

D. B. R. Johnson said that the paper was a splendid one; liberal arts subjects find place in a three-year course, but cultural subjects should be left for the four-year course. He moved that, as requested, the paper be referred to the Committee on Resolutions. The motion was seconded and carried.

See also Chairman Jenkins' address, in this issue of the JOURNAL.

GEORGE THORNDIKE ANGELL, THE FEARLESS PIONEER FOR PURE FOODS, DRUGS AND THE FRIEND OF THOSE WHO COULD NOT SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.*

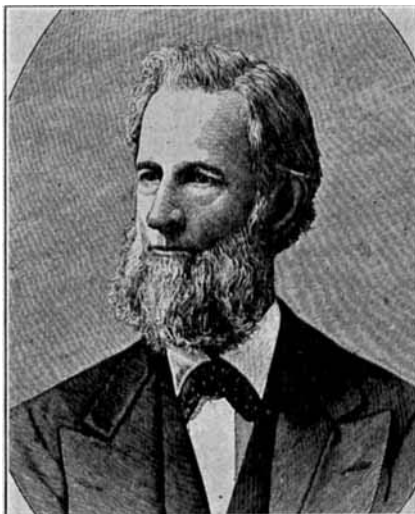
BY L. F. KEBLER.¹

During my delvings into the history of Federal Food and Drug Legislation I read with very great interest about the fearless manner, tenacity and persistence with which this man attacked the debasement of human necessities. Last year while on the way to Portland meeting of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, on looking across the street from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, I read the inscription "Angell Memorial Animal Hospital." I wondered if this was the same man that crusaded for the health of humanity some 50 years ago, and found that it was the same Angell and one of the great worthies of Boston. Now, who is this pioneer?

BRIEF SUMMARY OF ANGELL'S LIFE.

George T. Angell was born at Southbridge, Mass., June 5, 1823, and answered the last call March 16, 1909. His father, George Angell, was a Baptist clergyman, and departed this life before his only child was 4 years old. The boy's mother, Rebekah Thorndike, was the youngest daughter of Lieut. Paul Thorndike. She taught private school at Worcester, Massachusetts at the time of her marriage. The little property she brought to her husband was lost by a man whom they trusted. The father left little property at his death. The mother was again compelled to teach school.

The orphan boy was brought up by relatives, friends and others. His mother had him fitted for college in an academy, at Meriden, N. H. He entered Brown University in 1842, remained there one year and then, on account of the expense, transferred to Dartmouth college, graduating July 30, 1846, with an indebtedness of several hundred dollars to a wealthy relative. A month later he started out with his mother's blessing and a little money to seek his fortune. Of his mother he said, "No man ever had a better mother."



GEORGE T. ANGELL.

* Section on Historical Pharmacy, A. PH. A., Rapid City meeting, 1929.

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The young man had some wealthy and influential relatives but preferred to paddle his own canoe rather than ask their assistance. On his way to Boston he stopped at several places to get work, without success. On arriving at Boston a good uncle, without solicitation, offered him a place in his office. Later he obtained a teaching position, and for three years taught school daytimes and studied law nights and vacations. During this time he paid his college debt, supported his mother and accumulated about \$1200. The next two years were spent in the law office of one of the most eminent lawyers and counsellors of Boston and Harvard Law school.

During the latter part of 1851 he was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts. Immediately thereafter he entered into a pleasant and successful partnership. His income was sufficient to support his mother, furnish her with everything she desired, himself lived comfortably, gave something to charity and accumulated money much beyond any previous anticipations.

After 25 years of legal practice he abandoned his profession and devoted himself to works of public welfare. Angell's immortality rests on his work against the cruelty to animals. In 1872 he married Mrs. Eliza Martin and "thereby secured a good wife and happy home to help in future labors."

The environments in which he was born, reared, educated, lived and practiced, provided verdant soil in which the seed of humanitarianism would grow. They developed the forceful character which stood him so well in hand when he found it necessary to combat the two hardest of all things, an ignorant public and an indifferent Congress. Neither could see the altruistic motive of Mr. Angell in benefiting his fellow man.

CRIME AGAINST PUBLIC HEALTH, 1877.

Angell's attention had for some time past been called to the adulteration of foods, drinks, drugs, poisonous clothing, ornaments, wall paper and culinary ware sold in Massachusetts without restriction. As an attorney and humanitarian it was but natural that he should early advocate town, municipal, state and federal legislation which would provide for the inspection of these commodities. His desire was to protect the ignorant public against the purchase and use of poisonous and adulterated articles, with which the market was filled by clever manufacturers.

