

# EDITORIAL

E. G. EBERLE, EDITOR

10 West Chase St., BALTIMORE, MD.

## THE HELPFULNESS AND COÖPERATIVE SPIRIT OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

SINCE its organization the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION has given recognition to pharmacists of other countries by election to honorary membership of individual members of a number of organizations. Those who have been thus honored have—during the year of their election, or in a succeeding year—contributed to the program of the ASSOCIATION. The purpose is not only to confer honorary membership to the individual, but to exemplify the professional spirit and invite fraternal relationship of the organizations represented by the individuals. All of those in the list of honorary members have rendered distinguished services for pharmacy, particularly in their own countries.

Canada and Cuba are near to us and the annual meetings are not infrequently attended by pharmacists of these countries, and it is pleasing to note the growing interest in Mexico. A number of Canadian pharmacists attended the Pharmaceutical Association of the State of Washington, at its recent meeting; former President Charles W. Johnson attended the meeting of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association and quite a number of Canadian pharmacists will attend the meeting of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION in Rapid City. Visiting pharmacists are always welcome and it is pleasing to have representatives from our near relatives in Hawaii, the Philippines and Porto Rico. Many of the problems of the pharmacists of the countries mentioned are ours also; some of them have come into closer relationship by the adoption of the U. S. Pharmacopœia and National Formulary as legal standards. As a matter of fact service counts in professions more than language or nationality; all are working for better pharmacy in the interest of humanity, and the A. PH. A. Headquarters will strengthen the bonds.

The House of Delegates brings together delegates of national and state associations and will become a continuously growing influence according to the use the associations make of the opportunities offered by the delegate body. There are many related problems which can be discussed during the meeting and proper action thereon taken for the advancement of pharmacy. Everything that promotes the service of pharmacy benefits those served, and in that relation all of the divisions of pharmacy.

Contemplated necessary legislation can be discussed and thereby viewpoints of the members of all organizations represented receive consideration. In that connection conclusions relative to the worthiness of support may be formulated for united action. Concerted action is essential for success.

There are regulations in the enforcement of laws applying to pharmacy which may seriously and disadvantageously affect all of its divisions and, incidentally, the public. Many will agree that certain advertising promoted for a period of years should never have been permitted, and that to which reference is made, apparently had as its chief aim the increase of tobacco users in the form of cigarettes. The fact that some of this advertising is being modified or discontinued testifies that

it should not have been used. It is almost surprising that legislation relating thereto was not proposed earlier, but it may be questioned whether this should be embodied in food and drug legislation. It may become a stepping-stone for extremists who do not give sufficient thought to the injury that may be done to legitimate industries; harmful activities are not entitled to support, but by every possible means the industries on which the prosperity of our country depends should be supported to the greatest extent possible; the problems of many of them are sufficiently difficult, without adding to their troubles.

These comments are made as a suggestion for possibilities worthy of thoughtful consideration in the House of Delegates. There are, of course, other questions; on some, action was taken at last year's meeting and work thereon is under way. There are questions arising from the methods of combines; perhaps these, as well as the individuals, may see leads to betterment of conditions or recognize possibilities of dangers that beset the paths.

The secretaries of pharmaceutical organizations recognized the opportunities and benefits to be derived by holding an annual conference during the meeting week of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

During the 1928 meeting of the A. PH. A. Deputy Food and Drug Commissioner Robert L. Swain, who also is Secretary of the Maryland Board of Pharmacy and Vice-Chairman of the House of Delegates, A. PH. A., read a paper before the section on Education and Legislation entitled, "Fundamental Factors in the Application of Pharmacy Laws," published in the JOUR. A. PH. A. for September 1928, page 858. Following the submission and discussion of the paper the Section adopted a resolution "to establish a Department of Legal and Legislative Reference as soon as practicable and arrange for a conference of enforcement officials at the earliest convenient date." The conference will be held in Rapid City at Alex Johnson Hotel, at 8.00 P.M. August 26th.

Law enforcement has taken on added importance during the year through the appointment of a national commission to study the question in all of its phases, and pharmacists should give serious consideration to the subject in the interest of the public and of pharmacy. Discussion and interchange of views and experiences will, doubtless, prove helpful.

Further comment would make this article too lengthy; the suggestions will enable the members to read between the lines and thereby gain a better understanding of the service rendered by the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION—how it keeps pharmacists of other countries in touch with American pharmacists; how it endeavors to strengthen the bonds of State and National associations by bringing them together in the House of Delegates and otherwise cooperating with them, so that all divisions of the pharmaceutical activities may have favorable opportunities for discussing and solving problems of common interest, and all for the progress and service of pharmacy.

---

#### PROGRESSIVE KNOWLEDGE OF DRUGS.

**T**HE renaissance of drugs implies a progressive knowledge of drugs; there are few, if any, relative to which our knowledge is complete. Probably the thought which gained sway that everything of importance relating to certain drugs was

known brought about some disuse or misuse, and thus for a time medical men were deprived of these means for treating the sick. Plant and animal life reveal their secrets gradually or, perhaps, it is better to say it takes many stages of study to acquire a complete understanding of the functions and products of life; the researcher may follow his lead to an end but this does not comprehend everything that is to be studied. One investigation uncovers the opportunities for many other studies, as shown by the researches of all periods.

