

EDITORIAL

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CLOSER RELATIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL AND KINDRED PROFESSIONS.

LIBERTY is taken in reprinting an appeal of *Modern Surgery* to its readers, because it is addressed to "Kindred Professions," and evidences a spirit of helpfulness and a desire to be of service; it follows:

"The physicians of this country should seek to bring together in closer relation pharmacists, physicians and dental surgeons. These professions should work together; it would be of great advantage to all. In an effort at amalgamation the medical societies should take the lead with the determination to consummate a closer interrelation, not only of the organized societies, but to promote more frequent social and professional contacts of the individuals of the kindred professions.

"The dental surgeon and the pharmacist are both specialists and their separation from the regular medical profession has effected no good for any of the professions and has been of no advantage to the public.

"The initiative in the establishment of closer relations should be taken by the parent group, the regular medical profession.

"Numerically physicians far exceed in number the dental surgeons or the pharmacists. Their medical organization is larger, but the physicians are not as effective through their organization as is the organization of either the dental surgeons or the pharmacists. This is truth, though it may shock many physicians who are so well acquainted with medical organization, and quite uninformed as to the effective organizations of both the dental surgeons and the pharmacists.

"In a later issue *Modern Surgery* hopes to discuss some of the interesting aspects of the pharmaceutical and dental organizations. Suffice here to say these smaller organizations have protected the members of their profession more successfully than has the organization of the larger profession protected its members.

"The standards of the ethical dental surgeon and of the ethical pharmacist are above reproach. Closer social contacts would mean much for the welfare and happiness of the members of the three professions and their families. An interrelation of the three societies would be of tremendous advantage to all three professions, more could be accomplished of public good. Doctor, investigate, then do your part."

There is much in the foregoing message that appeals to us and the substance of it has frequently been repeated in these columns; in fact the closing paragraphs of an editorial in the January JOURNAL, and another in this issue, written before reading the timely appeal of *Modern Surgery*, express related viewpoints. For a like purpose liberty is taken in presenting thoughts from the JOURNAL of January 1919, in these words—The application of right principles is essential to effect right relations; the attitude and spirit are all-important. The greatest service is rendered by the individual or the profession that coöperates to give the largest number the greatest opportunity for development, contributing the best service to humanity and thereby adding to the wealth and health of civilization. The following from the same source has related application:

The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION should be so generally and well known that it gives the members a standing in the community as peers of their profession; the same applies relatively to other national and state associations. Mem-

bership in an association should mark the member as one who is associated with the best men in his profession, engaged in efforts to raise the standard of his calling and make it more deserving of public confidence. Association membership gives pharmacists a higher appreciation of their profession and also of those likewise engaged, and of those in related work—an inspiration to promote pharmacy and contend for its rightful recognition. We have both individual and collective responsibilities.

A PHARMACY CORPS IN THE U. S. ARMY.

THE Medical Department of the U. S. Army may not find it possible to follow the lines of the Pharmaceutical Corps in the French Army closely, but the French organization has proven its worth to such an extent that Senator P. Cazenueve, from Rhône, in writing the preface for the book on the "Organization and Activities of the Pharmaceutical Service of the French Army" by Leon Varenne, Pharmacist Major of the Army, included a tribute "to their (pharmacists of the World War) devotion and patriotic service, although silently given, to which the historian must in justice render homage." He states further "this work of M. Varenne makes us love and respect the members of this select corps which have contributed in their modest sphere, most eminent service to the country." The French pharmaceutical military service during the World War rendered services that are inestimable, whether considered solely from the monetary value to their people, their military organizations, or as professional and humanitarian benefits. The French pharmaceutical corps has been publicly commended "as having proved to be one of the most effective, active and intelligent corps of the French Army."

The shortcomings of the French sanitary service in the Franco-German War led to a reorganization. The medical corps demanded exclusive direction and autonomy over the service, and that the pharmaceutical corps should become the subordinate and in consequence result in a systematic reduction of the military pharmacists. J. B. Dumas favored the placing of the sanitary service under the medical direction and administrative influence of pharmacy, and Medical Inspector General Legouest ardently advocated the preëminence of the medical over the pharmaceutical but declared that "the project must respect the cadre and rank of the military pharmacists and that there must be preserved to pharmacy all its rank, its appropriation, the condition of advancement and the various functions of its proper service."

In the late War the French profited by the aptitude of pharmacists and their professional education in preparing for attacks by irritating, asphyxiating and poisonous gases and, primarily, in the counteraction of the means used by the invaders; as a result the peacetime pharmaceutical service was largely extended.

There is a close relation of the German system and that of the French Army; recently, Sweden adopted that of the latter, and other countries of Europe, excepting Great Britain, have followed these lines of organization and activities quite closely.

