

I accept now, as ever, that the physician only is qualified to select desirable therapeutic agents and compounds, and establish the dosage. The physician is the one meeting home complications and should direct the crusade in the people's behalf. He can guide them authoritatively and educate them in the balanced use of legitimate home-cure simples, that under his authority shall be prepared by the pharmacist. He can guard the people against habit-forming drugs, pernicious compounds, harmful processes, and, being devoid of *business* complications and entanglements, protect them against impositions.

*My dear Dr. Wilbert:* I have given you, without reserve, and at your request, this study and these conclusions. I consider it an honor to have been thus asked by you to do this for you. Please do not accept that I am at all disturbed over past processes or disconsolate over the "end reaction." Balanced thought of those who are ever ultra-ethical must surely lead, as you have seen, to the conclusion that the home care and education of the family, after the method of the section of the profession of medicine to whose pharmacy I have devoted my life efforts, are not improper, but are even, from my standpoint, the *duty* of the educated members of all sections of the medical profession.

JOHN URI LLOYD.

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## OUR PHARMACEUTICAL CONVENTIONS—WHY WE SHOULD ATTEND THEM.\*

BY FRANCES M. GREENWALT.

Did you ever ask a brother pharmacist whether he expected to attend some approaching pharmaceutical convention, and get some answer like this, "No, I'm not interested in such things," or "No, it's the same old stuff, with the same old crowd running things," or the still more common replies, "I can't afford it," or "I haven't time?"

Of course you did, and you wondered whether there was something wrong with your state, or national association, or whether the fault rested with the individual pharmacists.

I think most of us will agree that our various professional organizations are forging ahead and our disinterested pharmacists are losing out by not attending these conventions, although they unknowingly are deriving some of the benefits from the untiring efforts of the "same old crowd."

Consider the work of our revision committees of the U. S. P. and N. F. Every practicing pharmacist must have those two books to intelligently compound prescriptions. Year after year the same men are doing the work, and they are here at these conventions, giving their various reports, seeking for additional help and information, and solving the problems of the profession.

It is indeed a privilege to meet these enthusiastic pharmacists, for if one has a tendency to slump or to follow the lines of least resistance, he is immediately aroused from his state of lethargy and cannot help but feel a renewed interest.

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\* Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, A. PH. A., Buffalo meeting, 1924.

These conventions serve as a "professional revival," if nothing more, and we have any number of "Billy Sundays" in the persons of Kraemer, Pittenger, Newcomb, Rusby, etc.

I was particularly impressed with the work of the Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties at the Asheville meeting last year. I do not think that the average pharmacist fully appreciates the work done by this college group, but it is this particular group which has raised the standards of pharmacy and has brought about legislation in the various states for "prerequisite training."

To the man who says he has not time to attend conventions, or that he cannot afford to attend, I would say that every one owes it to himself to spend some time and money on a vacation each year. Usually he can combine business with pleasure particularly at the state association meetings. He can get many new ideas on merchandising from the many exhibits and thus receive an actual profit in dollars and cents.

It will do his soul good to brush aside some of the old rivalry and hatred toward his competitor of his home town, and really get acquainted with him. Some one once said that he could not hate a man if he actually *knew* him.

Those pharmacists who are wont to speak lightly of the work of our various associations are usually the ones who do not even read the drug journals. They never give a thought to the problems or to the achievements of the profession. They accept the drug peddler and the patent medicine vendor as necessary evils and they do not try to work out the remedies for getting rid of them.

They *hope* that their state legislatures will enact laws to restrict the ownership of drug stores to licensed pharmacists, but they do not make any effort to influence their legislators in any way to accomplish what we all want. It is only by the combined efforts of all pharmacists that helpful legislation for our profession may be brought about. The old adage, "In Union there is Strength," holds true in pharmacy. What we need in our association is a large enrollment of live members.

A great problem of the profession is the "boot-legging druggist." Unfortunately this despicable practice is not confined to a very few. We cannot expect the prohibition agents to ferret out all offenders for there are too many of them and they are most clever in concealing their iniquities. It is up to the druggists themselves to take a hand in punishing the offenders. Then the ethical men can uphold the standing in their respective communities which they, as law-abiding pharmacists, merit. If there must be boot-leggers, let them not, in the name of pharmacy, hide under the cloak of our profession.

A word or two might not be amiss at this gathering, in behalf of the All-Pharmacy Building. I can add nothing to what has already been said by our leaders of American pharmacy to point out the need of this building fund.

Many of us have not as yet made our donations and some of us may feel that we, as individuals, may not derive any special benefit from such a building. Granting that such may be true in some individual cases, we should put aside any thought of personal gain, and as an expression of appreciation, a memorial as it were, in behalf of the efforts of those men and women of our ranks who have labored before us, and as a monument to pharmacy of the future, let us close this campaign with a material expression of true appreciation, in pledges of real American dollars.