Quoting Wilber L. Scoville, "Until quite recently we were inclined to think that unless a drug contained an alkaloid, a glucoside, a tannin or an active resinous principle and had a direction action upon some organ of the body, it could not be of much value as a medicine. But the recent studies on enzymes, vitamins and endocrine glands have shown us that while the chemical composition of vegetable or animal substances may be obscure and their mode of action not clear, yet their influence may be of great importance. We do not know what an enzyme is chemically, nor a vitamin, nor the character of most of the endocrine principles, yet the most recent medical and pharmaceutical interests have centered around the action of these indefinite bodies. We now realize that even minute traces of chemical bodies of unknown composition may exert a profound influence upon life processes. This has led to a new study of drugs, both new and old. Some of the older drugs, which would not down, but persistently ignored the dictum of the scientific authorities, are receiving new attention."

Other points were ably discussed by the same speaker dealing with the question of extraction, stabilization and standardization of drugs and preparations, all of which have a bearing on the disuse of some of the older drugs and their renaissance.

Dr. Linn J. Boyd, in addressing the American Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association, stated, in substance, that in his opinion the medical profession must apologize for dropping botanicals in the belief that only substances of a protein nature could produce an anti-body condition; also for the acceptance of laboratory results without giving full consideration to those of the bedside, for they are frequently different, due to the fact that laboratory reports are based on experimentation with healthy subjects.

As a matter of fact, while the number of drugs prescribed may have become less, the use of these agents has continued; it is up to us to be progressive in a better understanding of them—there is much to be learned relative to their culture and preservation and still more from further studies of extraction, stabilization and standardization. The value of hydrogen-ion concentration has been proven, and while the importance may be over-estimated and may lead some to draw conclusions that are beyond reason, the interest of the enthusiast and the conservative will result in adjustments whereby application of the method will be established and made serviceable. Scoville suggests that catalysts as used in other lines may lead to an application of the principles of their action in the preparation of pharmaceuticals.

The foregoing suggestions indicate a broadening field of pharmaceutical research which will lead the workers into different investigations, all of which may have a bearing on the finished products. The discussion of these subjects is stimulated because of the approaching revision of the standards. The coöperation of the labo-

ratorian, manufacturer, clinician, physician and pharmacist assures progress in drug knowledge.

Incidentally, we mention here that the hospital pharmacist should have a larger part in the progress of medicine, and to that end the importance of pharmacy in hospitals and hospital service should receive relative consideration in the interest of the public.

---

#### THE U. S. P. EXHIBIT AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

IT IS pleasing to note that the American Medical Association has again awarded a special certificate for the U. S. P. Exhibit. The committee in charge of the exhibit at the Portland A. M. A. meeting was composed of: Dean C. W. Johnson, University of Washington, Seattle; F. C. Felter, of the *Pacific Drug Review*; Blumauer & Frank Drug Company, Portland, Ore.; President Frank Nau, of the Portland Retail Druggists' Association; Secretary Frank Ward, of the Oregon State Board of Pharmacy; Prof. E. J. Stuhr, Oregon State College, Ore. and Dean A. C. Mickelsen, of North Pacific College, Portland, Ore.

Aside from a complete set of U. S. Pharmacopœias the exhibit included a number of drug plants, products and preparations, official in U. S. P. X. Among the plants shown are: **Cascara Sagrada**, its extract, fluidextract and aromatic fluidextract; **Digitalis**, the infusion and tincture; **Belladonna**, tincture, fluidextracts, extract, plaster, ointment, atropine; **Peppermint**, water, spirit, oil and menthol; **Hydrastis**, the fluidextract; **Uva Ursi**, the fluidextract; **Veratrum Viride**, the tincture; **Rose**, the honey, water, fluidextract, the ointment.

---

#### THE GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MINES.\*

BY DR. C. C. O'HARRA, PRESIDENT.

The magnificent splendor and colossal scope of Nature's creative artistry, so profoundly expressed in the everlasting monuments known as the Black Hills of South Dakota, will provide no small measure of interest for the assemblage of pharmacists who will attend the Seventy-Seventh Annual Convention of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION in Rapid City.

The Geological Museum, from the beginning, has been an important feature of the South Dakota State School of Mines. The collection of materials, now grown into a most worthy representation of the natural phenomena of western South Dakota, is one of the attractions which every visitor to this remarkably beautiful and rapidly developing Black Hills country endeavors to see.

The museum is not merely a collection of curiosities. It is made up of displays judiciously selected, carefully arranged and worthily displayed. Everything shown has a definite and permanent value. Some are noteworthy because of their beauty, some because of their economic and industrial interest, some because of their rarity and others because of their portrayal of life and conditions that long

---

\* Parts of Publicity Bulletin No. 15, George A. Bender, Chairman.