Marbleized Iron Ware.—Dr. Hayes, state chemist, called his attention to the poisonous nature of a beautifully mottled new cooking ware. It was loaded with large amounts of soluble lead. The ware found its way into homes, restaurants and hospitals. Something like a hundred thousand dollars worth was on the market. Angell clearly considered it his duty to inform the public. The story was told in the press. The effects were wonderful. The ware became as dead as a door nail. The manufacturers pronounced Angell's statements false and threatened suit for something like a hundred thousand dollars. But a few days later a Harvard chemist came to his rescue and pronounced the ware "alive with poison." This settled the affair. The alleged harmless marbleized ware was taken from the market, at a tremendous monetary loss. The manufacturer was apparently innocent. A chemist seems to have blundered. One unfortunate consequence of this exposure was that the sale of a harmless "Granite Iron ware," resembling the poisonous imitation suffered for the time being.

Poisonous Wall Papers.—About three weeks after the marbled iron episode, he likewise called attention to the poisonous nature of a large variety of colored wall papers, and urged the formation of a "Public Health Association."

SENTIMENT FOR PURE FOODS AND DRUGS DEVELOPING.

The American Grocer for 1869 contained a drastic editorial on the debasement of foods and drugs. The California legislature in 1872 passed the first general food and drug law in the United States. The Western Wholesale Drug Association, from its inception in 1876, hammered away at the adulteration of foods, drugs, chemicals and other commodities. The association condemned the practice. At the 1877 meeting C. F. G. Meyer, one of the great worthies of the pharmaceutical profession, attacked the evil with hammer and tongs. Much more along the same line could be said for this association.

The United States Congress in 1878 made it a misdemeanor for the druggists of the District of Columbia to adulterate their wares. The above and much more could be cited as an immediate background for the activities of Angell.

THE YELLOW FEVER EPIDEMIC OF 1878.

In February of this year, Mr. Angell met Honorable H. Casey Young, member of the U. S. Congress from Memphis, Tenn., one of the heroes who remained in Memphis to help take care of the yellow fever sick and dying the following summer. This contact later enabled Angell to bring to the Congressman's attention the adulteration of foods and poisonous articles on the market.

The same year Angell attended the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association at Richmond, Va. One purpose of attending this meeting was to get action on dangerous and poisonous adulterations. In this he failed because the entire country was greatly alarmed over the spread of yellow fever. It was the dominant topic of the day.

WAR ON ADULTERATIONS, 1879.

On January 8th, of this year, Angell read a paper entitled "Public Health Associations," before the annual meeting of the American Social Science Association. It contained most startling adulteration information. The author intended it to be sensational. His aim was to bring on a war of discussion which would awaken the nation. Large amounts of capital were involved. He expected to be attacked and abused. The paper was published in most of the Boston daily papers. The author sent printed copies to many newspapers and awaited the storm. The battle for which he had been preparing for several years was on. It meant "Some of the hardest work in my life," says Angell. He had enough material to fill a large volume. A Boston chemist and others launched attacks. Thereafter for ten days the *Boston Herald* carried Angell's stories about poisonous and adulterated products. No Boston paper ever attacked him. On the contrary they published his addresses at great length. A leading East-Boston paper devoted eleven and one-half columns to the printing of one of his anti-adulteration addresses. On January 20, 1879, representative H. W. Wright of Pennsylvania introduced the first pure food bill into the United States Congress entitled "A Bill for Preventing

the Adulteration of Articles, of Food and Drink." This bill will be considered in a separate article. One trade paper declared that Angell had attacked every trade in Boston. Angell replied that he had attacked the rascals only.

A public meeting was called in Fanueil Hall to denounce his charges. Angell offered \$25 for the privilege of addressing the gathering. He paid his own way, asked no quarters and gave none.

On March 3, 1879, the United States Congress authorized the organization of a "National Board of Health."

At the regular quarterly March meeting of the United States Board of Trade the Committee to whom was referred the question of the power of the United States Congress to legislate upon the subject of food and drug adulteration, reported that Congress, under the Constitution was empowered "to regulate commerce between the States," can enact all needful legislation and that state legislation alone cannot adequately deal with the problem.

Representative R. L. T. Beale of Virginia introduced the second food adulteration bill, May 23, 1879, entitled "A Bill to Provide for the Welfare of the People in Preventing the Adulteration of Food and Drink." This bill will be considered in a separate article.

