

EDITORIAL

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PHARMACY'S PART IN LAWS APPLYING TO THE DRUG BUSINESS.

IN ALL court decisions in which restrictive measures that apply to the sales of medicine are involved there is a question of safeguarding the life and health of the citizens; hence, aside from provisions which give such protection through qualified pharmacists it is of equal importance that druggists be observant of their professional obligations and desirous of serving. The progress of the drug industries depends not only on the regulation of its trade practices, reasonable observation of its codes of business and professional ethics, but on bringing into active coöperation all of its divisions.

President Sewall Cutler, of the National Wholesale Druggists' Association, embodied these thoughts in his New Year Message: "We should recognize that collective effort may accomplish much where individual effort fails. Collective effort never meets its greatest success unless every individual in the collection or organization does his part." We should encourage more active coöperation, harmony and friendly intercourse between members of different associations of the drug trade and of pharmacy and more constructive and instructive work within these associations. Speaking further for the N. W. D. A., he said, "We should ascertain all facts involved and utilize every legal means in our possession to protect the retail druggist in his competition with those outside interests which are encroaching on the fields of his activity in a way that is injurious and detrimental to the progress of fair trade practice."

Comment has been made in previous issues of the JOURNAL relative to sales of medicines by others than pharmacists; the guiding thought in the decisions bearing thereon has been of late, if not in the past, the greater safety and better service rendered by those qualified by education and training. Unless there is more involved than handing out a package, more than an ordinary sale wherein one salesman has no better understanding than another of what the package contains, the decisions have not favored restriction, but in cases wherein knowledge gave the public protection the decisions rendered have, by inference if not otherwise, stated the importance of pharmaceutical service.

This was more fully expressed in the decree of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in the case contesting the constitutionality of the Pennsylvania Drug Store Ownership Law. It is not the intention to comment at great length on the decision but to bring out the essence of the views expressed relative to the rights of the people in restricting ownership of drug stores to those who have more than a profit interest because of their professional allegiance.

The court discussed at length the question of the relation of ownership to the public interests and in rendering its decision stated that "there enters into every business the two motives of a wish for profit and a sense of duty obligation toward those with whom the management deals. When these are joined the latter (motive) operates to some extent; the moment they are separated the

former is in sole control. This thought deals with the relation between things which should be joined and the public policy of not permitting them to be separated. There is likewise the thought of things which should not be joined."

The opinion of the Court is based on the drug business in which pharmacy has a part; in some instances this may not be large, but it is important because of the professional service rendered.

Good business methods assure patrons of fair dealing; professional services imply that their well-being is given due consideration—they are equally important and, in the writer's opinion, the individual contact and interest of the owner of a drug business is as important for the public as it is for the trade and profession.

—E. G. E.

THE NEW SYSTEM OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CALLS FOR RELATED COÖPERATION OF ORGANIZATIONS.

FROM time immemorial trades and professions in their progressive march have been subjected to changes and those engaged in their promotion have adapted themselves to them and studied methods for the solution of problems presented by the new order of things. To-day we speak of newer competition to which must be applied new coöperation.

In pharmacy individuality will continue to have an important part; however much the public seeks newer methods of distribution there comes ever and again to them the realization that faith and confidence in the pharmacist, as well as in the members of other professions, cannot be satisfactorily replaced.

In *N. W. D. A. Bulletin* No. 148 "The Answer to the New Competition" by O. H. Cheney is reprinted from *Nation's Business*; it is well worth reading and study. The author asks "What does the public think of consolidations and big business?" He answers—"Public opinion is very mixed and would reveal strange inconsistencies if analyzed; to that extent, at least, does our Government represent our citizenry."

"But what will become of little business? Will all business men and their sons forever on have to be employees of great corporations? Will all opportunity and initiative hereafter go unrewarded by personal success?" The author answers—"I do not fear such developments. This country's great prosperity has been built by qualities and opportunities which will endure. One reason is that there will always be little businesses for those who want them and can run them efficiently. Another reason is this: It is true that, in general, the big businesses of the past were made by men and that in the newer cases it was the big businesses which made the men—but they are men! And the bigger the business, the bigger the opportunities."

Enlarging somewhat on the preceding comment as it applies to pharmacy: The progress of the drug activities depends on adequate education so as to make pharmacy a growing service for the health of the people, the regulation of its trade practices, reasonable observation of its codes of business and professional ethics and on bringing all of its divisions into active coöperation.—E. G. E.

THE RELATIONSHIP OF MEDICINAL WHISKY TO THE NUMBER OF DRUG STORES AND THE REGISTRATION IN SCHOOLS OF PHARMACY.

UNDER the above caption a very interesting and timely statistical article has been prepared by Prof. J. G. Beard—former Chairman of the Section on Education and Legislation of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION—and is printed in this issue of the JOURNAL.

Quoting the author "it hardly seems possible from this data to establish the point that the sale of medicinal whisky has any particular bearing either upon the growth of the drug stores or the number of persons studying pharmacy."

Attention is called to the final paragraph of the article in which the author frankly states his position on the question of sales of medicinal whisky in drug stores.

The position of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION on the dispensing of medicinal whisky is clearly set forth in Resolution No. 18 of the St. Louis meeting, printed on p. 888 of the September JOURNAL, A. PH. A. for 1927.

U. S. PHARMACOPŒIA X IN SPANISH.

Secretary William B. Day, of the Board of Trustees of the U. S. Pharmacopœial Convention, has advised that the Spanish Edition of the United States Pharmacopœia, Tenth Revision (*Farmacopea de los Estados Unidos de America, decima revision decenal*) has recently been published by the Board of Trustees of the United States Pharmacopœial Convention and is obtainable from the agent, The International Trade Papers, Incorporated, 2 West 45th Street, New York City, N. Y. The price is \$6.00.



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The translation has been made by a Committee from the University of Havana (Havana, Cuba) with the coöperation of Dr. José Guillermo Díaz, who prepared and translated the U. S. P. VIII and the U. S. P. IX into Spanish. The translating committee consisted of Dr. G. Garcia Morales, *Chairman*; Dr. Mesa de Ponce, *Secretary*; Dr. Sarah Bustillo and Dr. Rosa T. Lagomasino.

The United States Pharmacopœia has been adopted as the official Pharmacopœia for the Republic of Cuba and is extensively used throughout Central and South America and Mexico. The completion of this Edition is welcomed by the pharmacists of these countries and adds to the service rendered by the U. S. Pharmacopœial Convention.