

owes it to itself to prevent this, using some of the profits accruing from the book in question for employing a competent laboratory worker to try out the accepted recipe before it is definitely sponsored by the Association, and such a worker will need a laboratory. Then too, such a laboratory would prove a boon to the many earnest workers at smaller institutions which lack proper research and library facilities. This hindrance to their talents means a distinct loss to pharmaceutical progress and to such men the facilities of the proposed laboratory should be extended, of course, under proper restrictions.

And so let us all give the project of the A. Ph. A. our careful attention and after the plan has been worked out in sufficient detail to show its feasibility let us, each and every one, do our best to bring the idea into realization.

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### THE PROPOSED A. PH. A. HOME.\*

H. M. WHELPLEY, PH. G., M. D., ST. LOUIS.

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It is not necessary to study political economy nor social science in order to learn that the citizen who has a home is a more desirable part of the body politic than the one who is adrift in the world without fixed abode. The man who owns his home is better prepared for good citizenship than he who rents from a landlord.

I hold that in respect to usefulness the same conditions apply to organizations of the class to which belongs the A. Ph. A.

It is true that the society has lived and prospered and served the calling of pharmacy well for sixty-one years without occupying a real home, much less owning one. This is true because the membership has been such that difficulties and lack of facilities did not discourage the officers and committees in doing the best they could under the circumstances. The good work of the six decades has been accomplished in spite of the fact that the A. Ph. A. did not provide a parental roof for headquarters. What might have been done if a home had been established in 1852 and maintained up to date is a matter of legitimate and perhaps profitable speculation. But it is my purpose to concentrate your attention on the demands of the present and the possibilities of the future.

Pharmacy has passed through many changes since the A. Ph. A. was organized to "improve the quality of medicines in the market and encourage proper relations between pharmacists, physicians and the public; to regulate apprenticeship, suppress empiricism, create and maintain standards of authority in education, theory and practice of pharmacy and last but not least to afford the greatest protection to the public."

With conditions as they are today in pharmacy and medicine, the A. Ph. A. with its avowed purpose has new opportunities and must meet new demands and accept new duties.

The A. Ph. A. is the only organization in the world where any reputable person sufficiently interested in the welfare of pharmacy to ask admission and

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\*Read at the February 28 meeting of the St. Louis Branch of the A. Ph. A.

willing to subscribe to and observe the constitution and by-laws is welcome. Can you imagine a more cosmopolitan pharmaceutical body. A place where we find working for the common good, the apprentice, clerk, proprietor, jobber, manufacturer, teacher, author, editor and consultant. As first pointed out by Secretary Beal, it is the "great clearing house in American pharmacy."

An A. Ph. A. home would first of all emphasize the permanency and make more apparent the stability of the organization.

The historical instinct is asserting itself among the American people and with a fireproof home we can collect and preserve the important material which pharmacists should contribute to the history of their country.

The organizers of the A. Ph. A. little realized the possibilities of the National Formulary. With a well equipped laboratory at headquarters, the work of revising this authority can be greatly facilitated. The work on the A. Ph. A. Recipe Book will also be furthered if an experimental laboratory is at hand for the final proving of the formulas.

With the continued growth of the A. Ph. A. would come additional facilities for the development of activities within the scope of the A. Ph. A. but not possible as long as we are confined to itinerant headquarters.

Lastly, the spirit of patriotism which suggests honoring the memory of such men as Procter, Parrish, Maisch, Rice, Curtman, Ebert, Hallberg and Cook, spurs us on to work for the future of pharmacy and the even greater development of the A. Ph. A. What more fitting memorial can be erected to the memory of those who lived and labored for pharmacy, than a permanent home for the headquarters of the A. Ph. A., its official periodical and other publications?

The association has special funds which will grow more rapidly under home influence and maternal guidance. The A. Ph. A. holds about fifty thousand dollars in permanent, trust and current funds and this has been collected in spite of the fact that "a rolling stone gathereth no moss."

The fund necessary to build the home should represent contributions from every interest in legitimate pharmacy.

The question of a location need not now be discussed. Let us do our part towards providing the ways and means for the home.

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#### TINCTURE OF IODINE.\*

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L. F. KEBLER, CHIEF DRUG DIVISION, BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

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This commodity has probably been examined more frequently than any other simple drug offered for sale by the retail trade, and I know of no medicinal agent which has more frequently been found wanting. Observations and investigations have frequently shown that when iodine was dissolved in simple ethyl alcohol there was a great tendency for the iodine to be changed into hydriodic acid and other compounds, thus actually lowering the free iodine content, and the

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\* Read before the City of Washington Branch, February 12, 1913.