

A NATIONAL PHARMACY WELFARE FUND.*

BY EDWARD SWALLOW.

It has afforded the writer much pleasure to watch the interest that has been created among American pharmacists by his suggestion for the creation of a National Pharmacy Flag that shall represent American Pharmacy. This idea has spread to Australia and is being received by our brethren there with considerable enthusiasm. While it is yet too early to state definitely that such a national pharmacy flag will result from our efforts in giving the suggestion publicity, we can say that the indications are favorable.

In introducing the present subject, which will be discussed in this paper, it was necessary to mention the suggestion concerning the creation of a national pharmacy flag as it is upon the success of this project that the new idea embodied here depends. When the idea for a pharmacy flag occurred to the writer, after thoughts upon the subject convinced him that a national pharmacy emblem could be used for many useful purposes by the druggist generally, the one that appealed most strongly was—that a fund could very easily be created yearly, having for its object the caring for our incapacitated fellow-craftsmen and those who were too old to practice their calling any more.

If we are successful in our efforts to produce a national pharmacy flag, it would be very simple work to appoint a Pharmacy Flag Day, and this would mean that over 54,000 drug stores would fly their flag upon that day. Estimating that we have at least 100,000 registered pharmacists in the United States, a contribution of one dollar, laid out in purchasing a Pharmacy Flag, would create a fund of such proportions as to make it possible for American Pharmacy to care for all those incapacitated members who are sick or otherwise unable to care for themselves. Thus, by the expenditure of one dollar yearly, the pharmacist would place his unfortunate brothers in comfort and prevent those in distress from becoming public charges.

If this suggestion meets with approval, we might call such a fund—"The National Pharmacy Welfare Fund." As a general proposition, this Pharmacy Fund, would be national in its scope, something that is very much needed in the way of bringing unity and coöperation among the pharmacists of America. This fund would be placed in the hands of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, thereby bringing our *Mother* of American pharmacy in close touch with all her *children*—a very desirable result.

A movement like this would naturally result in a largely increased membership and the A. Ph. A. would become a much more powerful organization for the betterment and progress of our calling.

The pharmacist is a self-respecting, capable, professional, business man, who, while he renders scientific services of the highest kind to the public, does not want assistance from this source any more than a physician does from those to whom he renders *his* professional services. There exists a true spirit of brotherhood with our profession generally but, hitherto, we have never given vent to our sympathies with those of our calling who need it. Here we have a golden

* Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, A. Ph. A., Rapid City meeting, 1929. Read by title.

opportunity of doing so at a trifling cost of one dollar per year from each registered pharmacist. For this amazingly small sum we not only insure each one of us against sickness and impoverished old age, but in doing so, create a *National Pharmacy Welfare Fund* that will show the world how we do things in America.

This fund should find a home in the Pharmacy Headquarters, from whence will flow loving sympathy and practical help for those who are sick, incapacitated through old age or other causes.

In this spirit of "one for all—and all for one" we can add more dignity and respect for our profession and incidentally to each member of the profession who may go about his business feeling that should misfortunes or sickness overcome him or poverty stare him in the face in his old age, a nation-wide body of *his* brethren stand willing and ready to provide relief and a permanent assistance.

Should this national appeal to the common sense and dignity of our brethren result in action being taken and a committee be proposed, the writer requests that a capable man be picked out as chairman, as he neither deserves this honor nor would he be able to cope with the work entailed, because of age and physical infirmities.

The seed is planted—having the germ of human kindness and sympathy all ready for growth—a growth that may be made to produce the richest fruits for the benefit of our distressed brothers. Independent of a Pharmacy Flag—this National Pharmacy Welfare Fund should be made possible so that *American* pharmacy can function in self respect, dignity and benevolence.

Pharmacy should care for its own!

WHY CANDIDATES FAIL STATE BOARD EXAMINATIONS.*

A STUDY IN DISTRICT NO. 3.

BY RUDOLPH H. RAABE.

When it became generally known that a very high percentage of the graduates of recognized colleges of pharmacy were failing in the State examinations, steps were taken to learn, if possible, the causes of these failures. Plans were made whereby the state examining boards and the colleges could have joint conferences on matter of pharmaceutical interest. One of the first problems discussed was "failures in the state examinations."

In Ohio, the joint conferences between the State boards of pharmacy and the colleges proved very helpful. It gave the examiners an excellent opportunity to get the viewpoint of the colleges and *vice versa*; much good resulted. Discussions along this line in the district and national meetings also proved to be highly worth while and very helpful.

Inasmuch as these discussions (district, state and national) did not reach the instructors in our colleges in the most forceful form, or, perhaps, did not reach them at all, your humble servant decided he would bring this matter to the attention of his teaching staff by placing the following circular and questionnaire before them:

* Section on Education and Legislation, A. PH. A., Rapid City meeting, 1929.