

EDITORIAL

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A STEP IN PROGRESS OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION IN WHICH PHARMACISTS ARE INTERESTED.

PHARMACISTS have actively supported the Parker Bill, which aims to coordinate Government public health activities, gives more specific statutory authority for certain activities of the Public Health Service and broadens some of its activities; changes the name of the Advisory Board for the Hygienic Laboratory to that of "National Advisory Health Council," and increases the laboratory's personnel and divisions. It increases the pay of the Surgeon General and places the dental, sanitary engineer and pharmacist officers of that service on the same basis as to appointment, pay, promotion, disability privileges, etc., as medical officers. In making the report Congressman Mapes said, in substance, that "this is one of the major objects of the bill. Public health work is, or should be, a career service. It has come to be quite as dependent upon these other professions for its success as upon the medical profession. For the good of the service and to encourage members of these other professions to engage in it, it is considered necessary that they should be put upon the same basis as the doctors." Surgeon General Cumming testified: "The greatest single administrative need of the Public Health Service is uniformity of method of appointment and status of this scientific personnel."¹

The amendments made to the Bill have the approval of the Surgeon General, and do not concern the pharmacist; as amended the Bill has passed both Houses of Congress and is now in the hands of the President. The Surgeon General has on a number of occasions expressed his opinion relative to the important services of pharmacy, and as this is the first time in a number of years that pharmacists have had any recognition in national legislation, we are pleased and hopeful that other pending bills will be successfully carried forward.

PHARMACY IN THE VETERANS' BUREAU.

Recently, Representative Johnson of South Dakota, chairman of the Committee on World War Veterans' Legislation, introduced a bill into Congress (H. R. 6996) providing for a commissioned medical service in the Veterans' Bureau. This measure provides for a Medical Corps, a Medical Reserve Corps, a Dental Corps, a Dental Reserve Corps and a Nurse Corps. At present, physicians, dentists and nurses as well as pharmacists in the Bureau are appointed under the Civil Service regulations and are civilian employees.

President H. A. B. Dunning, Chairman of the Council S. L. Hilton and Secretary E. F. Kelly, representing the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, A. G. DuMez, representing the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, and R. L. Swain, representing the National Association Boards of Pharmacy, appeared before the Sub-Committee on Medical Personnel of the Committee on World War

¹ The Parker Bill discussed in the foregoing will be found in the February JOURNAL, pages 202-204. Specific attention is called to Sections 4, 5, 9(b) and 13.

Veterans' Legislation and presented statements in support of amendments to H. R. 6996 to also provide for a Pharmacy Corps and a Pharmacy Reserve Corps—to have charge of the purchase, testing, transportation, storage, preparation and dispensing of the drugs, medicines and allied materials used in the medical and surgical treatment of the veterans. The suggested amendments provide that the Pharmacy Corps be under the direction of a pharmacy director with the corresponding rank of Colonel, and that there shall be a sufficient number of commissioned pharmacists with corresponding rank from Lieutenant-Colonel to First Lieutenant to carry on the pharmaceutical service in the various dispensaries and hospitals of the Veterans' Bureau.

The purpose of the proposed legislation, to improve the entire medical service given to veterans, was endorsed by the representatives of pharmacy who strongly supported a separate Pharmacy Corps.

It was brought out during the hearing that the pharmaceutical service in the more than sixty hospitals of the Bureau, with their thousands of patients, was a great and most important undertaking; that the organization proposed did not represent a new outlay, as the Bureau now has in its employ about sixty pharmacists, but rather a regrouping of them to better discharge their duties; and that the Bureau could not expect to secure the services of those qualified to render the best obtainable pharmaceutical service unless the recognition and salary were proportionate. Evidence was submitted indicating that the present service was in need of improvement. Data was given to show that pharmacists in civil life discharging duties corresponding to those proposed for the officers of the Pharmacy Corps received salaries fully as high as those provided for in the amendments, and that the salaries now being received by pharmacists in the Bureau were lower than those received by pharmacists in civil life.

Attention was drawn to the educational requirements now in effect, to the professional status of pharmacy in civil life, which has shown great advancement in recent years, and to the protection thrown around the practice of pharmacy by the laws of each state in the union. The representatives of pharmacy were assured that the proposed amendments and the entire question of pharmaceutical service would receive the careful study of the committee and the officials of the Veterans' Bureau.

PHARMACY IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

DR. Theodore B. Appel, of the Pennsylvania Board of Health, in a recent address¹ spoke of the general profession of Pharmacy and its relation to society at large as represented by the field of public health. Extracts from the address will serve the purpose of editorial comments.

Dr. Appel said that "Pharmacy embraces the entire field from the procuring or production of the raw materials to the retailing of them to the customer. It involves research of the most painstaking kind. It calls for proper standardization and protection from adulteration of the drugs or other materials used. Pharmacy as a profession must always be on guard."

The speaker referred to the clinical laboratory for discoveries of the causes of

¹ Founders Day, Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science.

disease and suggestions of remedies and means of prevention, and to the pharmaceutical laboratory where the remedy is made available for practical use, standardization and safe-keeping, and he illustrated the statements—"Insulin was found to be of value in the treatment and control of diabetes, but the manufacturing pharmacist made it available for practical use. The ingestion of liver is necessary to prevent the ravages of pernicious anæmia and again the laboratories of pharmacy produced extracts increasing the power of control." Dr. Appel added a number of other illustrations. Commenting thereon he said: "These achievements are all of admitted importance to Public Health, but to my mind the retail pharmacist, if he be a true student of his profession has the greatest opportunity. He is continuously in contact with the public, and his opportunity by advice to aid in the education of the public is unlimited. True, to do this he must be a real student and must be familiar with his wares." He continued: "And going further, the pharmacist is a member of a profession of high ideals and great possibilities. Each individual owes a certain debt to society as a whole and it seems to me in view of the ideals of his profession and his own knowledge, that the pharmacist is well equipped to take his stand in the line of battle for general public health and do his part in molding public opinion along proper lines. In this way he renders to society the debt he owes it." We have in this address a statement relative to the activities of the pharmacist and his standing as member of a time-honored profession and the importance of his service in the field of public health.

PUBLICITY FOR THE U. S. PHARMACOPŒIA, THE NATIONAL FORMULARY AND THE NEW AND NONOFFICIAL REMEDIES.

The Chicago Medical Society and the Chicago Retail Druggists' Association are coöperating in plans to extend the use of the U. S. Pharmacopœia, National Formulary, and the "New and Nonofficial Remedies." The *Chicago Tribune*, of March 20th, reports a meeting at the Jackson Park branch of the Chicago Medical Society, held in honor of O. U. Sisson, chairman of the Chicago Retail Druggists' Association for promoting the use of the U. S. Pharmacopœia and National Formulary and Dr. James H. Hutton, president-elect of the Chicago Medical Society.

The plan was presented for the Society's approval at the meeting held in Billings Memorial Hospital, of the University of Chicago. It was brought out that about 12 million prescriptions were written annually in Chicago and quite a percentage of them are extra-pharmacopœial preparations, not of the National Formulary nor of the "N. N. R." It is the purpose, as stated, to enlist coöperation of physicians and pharmacists and it is hoped thereby to reduce the number and variety of preparations necessary to be kept in the pharmacists' stocks, and better acquaint physicians with the products, which make for greater uniformity in prescribing and compounding.

Baltimore expects you during the week of May 5th for the meetings of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy—Headquarters—the Emerson Hotel.