

EDITORIAL

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DR. FREDERICK HOFFMANN said in his comprehensive address at the 50th anniversary meeting of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION: "It is a credit to the pharmacists that the disappointment experienced in consequence of the failure of the drug law to promptly and efficiently remedy the inferiority of the drug market induced them to take united action, which resulted in the formation of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

The convention of 1852, in Philadelphia, resulted in the organization of the body which has ever since exerted its endeavor in the promotion of pharmacy, seeking always to serve the body-pharmaceutic and thereby the public in the betterment of public health and welfare.

"A plan presented to both the American Medical Association and the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION at their annual meeting in Philadelphia in the year 1876, that the former Association take absolute charge of the further revision and publication of the Pharmacopœia, was rejected by the Medical Association at its subsequent meeting in Chicago in the year 1877, while the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION promptly adopted a resolution at its meeting in Toronto, as the representative organization of American Pharmacy, henceforth to undertake, or at least to more efficiently participate in the decennial revisions and the editing of the United States Pharmacopœia."

In the enactment of the Pure Food and Drugs Act, in 1906, the National Formulary became a legal standard. As Dr. J. H. Beal said in his address at the St. Louis meeting of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION: "The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION not only substantially re-created and insured the continuation of the United States Pharmacopœia as an independent publication, and almost wholly created the National Formulary, but when the Federal Food and Drugs act was enacted in 1906, it succeeded in securing the adoption of these two volumes as Standards of the Act, which has been followed in turn in all state food and drug departments."

"In thus securing the adoption of the Pharmacopœia and National Formulary as legal standards, the ASSOCIATION rendered one of the greatest possible services to the whole of pharmacy, and saved it from the menace of constantly changing standards of bureaucratic creation."

In 1915 the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION undertook a study of so-called patent medicines (see JOURNAL for 1915) and, as a result, decided improvements in the composition and advertising literature followed. It will thus be recognized that the ASSOCIATION has always sought to render service in the matter of public health and betterment of pharmacy.

More recently the "Pharmaceutical Recipe Book has been published with a purpose of standardizing as far as possible formulas not officially recognized. Surveys are being carried on to determine the extent of prescription practice. The Conferences of Pharmaceutical secretaries and Law Enforcement Officials are engaged in rendering a better service in the respective fields. Thus the ASSOCIATION

is constantly engaged in improving pharmacy, developing its research, in its practice and educational advancement; its 1932 program of action is concerned with every phase of the profession.

INFLUENCES THAT PROMOTE ENDEAVOR.

A MULTIPLICITY of legislative proposals brought about the formation of the National Drug Trade Conference; it resulted in bringing together the divisions of pharmacy and the drug industries. At the meeting of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, in Denver (1912), it was proposed that a conference be called, made up of delegates from the various national pharmaceutical associations to consider the subject of legislation, both state and national, in its relation to pharmacy. The conference met in Washington, D. C., January 1913, with John C. Wallace as temporary chairman and James H. Beal as temporary secretary.

Five national bodies were represented by delegates: The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, the National Wholesale Druggists' Association, the National Association of Manufacturers of Pharmaceutical Products, The American Association of Pharmaceutical Chemists and the National Association of Retail Druggists.

A purpose of the Conference was indicated by the presence of Dr. Hamilton Wright and Hon. Burton Harrison, who had a large part in the proposed national anti-narcotic legislation; Martin I. Wilbert, as representative of the American Medical Association, was tendered the privileges of the floor. As a result of the initiatory work of the Conference this legislation was passed in better form than would have resulted without the efforts of this body—an exemplification of what may be accomplished by united endeavor.

The code of rules and regulations of the Conference stated that the objects of the body "shall be to consider and report to the respective constituent organizations represented therein upon matters of legislation, or upon any other matters of national and general importance to the drug trade."

"The Conference will not assume to express the views of, nor to bind its respective organizations, except in so far as it may be authorized so to do by such constituent organizations."

Since then, 1913, the conference has admitted other organizations as follows: The Proprietary Association, National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and the Federal Wholesale Druggists' Association. Many important actions have resulted since its organization meeting and a number of important proposals are being brought into shape. The value of the efforts of the Conference has been and is in bringing the bodies represented, in a united front, to the support of measures being promoted by one or the other or all of the constituent organizations; or, equally important, to take a firm stand against selfish or ill-advised efforts that do injury to pharmacy's part in public health service.

Dr. James H. Beal, at the San Francisco meeting of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION (1915) said in part: "We desire to advance our professional and business interests because we are human, but we desire also to advance

the general public interest; first, because we are good citizens, and second, because we realize that class advantage gained at the expense of the general welfare can have only ephemeral existence, and that in the end the holders of special privileges must come to disaster.

"Pharmacy ought not to have, and I believe does not want, coddling legislation or special privileges gained at the expense of the remainder of the community. If the art of the pharmacist survives, it will be because it is able to serve the material interests of society better than the instrumentalities which seek to supplant it. Unless it can justify its existence by serving some useful part in the grand purpose of things we must expect it to pass like other arts that have outlived their usefulness."

"The only logical foundation for a law regulating admission to the practice of pharmacy is the necessity of protecting society against the consequences which might be expected to follow the dispensing of drugs and poisons by ignorant persons, or by persons so morally perverted that they will readily lend themselves to the service of evil, which, owing to the peculiar nature of the business, can be carried on with comparative immunity against detection. If the above reason be the true one, and the imposition of certain educational and moral tests upon those who desire to engage in the business of selling drugs and poisons does really minister to public security, then existence of the law is justified, and the only important problem is to determine the height of the educational wall which must be climbed by those seeking admission. Doubtless, the public advantage would be served by raising this wall to such a height that only those who were educated to the very highest degree of efficiency and of the very highest type morally would be granted the privilege of compounding and dispensing drugs, medicines and poisons.

"Such would be the character of the tests imposed in a theoretically perfect state, but we do not have a theoretically perfect state to experiment with, and therefore must fit our requirements to the present imperfect one. In other words, our ideals are subject to the practical limitations imposed by the necessity of fitting them into the social state in its present imperfect condition."

The responsibility of members to the pharmaceutical profession is in the support given to its organizations so that these may function properly; coöperation means not only support but insistence in protecting public health and promoting general welfare and that the individuals be not swerved by selfish motives. Taken as a whole, pharmacy has an enviable record in public health matters and promotion of general welfare; it has, invariably as a group service, placed these efforts above individual interests. The records on anti-narcotic legislation prove the pharmacists' high purpose relative to restriction of pharmaceutical practice; the members have not been sufficiently militant in insisting on their rights in carrying on their duties.

The last meeting of the National Drug Trade Conference exemplified that whenever all interests of the Conference disinterestedly put on a united front, success is reasonably certain. An abstracted report of the meeting appears in the December JOURNAL, page 1358.

"I know of no profession, no matter how high its ideals nor advanced its code of ethics, that does not have among its practitioners some who are not motivated by these ideals and professional ethics."