "compagnon pharmacien," or, more frequently, "pharmatien." The two terms (pharmacist and apothecary) therefore existed concurrently in the pre-Revolution period. M. Fialon holds that they are not really synonymous. "Pharmacist," he says rather implies one expert in the art of pharmacy; "apothecary," he who keeps open shop; and (as he dryly adds) "all pharmacists are not in business as apothecaries, and there are apothecaries who are poor pharmacists." The abuse and ridicule heaped upon apothecaries by doctors in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries made the name unpopular, and to this he traces the change of title.—*Chemist & Druggist*, April 1923, p. 545.