

# EDITORIAL

E. G. EBERLE, EDITOR

10 West Chase St., BALTIMORE, MD.

## THE ESSENTIAL CHARACTER OF PHARMACY.

**F**IFTY years ago the British pharmacist, J. Ince, in an address before the South London School of Pharmacy, defined pharmacy as a special science, as the study of such preparations, processes, and their applications as are concerned in the art of medicine. He said, "The knowledge of their application leads us directly to the grand art of dispensing, and a mastery over that art is indispensable to every pharmacist. The way in which the various preparations and processes enjoined are used, combined, assisted, or controlled by the physician, the mode in which his instructions may be best carried out, his directions followed, and his intentions by such processes on other remedies forming the compound ingredients of a prescription, is a second but an essential pharmacy, and without which the definition is incomplete. See what happens. There ensues inevitably a mutual understanding between the physician and the pharmacist. Both respect each other, and respect is the basis of true friendship. Am I not right, therefore, in saying that though without chemistry we cannot move a step, and though materia medica and botany are necessary to our education, yet that pharmacy has a province of its own—one of paramount importance—and one which we are bound to learn thoroughly if we would know our own business, and hope for ultimate success?"

Recently, we read an instructive address before the New Jersey College of Pharmacy by our fellow member F. W. Nitardy, wherein he points out, in a helpful way, the progress made in the laboratories toward standardization of a very large part of the materia medica, and, in connection therewith, discussed the opportunities and activities of pharmacists of the present day, which are as important as ever to dispensers of medicines.

The progress of the scientific development of materia medica will not be slowed, except to the extent that it is subject to such further investigation, study and research as experience and ethical guidance directs.

Dr. H. H. Dale delivered an address before an Evening Meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, March 13, 1928, entitled "Some Reactions of Pharmacology on Pharmacy," wherein the significance of the change in chemical therapeutics is given comprehensive consideration. He views these as symptoms of one common and fundamental change due to the transfer of the initiative in therapeutic advance from the bedside to the laboratory. In his further remarks he discussed laboratory research illustrated by such important drugs as Ipecac and Ergot and their constituents, and pointed out how these have been influential factors in the development.

The aim of the professions is to serve and pharmacy will adapt itself to the changing conditions, just as it did fifty years ago, and "to serve well" marks the character of pharmacy; in that service a coöperation of all the activities is most essential. Pharmacy must change with therapeutic and, to some extent, with surgical practice; the pharmacy schools, therefore the faculties must, as never before, keep in touch with the advances and changes going on. Pharmacy has

always supplied the knowledge concerning drugs and preparations required by the doctor and it will move on with the new orientation of therapeutics but mindful that desire and over-enthusiasm are sometimes a hindrance to progress. Correspondingly, in the education of the young pharmacist the older curriculum cannot be set aside; it is an essential part of the new, associated with the curriculum entailing knowledge and training which develop an understanding of the lines of evolution in the production of materia medica and of methods by which "their therapeutic value is detected and investigated, before they reach the stage of clinical application."

Mere contact with a piece of research work does not make the scientist.—  
E. G. E.

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#### GLYN-JONES MEMORIAL IS PLANNED BY BRITISH PHARMACEUTICAL BODIES.

A memorial of some sort to perpetuate the name of the late Sir William Glyn-Jones, father of the British Proprietary Articles Trade Association and a leader of British pharmacy for many years, is planned by a group of leaders of various British associations in the drug trade.

An appeal for funds and for suggestions as to the form the memorial shall take has been issued by Herbert Skinner, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain; Harvey P. Arthur, Chairman of the North British Executive; Alfred Higgs, President of the Proprietary Articles Trade Association; J. E. French, Chairman of the Chemists' Defense Association; and D. Lloyd Howard, Chairman of the Drug and Fine Chemical Manufacturers' Association.

A number of suggestions are under consideration, we mention two: A memorial scholarship, possibly post-graduate, to enable a pharmaceutical chemist to spend one or two years in research work in a foreign University, or to provide for the pharmaceutical education of a student unable to qualify without financial assistance.

A Glyn-Jones Memorial Lecture, to be given at the British Pharmaceutical Conference or alternating with the Harrison Memorial Lecture, with a memorial medal for the lecturer.

It has been stated that the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society proposes to erect a memorial in the Society's House from the Society as a body.

Provision for a Glyn-Jones Memorial Lecture seems timely and it is suggested that visitations be provided to pharmaceutical organizations abroad. Sir William was an honorary member of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and attended its Philadelphia meeting. American pharmacists have not forgotten his efforts in Canada, where he labored without ceasing until illness prevented him, for the betterment of retail drug trade conditions.

Suggestions and subscriptions should be addressed to the Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, at 17 Bloomsbury Square W. C. 1, London, England.

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