An antagonistic trade paper compared him (Angell) with an old clock which, once wound up, would never stop striking. Angell liked the simile and prepared to strike again and he certainly did strike. He prepared with great pains another and longer paper than the first one. This he read before the national meeting of the American Social Science Association, September 10, 1879, where it would be widely reported, unless suppressed by some trick. I may say that the association never published any of Angell's adulteration addresses in its journals. Angell apparently profited by experience. He had his address set up in type in advance and sent slips to the leading papers of the country. The next day Angell found that the Associated Press agent was arranged with not to report the paper. The agent said later that he had been deceived by a New Yorker who pronounced Angell's adulteration statements false. Before the meeting closed, however, newspapers containing the address were being circulated. This upset the New Yorker's calculations who exclaimed, "Now the d--- thing would travel all over the country." He was about right; it did travel rather widely in the public press.

ANGELL'S DETERMINATION MAKES AN IMPRESSION.

As the result of the adulteration agitation the National Board of Trade at its annual meeting in Washington adopted a resolution offering \$1000 in three prizes for a draft of a "Food Adulteration Act." The preamble of the resolution reads in part as follows:

"Whereas the Public mind has of late been considerably agitated about the alleged adulteration of food, and whereas the question of pure and wholesome food and drink is one of great importance to the people of the United States."

The National Board of Health's report (1879) on Adulteration contained Dr. E. R. Squibb's draft of a proposed law for the states to control the adulteration of foods and medicines.

"THE BATTLE WITH THE CHEMISTS AT SARATOGA" 1880.

Public attention had been attracted to adulteration; the press was publishing much on the subject; Angell was called on to give information and write articles; adulteration interests involving millions were aroused, and chemists from various parts of the country were to gather at the next annual meeting of the American Social Science Association, to refute Angell's charges. So he quietly packed his trunk with the adulteration evidence, went to a quiet spot in the mountains and got ready for the fray. He determined to spread the facts he had gathered before the people, if it took five years. The battle came on September 8th. The chemists put in their evidence, which was in substance that there was little dangerous adulteration. Angell was a director of the association and therefore had the privilege of both opening and closing the discussion. He appeared to have overwhelming evidence from chemists, microscopists and health offices. The chemists apparently were no match for this seasoned, worthy, experienced protagonist in this contest. Angell made a number of propositions to the chemists but none were accepted.

SPENDS WINTER IN WASHINGTON TO BRING ADULTERATION BEFORE CONGRESS.

Angell found many obstacles and plenty of hard work after his arrival in Washington. A letter he had written President Hayes was sent to the National Board of Health and found its way into the hands of the New Yorker who had manipulated the Associated Press to suppress one of his papers. A lobbyist was put to work. The Washington papers gave him no aid. An officer of the National Board of Health assured him that if he (Angell) expected to do anything in Washington by way of stopping adulteration, he was mistaken and a prominent lawyer told him that considering the political influence and vast capital involved, the job was as hopeless as storming the Rock of Gibraltar. Congressmen received circulars warning them to have nothing to do with him. By dint of constant pertinacious aggressiveness, he succeeded in having a hearing appointed, but not enough members put in an appearance to make a quorum and nothing could be done. At the end of 1880 he had made no visible progress in Washington. Many were sympathetic with the work but no Congressman "was willing to do battle against the great political and finance power of adulteration."

While it may be true that Angell saw no tangible results at that time, it is clearly evident that the indifference and opposition were weakening.

PRIZES ON "FOOD ADULTERATION ACT" ESSAYS AWARDED.

This is not the place to discuss this subject in detail. The first prize of \$500 was awarded the latter part of this year to G. W. Wigner of England. His essay provided drafts of proposed Federal and State Laws, plans of enforcement, enforcing bodies, standards, penalties, etc.

The report of the committee on awards embodies a draft of a proposed Food and Drug law adapted to the United States, based on Dr. Wigner's essay, together with a memorial to Congress transmitting the bill and requesting its early enactment. Nothing came of this bill.

THE COMMITTEE ON EPIDEMIC DISEASES BOMB-PROOF, 1881.

Hon. Casey Young, chairman of this committee, and Angell were on very pleasant terms. The committee was composed largely of southern representatives, who were not afraid of the political influence of the New York lobbyists. Angell went to Representative Young and laid the whole matter before him. His antagonists never suspected Angell of bringing the adulteration matter before the committee on yellow fever. Casey Young was sympathetic and declared that Congress and the country should have, through a report of his committee, the evidence Angell desired to submit. At the request of the Representative, Angell drew up the following petition:

"PETITION TO CONGRESS.

"To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

"The petition of George T. Angell of Boston, in the State of Massachusetts, counsellor-at-law, respectfully represents, That, during the past five years, he has devoted much time to the careful investigation of the manufacture and sale of poisonous and adulterated foods, and other poisonous and dangerously adulterated articles, in American markets, and has gathered a very large amount of evidence showing such manufacture and sale; that he has, at different times, read three papers upon this subject before the American Social Science Association, of which he is a director, at its annual meetings, and more recently a fourth paper before the Boston Board of Trade, receiving a unanimous vote of thanks from that body; that he is fully prepared to prove that there is, at the present time, an enormous sale, in our markets, of articles poisonously and dangerously adulterated, endangering the lives and health of large numbers of the American people. Wherefore, he prays that a Congressional committee, or commission, may be appointed to carefully investigate, consider and report on this subject.

