

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHARMACY.*

AN ADDRESS BY DR. H. S. WELLCOME,¹ LONDON.

Mr. President and Fellow Members of the American Pharmaceutical Association.—I much regret that in recent years it has not been possible for me to attend the Annual Meetings as often as I wished. However, as a life member for many years, I have never ceased to feel a deep interest in the development and progress of the ASSOCIATION, and have followed closely its admirable work.

It is very encouraging and gratifying to observe the increased progressive spirit manifested in the activities since my last attendance four years ago. It is, indeed, refreshing to see so many virile young men taking a part in the work of the ASSOCIATION.

President Dunning has requested me to make some remarks and offer suggestions regarding the projected American Institute of Pharmacy and the headquarters building.

The plans proposed by Dr. Dunning, Secretary Kelly and their associates on the Committee, are, to my mind, practicable and most admirable. Furthermore, we owe them a deep debt of gratitude for the splendid efforts they have made to finance this proposition. Their success in raising funds for carrying out this scheme is remarkable, especially when we consider the financial conditions which have prevailed during the past several years. I beg you, however, not to forget that still more funds are urgently needed for properly completing this most important undertaking, and to complete it in a manner worthy of our great purpose.

I hope most earnestly that every member of the ASSOCIATION will realize and appreciate the immense benefits to be derived from the consummation of these plans. The lofty aims of this project should commend it to every pharmacist, for its success will mean the regeneration of the practice of pharmacy as a scientific profession, based on ethical standards. Such regeneration will secure to professional scientific pharmacists proper recognition amongst the learned professions.

To-day the world appears to be at the beginning of a new era, with amazing discoveries and new developments in every branch of science.

On every hand we see marvelous inventions in mechanics, notably air flight, radio, television, etc., all leading to anticipation of still greater discoveries in the near future; but, in participating in this great advance, we are most concerned in the recent wonderful scientific discoveries associated with the healing art, such as medicine, surgery, chemistry, bacteriology, pharmacy, etc.

This great awakening of the mental faculties of man, unraveling for us the infinite secrets of nature, indicates unlimited possibilities of continuous advancement. These marvelous achievements should arouse and inspire us to use wisely the talents God has given us—that we may win the goal and accomplish much in our field of operations for the betterment of mankind.

In these days no one can afford to stand still with closed eyes. All departments of science are in the race, and we are merely at the beginning.

* See Minutes of the House of Delegates, June JOUR. A. PH. A., page 642.

¹ Founder of the Museum of Medical Science and of the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum, London.

All pharmacists are deeply concerned in the possibilities of these scientific developments, and should realize the vital importance of keeping abreast of this mighty wave of progress.

Those who are inspired with lofty ambitions must qualify themselves for the attainment of higher scientific standards, and will thus deserve and secure due recognition by the medical profession and the scientific world generally.

The Government officials in Washington who are responsible for advising on the allotment of sites in the specially reserved locations, have assured us that they realize the national importance of the activities of the American Institute of Pharmacy for the advancement of science and the raising of the status of professional pharmacy. They also manifest appreciation of the advantages of having the headquarters building with permanent officials located in Washington, as this will facilitate intercourse with Government departments in respect to legislation and other important official matters affecting the interest of pharmacists.

The location selected for the proposed building is unique and certainly one of the most beautiful sites in Washington, being situated close to the Academy of Science and directly facing the Lincoln Memorial.

The authorities are favorable to this project, but they require that the building on this selected site must be architecturally imposing and worthy of being grouped with the Lincoln Memorial and other stately buildings which surround it.

For generations this building will remain a noble temple of scientific pharmacy. Therefore, it should be adequate to provide for future developments.

Incidentally, I might mention that this site provides solid surface rock foundation which will greatly lessen the cost of construction.

Washington has become a Mecca to which people make pilgrimages from all parts of America and of the world, and the home of the Institute should be one to compel attention and command respect.

President Dunning has requested me to make some suggestions regarding a museum in the headquarters building.

The dimensions of the building indicated in the tentative sketch design are, I believe, inadequate, especially when we look to the future.

I believe it to be of great practical and scientific importance that adequate space should be set apart for two museums.

One museum should contain a complete collection of materia medica specimens of the highest grade to serve as standards of quality for the purpose of comparison and test; and as complete a collection as possible of specimens of lower grades of materia medica of inferior quality and specimens that are adulterated or sophisticated, also for the purpose of comparison and test.

A collection of standardized medical, chemical and pharmaceutical products would also be of great value for the purpose of comparison and test.

Such a museum of materia medica, medicinal, chemical and pharmaceutical products, for comparison and test, would be invaluable to research workers and to pharmacists generally.

I have no doubt the materia medica departments of the colleges of pharmacy throughout the United States would be glad to cooperate and perhaps present these specimens to the American Institute of Pharmacy.

