

Papers Presented to Local Branches

THE A. PH. A. BUILDING.*

JOSEPH W. ENGLAND.

Probably the most important subject that came before the Nashville meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association was the subject of permanent headquarters for the Association, referred to in the address of President William B. Day, as follows:

"The steady growth of our Association and the constantly increasing scope of its efforts for pharmacy have combined to emphasize the need of a center around which these activities may be grouped and from which they may be guided to greater success. Such a nucleus would be afforded by the proposed A. Ph. A. Home.

"Let it be clearly understood at the outset that this much desired home is not a charitable institution! We are not competing with other associations who may wish to establish homes for aged, infirm or indigent druggists. The home that we are striving for is to be the headquarters of a virile organization just awakening to a realization of its power and its manifold possibilities and determined to prove its strength in developing the true pharmaceutical spirit among the druggists of our land!

"The building which we hope to erect soon, need not be large nor the site costly. Rather it must be well-located where facilities necessary to the work may be provided to advantage. There should be ground sufficient to permit of future additions. The location should be in a large city, convenient to the majority of the members and where facilities will be afforded for printing and binding the publications of the Association. The quarters must be large enough to provide offices for the Journal, suitable space for a library, a laboratory and a museum, as well as storage rooms for the stock of publications and for other property of the Association. Necessarily the building should be of fireproof construction.

"The financial problem, then, is to raise a fund sufficient to purchase a site, erect a building and provide for its maintenance. It has been suggested that \$50,000 would be needed for the first two purposes and the possibility that the income from the permanent funds of the Association will take care of the item of maintenance—at least for a time.

"The sentiment of the Association is apparently strongly in favor of the projected home and the raising of a sufficient fund should not be exceptionally difficult.

"An appeal to our members and to pharmacists generally would no doubt

* Read before the Philadelphia Branch, Oct. 9, 1913.

meet with a generous response. The subject should be thoroughly discussed in our sessions and an expression from the House of Delegates should be secured."

This subject, with others, was referred to the Committee on President's Address, which reported as follows:

"We recommend that the Council be instructed to continue consideration of the project of a building to serve as a headquarters for the Association. In this connection the committee suggests that the prospective structure be called the "A. Ph. A. Building," hereafter, because of the ambiguity of the word "home," which has been used."

The recommendation was approved by the Association in general session assembled, and referred to the Council.

Scarcely had this recommendation been adopted when William R. White, of Nashville, presented to the Council the following proposition:

"On behalf of the Nashville Industrial Bureau, I am authorized to offer to the American Pharmaceutical Association the right and title of either of the following tracts of land:

"First, a lot situated on Wedgewood Avenue about one quarter mile from The Tennessee State Fair Grounds within one hundred feet of the tracks of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, and on the street car line leading to said Fair Grounds, about two miles south of the Public Square; said tract to consist of one half acre or more, being a part of the four and one half acre tract now owned by the Nashville Industrial Bureau, or

"Second, a lot situated on North Third Avenue within one hundred and fifty feet of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, and in close proximity to the tracks of the Nashville and Chattanooga and the Tennessee Central Railroads, one mile north of the public Square, containing about one half acre.

"Provided, the said American Pharmaceutical Association agrees to build an appropriate building on either of these lots that it may select, to be used as the Headquarters of the Association, Secretary and Editor, and in which it will operate laboratories for experimental purposes and keep its stock of supplies, etc."

The offer of the Industrial Bureau of Nashville was received by the Council and placed on record for future consideration.

The Council is now in a receptive attitude and speaking for this body I can say that it will be most pleased to receive and give careful consideration to any and all propositions that may be made to it looking towards the establishment of an A. Ph. A. building or headquarters.

To secure such an establishment one of several methods could be employed, as follows: (1) the Association could invite subscriptions and when sufficient funds were obtained purchase a site and erect the building; (2) the Association could purchase a site and invite subscriptions with which to erect the building, later; or (3) the Association could invite offers of sites (similar to the Nashville offer) or offers of site and building.

Probably the most difficult task, in the absence of specific offers, will be to select a site that will be acceptable to the majority of the members, but this should not be impossible, and doubtless will not be, in view of the splendid

loyalty of the members of the Association. All will doubtless agree with Prof. Day that the building should be located in a large city, reasonably convenient to the majority of the members, with good libraries and museums, and where facilities exist for printing and binding the publications of the Association; but which shall be the fortunate city—Philadelphia, Washington, D. C., Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Columbus, Nashville, Indianapolis, Chicago, Minneapolis or St. Louis?

There is no doubt as to the imperative need of the Association for permanent headquarters: Its headquarters now are wherever the General Secretary happens to reside. Under the able direction of General Secretary Beal, the work of the Association is growing rapidly, but the Association will never grow as it should until it has a plant of its own wherein it can carry on its work more efficiently than is possible under present conditions.

With the creation of the Commission on Proprietary Medicines by the Association at the Nashville (1913) Meeting the necessity of a research laboratory for the Association will become most apparent. While the work of the commission for the first year or two will be simply to gather facts, the time will come when the statements of facts obtained will have to be supplemented by laboratory experimentation.

Furthermore, the Year Book, containing the Report on the Progress of Pharmacy, could be greatly enhanced in value if supplemented by original research work in the laboratories of the Association, and such laboratories could be utilized, also, for the preparation or investigation of data for the Committee on U. S. Pharmacopoeia, the committee on National Formulary, and the Committee on Unofficial Standards of the Association.

In addition, the marked success of the Journal of the Association emphasizes the great need of headquarters in which the printing work of the Association can be more systematically and economically handled.

The Association will never exert that degree of influence it can and should have in the furtherance of the object for which it stands until it has permanent headquarters; and it is urged upon every one interested in American Pharmacy to give this subject his earnest, constructive thought to the end that the way may be found to provide the needed facilities and advance the interests of our profession, a profession which, in the importance of its service to humanity, stands second to none, not even to the sister profession of medicine.

THE A. PH. A. COMMISSION ON PROPRIETARY MEDICINES.*

CHARLES E. VANDERKLEED.

On August 19, 1913, at the second general session of the American Pharmaceutical Association at Nashville, the report of the minutes of the Council announced that this body had decided to appoint a commission on proprietary medicines, the commission to consist of five members appointed for terms of from one to five years. and subsequently for five years each. As I am not a

* Read before the Philadelphia Branch, Oct. 17, 1913