Geo. T. Angell.

Washington, Jan. 22, 1881."

ANGELL'S MISSION IN WASHINGTON ON SOLID FOUNDATION.

On January 24th, the Congressman from Tennessee, introduced the petition in the House of Representatives and had it referred to his committee. Down came the lobbyist from New York who had tried to suppress Angell's paper at Saratoga. There was plenty of wire-pulling but the committee was bomb-proof. Angell appeared before the committee January 27th and 28th and February 3rd, at which time the committee reported in favor of a bill prepared by Mr. Young appointing a commission, and appropriating \$20,000 to study the question of adulteration. The next day, February 4th, Casey Young presented the report, Number 199, 46th Congress, 3rd Session, entitled "Adulteration of Food," from the committee, in the House, with about 100 pages of Angell's manuscript attached, which was accepted, referred to the House Calendar and ordered printed. The report accompanying H. R. bill 7005, consists of 19 printed pages of exceedingly well-digested and compiled information on the debasements of human necessities.

The introduction to report of committee is printed in the preceding article on page 596 of the June JOURNAL.

CONGRESSIONAL REPORT ON ADULTERATION CIRCULATED.

Congress printed about a thousand copies. Angell at his own expense printed five thousand more and made arrangements for the distribution of 100,000 copies of the greater part of the report. For weeks Angell and his wife were busy mailing copies to all parts of the world. He says:

"We sent them to members of Congress, to nearly all the leading newspapers of the country, to the hundreds of medical gentlemen all over the country belonging to the "American Public Health Association," to chemists, microscopists and scientific men, to granges, to foreign ministers and consuls, in fact, to everybody that, during several weeks, we could think of, who might have influence."

PUBLIC PETITIONS CONGRESS FOR PROTECTION.

The entire nation was stirred up. Eighteen petitions and resolutions coming from various sections of the United States requesting the passage of a Federal law prohibiting the adulteration of food and drugs were spread on the records of the 46th Congress, 3rd Session, 1880-1881, and twelve such petitions were recorded during the 1st Session of the 47th Congress.

Bills prohibiting Food and Drug Adulteration were introduced in 1881 by Representatives J. R. Hawley of Connecticut; A. A. Hardenbaugh of New Jersey; R. P. Flower of New York and Senator Warner Miller of New York. A Congressional Report (1882), R. H. Horr of Michigan, chairman, dealing with various phases of the subject, was made by the Committee on Commerce, to which was referred the Flower Bill; also reported amended bill which was ordered printed.

The report considers public health and morals, standards, states rights, interstate commerce, importation of adulterated foods and drugs, commercial enterprises and the medical profession's need of pure medicine.

The above shows what one determined individual of proper capacity and means can accomplish. Angell and many others thought the day for the passage of a food and drug law was at hand. In this they were all mistaken. Angell ceased activities, in fact disappeared completely from the picture, so far as food and drug legislation was concerned. One cannot help but feel that with the momentum acquired, if Angell had continued his aggressiveness, a Federal law would have been enacted within a short time, rather than a quarter of a century later.

STATE ASSOCIATIONS.

The state associations, with few exceptions, hold their annual meetings during the summer months and the greater number of these meetings have been held. It is pleasing to note that the attendance has been very good and the programs indicate a progressive, coöperative endeavor in the promotion of pharmacy. It is noted that quite a number of the resolutions which were adopted at the Baltimore meeting of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION struck a responsive chord and were embodied and adjusted in the resolutions passed by the state associations, all of which indicates the coördinating influence of the House of Delegates and also the value of contact through the Conference of Pharmaceutical Association Secretaries. The Conference of Law Enforcement Officials promises to serve both associations and Boards of Pharmacy in a related way.

Members of the associations will find much to interest them in the minutes now being published in the JOURNAL; it is regretted that only brief references, chiefly names of new officers, can be made at this time to the transactions of state associations. Opportunity is taken to congratulate those that have held their sessions on their helpful work and to extend good wishes to other associations, that are to meet later, for successful and profitable conventions.

The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION seeks in every way possible to be of service, and it is pleasing to note that there is a general indication of growing interest in professional pharmacy and a realization that the successful promotion of pharmacy results not only from the developed capacities of its votaries, but is equally dependent upon their active coöperation in state and national endeavors and of the respective organizations.