As to the second museum, I suggest that the American Institute of Pharmacy

should have an historical pharmacy museum in the headquarters building. There is in America a rare opportunity to secure historical pharmacy material connected with the practice of pharmacy from the time of the earliest settlements in the new world. Such opportunities do not exist in the countries of Europe where history goes back for thousands of years, and where comparatively few objects from the most ancient periods have been preserved. You have here a chance to make collections of historical objects of surpassing interest. The ideal place for such a museum is in this building.

The Library of the American Institute of Pharmacy should be as complete as possible in technical and historical works relating to pharmacy, chemistry and allied subjects, and would be one of the most important features of this institution. The educative value of such a library cannot be over-estimated.

In regard to the museum and library great care should be taken to avoid exposure to the direct rays of the sun. Manuscripts, printed books, materia medica and other museum specimens are liable to be seriously damaged and even destroyed if strict precautions are not taken in this respect.

I want to make this suggestion: that in this museum there should be a gallery where the portraits of those who have done great things in the development of pharmacy and to whom we owe so much should be placed after they have passed away. None should be placed there by special favor, but only for real merit and beneficial service to mankind.

Practical Research Laboratories with up-to-date equipment are not only desirable but necessary in association with such an institution as this. For various practical reasons they should not be housed in the main building, but should be completely isolated. The preferred practice now in buildings for such purposes as the American Institute of Pharmacy is to have the laboratories, chemical and bacteriological, in an isolated building, thus avoiding fumes and danger from combustible and explosive material, as well as infection from bacteria.

This is a noble and worth-while project.

I earnestly appeal to the members of the ASSOCIATION to wholeheartedly support Dr. Dunning by contributing liberally to this fund. You cannot carry out a scheme like this without money.

Every individual member of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION should feel a deep personal interest and pride in this project, and should do his utmost to assist the committee in raising the necessary funds.

The membership of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION to-day is very large and represents vast assets in capital and income which are increasing year by year.

The population of the United States to-day is more than one hundred and twenty million. Soon the population will be doubled, and it is not difficult to vision the time when it will be trebled and even quadrupled.

While the population and wealth of the nation increases, the number of pharmacists will certainly be quite as rapidly multiplied.

From the practical business side of pharmacy, I believe that every cent contributed to this undertaking will yield many fold in helping to translate our ideals into actualities.

Unless there is a regeneration and a real advancement in the practice of pharmacy along ethical, scientific and professional lines, there will be little hope for young men of intellect who have healthy ambitions for pharmaceutical careers.

The success of the project of the American Institute of Pharmacy will beautifully meet the demands of the situation.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following from the "Eleventh Report of the National Commission of Fine Arts," recently issued, are of interest in connection with Dr. Wellcome's address:

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHARMACY.

"The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION has completed its plans to erect and endow a building to house its organization activities, including a reference library, a historical museum and a research laboratory, all devoted to the advancement of the profession of pharmacy.

"By a vote of the members of the ASSOCIATION, Washington was chosen as the location of this institution, and the property facing on B Street NW between Twenty-Second and Twenty-Third Streets has been selected as the site. Mr. John Russell Pope has been chosen as the architect of the building, which will be a notable addition to the group of buildings along the Mall devoted to the fine arts, science and education.

"The Commission of Fine Arts has been consulted frequently about the design and location of this building, which will be the first of the monumental buildings along B Street to be seen from the Arlington Memorial Bridge and which will be a very important part of the frame of the Lincoln Memorial.

"The design of the building, as prepared by Mr. Pope, conforms to the ideals of the commission, and the commission has approved the design and the plans for its location. The front of the building will be in line with that of the National Academy of Sciences in the adjoining square, and the grounds in front will be treated as those of the academy have been."

A FRAME FOR THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL.

"The elevation of B Street into a monumental thoroughfare, leading from the Capitol westward to the Potomac, a distance of approximately 2½ miles, calls for exceptional care in regard to the treatment of the north side of B Street west of Seventeenth Street (from the Pan American Building to the river). Of the five squares composing this frontage, two are owned by the Government and two are in private hands.

"When the National Academy of Sciences was considering the purchase of a site and the erection of a building, the matter was discussed with the Commission of Fine Arts. It was then determined that the building and grounds should be treated as a portion of a frame for the Lincoln Memorial. With that end in view the building, designed with classical motives, constructed of white marble, should be set well back from the street, with ample gardens in front; this to serve as an example and to establish a standard for other construction in the same area. The result is eminently satisfactory.

"Next this commission learned that a portion of the frontage near Twenty-Third Street had been bought by the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. The organization submitted their design for a building to this commission; it was promptly approved with the understanding that, provided the ASSOCIATION would purchase the remaining frontage in the block, the commission would recommend to Congress the closing of the sub-end of a street in order that their building might be made to line up with the Sciences Building and so preserve the symmetry of the street. In this suggestion the ASSOCIATION promptly acquiesced."



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