

IDEAS AND IDEALS IN U. S. P. REVISION.

“**WE** reveal to one another what we are by what we do and as a commonplace, none of us can penetrate, except very superficially and often inaccurately, to the motives that actuate. But the motive is three-fourths of the action.”—Alexander MacLaren.

The U. S. Pharmacopœial Convention is over, the work of revising the Pharmacopœia has begun. Each member of the Revision Committee has a responsibility—in a sense he is a Government official, and in public health service. They will discharge the duties assumed, because they understand their responsibilities. The work of revision is of importance because it affects the life and health of the people, and most of the arts and industries—it is a service to mankind. Hence, questions are involved which will not permit members to be dogmatic in rejection or acceptance, or that the view of any individual encompass the whole domain of science and art.

The importance of the Pharmacopœia is attested by the provisions made for its revisions, by its authority in federal and state legislation. It is a book of standards, that may be restricted or broadened, but its fundamental character remains—a standard. The Pharmacopœia is for the guidance of the professions and protection of the public; it is referred to as authority in the courts, by customs inspectors, lawyers and judges; taught in the schools of pharmacy and medicine; is a reference for physicians and an authoritative guide for manufacturers of pharmaceuticals and retail pharmacists.

The work of revision requires men of ability and vision, with an understanding to devise and revise for the best service to the public, the professions and the industries. We are confident the members will measure up to their responsibilities and duties.