

# EDITORIAL

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## RESOLUTIONS FOR THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

**I**N a communication recently sent out from the office of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, attention was called to the opportunity afforded the associations represented in it to present resolutions for consideration by the House of Delegates.

The reply of the secretary of one of the state associations, as quoted below, is so significant as to deserve publication and comment.

“I was very glad to read in your letter that the House of Delegates of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION will be interested in having our representative submit resolutions. This is a matter which I consider of great import for I believe it will be a means of awakening every state association to the realization of the fact that each state institution is directly interested in the work of the A. PH. A., as a whole.”

The House of Delegates is composed of one delegate from each state association, one delegate from each association holding membership in the National Drug Trade Conference, one delegate from each Section of the A. PH. A., and the members of the Council of the A. PH. A. A resolution or subject presented to the House is thereby brought to the attention and consideration, through its representative, of each branch of organized pharmacy, and the opportunity thus is created for the mutual interchange of experience and opinion and suggestion on a truly national scale which will be of tremendous advantage to pharmacy and to the public if full advantage of it is taken.

A majority of the associations represented in the House of Delegates will meet before the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION convenes in September, and some questions undoubtedly will come before each one of them which should, for the general good of pharmacy, be passed on as resolutions to the HOUSE, for consideration and action.

The various branches of pharmacy cannot be expected to agree fully on every question any more than can those of any other group having such important and diversified interests. Other questions are either of local importance or of interest to one branch only. But it is certainly true that a proper solution of most of the problems pharmacy now faces will be assisted and hastened by a frank and friendly and *personal* discussion of them by the representatives of organized pharmacy.

E. F. K.

## THE SERVICE AND RECOGNITION OF PHARMACISTS.

EVERYONE who is acquainted with the service pharmacists have rendered and searches the records of literature and science must be impressed with the fact that they are rather seldom named as such for their work in behalf of science and humanity. Scheele is more frequently referred to as chemist than as apothecary, even though it is known that during his brief but active life he was an apothecary, turning down a chemistry professorship at Upsala for fear it might divert his attention from researches in which he was engaged.

It is true that very often pharmacists carry on work which characterizes other professions but it remains that they are pharmacists. The writer in looking through one of the more recent editions of an encyclopedia found a sketch of the son of a distinguished pharmacist but excepting the incidental statement of relationship nothing was said of the father and still the former will probably admit that up to this time his father's services were greater than his own; many others, as for example, Klaproth, Sertürner, Pelletier, Caventou, might be mentioned in a related way. Even pharmacists of the present day can be included. The purpose of the search, however, was to find encyclopedic comment on Lyman Spalding and Crawford W. Long, both of whom have rendered services that have been of inestimable benefit to humanity. The first U. S. Pharmacopœia laid the foundation for standards for foods and drugs and, indirectly, for all chemicals. Every possible effort should be made to memorialize the name of "the father of the U. S. Pharmacopœia."

On March 30, a statue of Crawford Williamson Long, physician-pharmacist, was unveiled in the Hall of Fame in the Capitol. However much his discovery meant to surgery and to the afflicted, it may be questioned whether such recognition would have been possible if it had not been for the persistent efforts of our fellow-member, Joseph Jacobs,<sup>1</sup> of Atlanta, one-time apprentice in the pharmacy of the discoverer of ether for anesthesia. Admittedly, the discovery was promoted by minor experimentation followed by application in a surgical operation; however, the fact that Dr. Long also owned and conducted a drug store had a part in the great discovery, in which pharmacy rightfully shares honors with medicine and has pride in that the loyalty of a pharmacist to his preceptor contributed largely to making the memorial possible.

E. G. E.

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EXPERT TESTIMONY.

RECENT criminal cases, some of them almost too horrible for mention in these columns, have again evidenced that expert testimony may be brought into both sides of a case, which confuses a jury or persuades the individuals of it that there is deception, or science is not what the name implies. Such evidence is introduced not only in murder trials, but in cases where there is a difference of opinion relative to medicinal effect, manufacture, process, constitution, etc. The American Medical Association and various bar associations are studying the situation with the purpose of formulating rules that shall govern such testimony.

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<sup>1</sup> Volume 45, PROCEEDINGS A. PH. A., p. 315; JOUR. A. PH. A., Vol. VIII, p. 999.

It is a difficult problem, but the American Medical Association, at its meeting in Dallas, will seek some way by which the medical expert can be relieved of partisanship, so that he can submit his evidence in a thoroughly professional and impartial manner.

Without saying that the testimony submitted in court is ever false, an influence obtains, when the prosecution and defense respectively employ the experts; the result is, almost without exception, that so and so is credited with being the expert for the defense and another aids the prosecution.

There will be differences of opinion and judgment of results, but some way should be found to present testimony which will not evidence the strong partiality exhibited at times, when the contestants representing the two sides of the case are well matched in the art of examination and debate, and lives or large sums are involved. It is to be hoped that the lead of the American Medical Association will be followed by other professions.

E. G. E.

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#### AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH.

The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION has available a sum amounting to \$450.00 which will be expended after October 1, 1926, for the encouragement of research.

Investigators desiring financial aid in their work will communicate before June 1, with H. V. Army, Chairman, A. PH. A. Research Committee, 115 West 68th St., New York, N. Y., giving their past record and outlining the particular line of work for which the grant is desired.

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#### ABSTRACT OF A RECENT A. PH. A. HEADQUARTERS LETTER.

"A few weeks ago while chatting with an old and esteemed friend, Mr. John G. Godding of Boston, the subject of the Headquarters Building Campaign was mentioned, and I inquired of Mr. Godding in regard to the matter. At that time the thought passed through my mind that it was somewhat odd that this project had not officially come to our attention, as we have so many thousands of friends among the profession, and a few days afterwards purely accidentally, a file came to my attention indicating that a circular letter had been received from you in this office in April 1924, that the matter had been passed on automatically by some mail clerk as one of the numerous requests for donations, and automatically filed.

"Some of us here were, of course, familiar with the project but had never taken the thought directly home to ourselves, as we never have happened to see this appeal and the matter almost went by default but for the two recent incidents which happened to fall near together as described above. What we hope you will consider the important part of this letter, however, is in the following.

"We want very much to show evidence of our interest, approval, and appreciation of what you are doing in this Headquarters Building Campaign, and we are accordingly attaching to this letter our check for One Hundred Dollars (\$100), made out to the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, subject to your handling. . . ." Another part of the letter dealt with a periodical contribution.

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