

dation and concentration of effort could be made, and that it would be the part of wisdom for us to lay aside our petty contentions and to work for this reform.

The foregoing suggestions are not offered with the idea that they will be favorably received by the present generation, but simply as the outgrowth of the writer's experience and observation.

DISCUSSION.

Dr. Albert Schneider, of San Francisco, stated that he approved most heartily of the remarks made by Mr. Beal, from a theoretical standpoint. He certainly approved of the centralization of power. If he had his own way about it, he would centralize all that in himself. It had been demonstrated in actual practice that it would not often do to attempt to administer the pure food and drug laws under one head. In California they were administered by the State Board of Health, and they had found it fairly satisfactory, for the reason that the doctors there were very fine men, "the best in the United States," were interested in the health of the state, and were doing most excellent work. But, unfortunately, they knew little about the purity of drugs.

Dr. H. H. Rusby, of New York City, said he approved of Mr. Beal's paper from a practical point of view, and believed it was the only practical way the thing could be worked out; and he wishes to add that he believed every municipality, every town, should have its own board to cooperate with the State Board, or they would not accomplish anything. The agitation must be kept going until the people in the neighborhood became interested enough to have their cow-stables cleaned and free from disease germs, and their ice cream of a suitable character.

SOME REFLECTIONS CONCERNING LEGAL AND MORAL STANDARDS.

WILHELM BODEMANN.

This is the age of specialization—and yet, as I undertake to write you a few remarks on legislation I find that some legislative work is a veritable campaign of education, and branches into commercial channels also. I am driven to the conclusion that the efforts to maintain living prices may as well be abandoned, there is too much lack of decision and cohesion in our ranks, even some of the so-called leaders preach maintenance of prices and practice "cutting." But there is one legislative stunt that can be tried that will and must result in better prices and diminish cutting; as it is the honest man suffers, the dishonest man rakes in the business and decent pharmacy is put to shame. The great A. Ph. A. should leave no effort untried to place the testing of drugs and pharmaceutical products with competent and independent Food and Drug Commissions, and change the Pharmacy Laws accordingly. One instance may suffice: Solution of magnesium citrate in larger cities is cut to 15 and 20 cents per bottle. It cannot be prepared according to U. S. P. to be sold at that price. But it is sold at that price, and made from magnesium sulphate, ordinary epsom salt!!

Some of our larger cities are cursed with a heavy percentage of druggists whose regard for the orthodox and antique creed of honesty and decency is absolutely nil—a class of undesirables who consider it smart and up-to-date to beat a competitor by ways that are mean and tricks that are dark! If this class of

"outlaws" could be made "inlaws" by compelling U. S. P. standards, cutting on many products would be stopped at once. This applies to spirit of camphor, tincture of iodine and similar products, cut by the "Cheap Johns" in proportion to the percentage of adulteration. Many of our Boards know of these things, but either are not equipped with the Laboratory to test products, or are not equipped with the ability, or lack courage to enforce the law. And we all agree that an *unenforced law is worse than none*. Now see where the commercial result of this shift to an energetic Food Commissioner, independent of commercial connections, would land. It would compel these cheap "Calico Johns" to come up to decent prices, and remove from the honest, law-abiding pharmacist the stigma of overcharging his patrons for full standard goods. I would therefore urge the A. Ph. A. to join hands with the various State Associations, the N. A. R. D., and the various Medical Boards to put the U. S. P. standard up as a goal, and put it up to stay!!

Talking about standard brings back to my mind the cry I have listened to for these many years, "Raise the Standard."

Our City Schools have just closed for the summer vacation, and a bunch of eighth-grade boy graduates presented themselves for work. I let them do some figuring, and here is a fair example: What does a box of 50 cigars cost me at \$75.00 per thousand, 5 and 3 off? One boy threw up the sponge after ten hard trials. Nine boys figured out the net price higher than the list price. Now what can you do with such a set of hopeless cripples? What earthly good can a diploma from such schools do when such boys can demand recognition of their parchment! Our schools need touching from bottom up; there is too much attention to branches and to little to roots! That's the curse! Such pharmaceutical cripples (adopting the Searby nomenclature) are a danger to the professional side of pharmacy and an equally great danger to the commercial side, because such a Stoughton Bottle will not know when he is selling goods at a loss, and at the close of my paper I am again at the starting point, when I say that in spite of specialization, commercial, educational and legislative standards, all run into *one* channel, the great river of enlightened honesty and decency.

THE JUDGMENT OF THE MAJORITY.

The benefactors of humanity have paid a heavy penalty to Ignorance for the privilege of helping the world along.

We have cluttered the avenues of progress with incredulity—we have heaped discouragement upon the head of every adventurer who went prospecting into the Hills of Chance.

Had advancement been regulated by the judgment of the majority, we would now be luxuriating in the comforts and conveniences of the pre-Arthurian period—the Twentieth Century would be a thousand years overdue—we would continue to celebrate new thought with human bonfires, and the prevailing religion would be the worship of the golden ass.—*Herbert Kaufman*.