A British medical writer, after the close of the War, spoke of the high position held by the pharmaceutical profession in the French Service. He said that "pharmacy had been described as the handmaiden of medicine; in the British Army

pharmacy is little more than a drudge, but in the French Army medicine and pharmacy enjoy equal rights and privileges."

It is unnecessary at this time to discuss the French pharmacy corps because such an organization in the U. S. Army would probably differ. Under the law of 1889 the French pharmaceutical cadre is composed of

- 1 Pharmacist Inspector, with rank of General of a brigade.
- 4 Pharmacist Principals, First Class, with rank of Colonel.
- 5 Pharmacist Principals, Second Class, with rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.
- 30 Pharmacist Majors, First Class, with rank of Chief of Battalion.
- 45 Pharmacist Majors, Second Class, with rank of Captain.
- 20 Pharmacist Aide-Majors, First Class, with rank of Lieutenant.
- 10 Pharmacist Aide-Majors, Second Class, with rank of Second Lieutenant.

During the War the list was increased.

The pharmaceutical corps in the French Army is recruited in part from students of pharmacy and in part from pharmacy graduates who hold first-class diplomas.

The Japanese pharmacy corps organization is similar to that of Germany; the rank of Pharmacist General has been created and former Pharmacist Major General Watanabe has been advanced to this position.

It will not be questioned that the United States has pharmacists who are competent for the work required in military pharmacy. Loyalty to our country and the profession of pharmacy stimulates our desire to have full coöperation of pharmacists in public health matters and have the importance of pharmacy in the Government Services recognized; to this end it is hoped that those engaged in related professions will join in a spirit of altruism and unselfishness in the promotion of all divisions of medical service in behalf of those engaged in military activities as well as of those in civil life.

Charles Dawes' Creed—A Paraphrase.—"If you work in a profession, in Heaven's name work for it. If you live by a profession live for it. Help advance your co-worker. Respect the great power that protects you, that surrounds you with the advantages of organization, and that makes it possible for you to achieve results. Speak well for it. Stand for it. Stand for its professional supremacy. If you must obstruct or decry those who strive to help, why—quit the profession. But as long as you are a part of a profession do not belittle it. If you do you are loosening the tendrils that hold you to it and with the first high wind that comes along you will be uprooted and blown away and probably you will never know why."

"A PREMATURE PHARMACY CORPS DECISION?"

THE *Army & Navy Register* of January 18th states that "in the House on January 11th, Mr. Reece introduced a Bill (H. R. 8473) to provide for a pharmacist corps in the Army medical department. This is a measure which is urged by the Association of Pharmacists and has been before Congress in past sessions. It does not have the approval of the Surgeon General of the Army,

who has recommended against its adoption. *If it should pass the House and Senate and reach the President, it is destined to receive executive veto, on the representations that will be made by the Secretary of War.* The objections to the measure have been fully described in previous issues of this paper." (Italics ours.)

It is true that the *Army & Navy Register* did have an editorial in which the Pharmacy Corps Bill was mentioned but nothing has been said about the answer by Chairman R. L. Swain nor of the Hearing on the Bill."

We do not know how far the *Army & Navy Register* is authorized to speak for the Surgeon General, but we are not convinced that *The President* nor the *Secretary of War* authorized the *Register* to make for them such a statement as, seemingly, is indicated by the quoted editorial comment (see Italics). The statement—referring to "the Association of Pharmacists"—is indefinite and lacks completeness, the reference should have been plural or have mentioned the name of "the Association of Pharmacists"—there are eleven national associations of pharmacists and, excepting only one, each state has an association and in nearly all states there are local organizations, representing, all-told, memberships of about 100,000 or more.

THE SWEDISH APOTHECARY SCHEELÉ HONORED ON SESQUICENTENNIAL OF HIS DISCOVERY OF GLYCEROL.

The debt of modern science and industry to Karl Wilhelm Scheele, the pharmacist and discoverer of glycerol, was recognized at the annual meeting in Chicago on December 11th of the Association of American Soap and Glycerin Producers. The association sent to Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf, honorary member of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Sweden, a message felici-



Drawers and containers for drugs from Scheele's pharmacy in Stockholm Museum—the latter are made of wood painted with cinnabar, the shields are white and rosettes of light blue color. The drawers are blue, the name in black on white background and the initial letters are red. The pharmacy (Apotheke) was established in 1759 in Köping and acquired by Scheele in 1776. The illustrations were reproduced from "D. A. V. Apotheker-Kalendar," 1930, Fritz Ferchl.

tating him on the part played by his country in the development of glycerol products. December 19th marked the one hundred and eighty-seventh anniversary of Scheele's birth, and 1930 marks the sesquicentennial of his discovery. Although regarded as relatively unimportant at the time, glycerol has come to be one of the most widely used substances known to science and industry.

First Aid Week—March 16th-22nd.