

EDITORIAL

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ARE YOU KEEPING UP YOUR END?

HERMAN J. STICH, in one of his "Two Minutes of Optimism," asks the question of his readers—"Are You Keeping Up Your End?" He then refers to the tillers of the soil who toil so that there may be food to eat and clothes to wear. Countless human beings are working in the mines so that there may be fuel, steel structures, messages carried around the globe and, in like manner, the results of other activities for our needs, comfort, health and joy are depicted, leading up to the question—"Are you doing your share to justify this tremendous outlay of energy and wealth?" "Are you reciprocating?" "Are you playing fair?" "Are you keeping up your end?" The questions are asked with greater detail, but as stated here they enable us to ask ourselves individually—"Am I doing my best and very utmost to keep up my end?" Perhaps none of us are, but there are some wholly indifferent to the needs of pharmacy and what others are doing so that pharmacy may receive recognition as a needful and useful profession and pharmacists be deemed worthy of special privileges.

The druggist is not playing fair when he withholds his support from his State Association. It is through the workers within that organization he is enabled or has the opportunity to make a living, to maintain a professional or business standing in his community. In a business transaction such an individual does not expect to receive something for nothing, but the vision of some is obscured regarding association membership. There can be no question about the fact that State associations have helped the individual. There may be too much team-work, too much conformity in association endeavor, but an organization is subject to a definite law of averages and represents the needs of the individual; the individual is not denied his own views within the association.

Abraham Lincoln said: "I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man who lives in it so that his place will be proud of him. Be honest, but hate no one; overturn a man's wrong-doing, but do not overturn him unless it must be done in overturning the wrong. Stand with a man while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong." The foregoing quotation is applicable to the subject; the right of a pharmacist to carry on his profession without being subject to the code of ethics governing the State association members, for the protection of the public and of pharmacy, may rightfully be questioned; at any rate he should have pride in his profession and so conduct himself that he will reflect credit upon pharmacy. This is particularly true at this time when the number of drug stores is increasing.

The Constitution and By-Laws of State associations are certainly liberal enough for any pharmacist who seeks to serve. His desire to specialize is in no way restricted by his membership, so long as the code of ethics guides his actions. Supervision of the individual protects the public and it might be well if closer super-

vision over the members was more in evidence; although the widest differences of opinion and interpretation should be provided for, flagrant violation of the code of ethics should meet with expressed disapproval.

This comment is for the encouragement of a larger representative membership in State associations which, during the next few months, will convene in annual sessions.

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COMMENCEMENTS.

EACH year adds to the list of pharmacy school graduates. All of them exert an influence for pharmacy; most of them retain filial attachment with the institution wherein they were prepared for life's work. This relation, which is in evidence during commencement week, should be maintained. Not only is the school or college concerned in its alumni, but the latter continue to benefit by the progress of the Alma Mater; if the latter is among the leaders the honor is shared by its alumni; there is no standstill, and this is applicable to both, therefore, their duty is plain—the commencement day addresses usually carry the message. The responsibilities should be impressed, for a realization of them, or an indifference to them, signifies either an asset or a liability. Selfishness and greed are obstructions in the path of pharmaceutical progress.

Pharmacy schools and colleges aim to train the students in the sciences and arts underlying pharmacy, and to implant observing and studious habits in the young men and women; for, after all, few of them know, before graduation, what particular line of work they will follow. The trend of pharmacy schools, as of medical schools, is to train the students in the essentials and to awaken interest along lines which offer opportunities for them, and group the student body accordingly.

The thoughts and acts of the young men and women are influenced by those who teach them, not only during the years of college life but in after years; the inference has been heard or made use of by nearly everyone at some time or other that an alumnus of this or the other educational institution may be known by some characteristic quality.

Learning from others should be a purpose throughout business and professional life. Nearly every one, by contact, imparts to others a knowledge of something, if observation is cultivated. It has an important part in learning, thinking and doing, in the success of individuals, and in shaping the affairs of all professions and business.

Alumni represent an asset or liability to the institution in which they have been trained, and also to the profession in which they are engaged; in a degree, the institution has a related value to its alumni. Commencements mark events in the lives of men and women and of the activities in which they are engaged—they are periods for perustration.

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