EDITORIAL

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YOUR PART IN THE CHICAGO WORLD'S FAIR.

CHAIRMAN H. C. Christensen reports that workmen are busy at the Hall of Science Building with the fixtures for the Pharmacy Exhibit. Five subcommittees are now engaged in the preparation of material which will be in place by May 15th. The exhibits will show the progress of Pharmacy—its history from earliest periods to its place in modern developments, the educational phases, its direction by legislation, research and manufacturing, and the perfection of the standards through the revisions of the United States Pharmacopœia, the National Formulary and the Pharmaceutical Syllabus.

These exhibits will acquaint the public with pharmacy as a public health profession, its legal regulations, advances in pharmaceutical education and training, the methods of directing its practice and its schools; the importance for safeguarding and controlling the distribution of poisons, narcotics and establishing the quality of drugs and medicines. The history will show the importance of pharmacy in developing commerce by the search for drugs and minerals and creating industries, and the public will become better acquainted with its part in related activities and with those who gave to the world invaluable information while serving the sick and afflicted. Jointly, with other professions, the sciences and arts, the exhibit will picture influential factors of general progress, even to the extent of visualizing how far-reaching in its influence is prescription practice.

A very desirable location for the Pharmacy Exhibit has been secured, representative of the close relation which exists in practice, with medicine, dentistry, surgery, hygiene, chemistry, manufacturing and outstanding in public health service. The value to be derived is great and so is the responsibility of pharmacists in assuring an exhibit of which we may be very proud and whereby the public will derive benefit and a better understanding of pharmacy.

Chairman Christensen asks members to do their part in financing this important venture; acknowledgments of contributions will be made, large or small, and these should at once be mailed to Treasurer Julius H. Riemenschneider, 2916 Broadway, Chicago, Ill. The degree of success depends on you and every one who has a part in pharmacy and the drug industry; may we ask for prompt action in this most important undertaking, now in the process of completion by and with your help.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF AUTHORSHIP.

BOOKS, newspaper and magazine articles are, at times, fruitful sources of misinformation whereby pharmacy suffers as a result of these literary efforts of exaggeration and vituperation. Contributions of this type are frequently written with a purpose of telling the story sensationally in order to attract readers and not for presentation of facts. They may be classed with persuasive advertisements that employ facts to instil fear and, having gained that point, deceitfully present

the remarkable qualities (?) of what they have for sale. Neither custom, nor policy, nor expedience can make wrong right, nor is it right to cause some one to believe that which is untrue. One need not go back very far to uncover publicity which compelled correction by the public and there is literary (?) publicity to-day which goes far beyond fairness and truth in order to produce gain and notoriety.

Certain of the books of the type referred to might serve a useful purpose, but in the eagerness to assure a reading of their books, authors do more harm than good. Selected portions of investigations are employed in developing their stories, or methods which are not applicable are employed to prove their claims. To question or criticize or ask for display of fairness would, probably, result in further charges and questioning of the purpose in taking exceptions—so the effort of correcting the unjust statements must largely remain with the individual, however unpleasant this may be. Fortunately, readers understand the purpose of writings of this kind and, eventually, thereby will come reform and truth in literature that seeks to destroy, or has the acquirement of gain as a major purpose, just as this is evident in some forms of questionable advertising. Some of the articles are comparable to the exploitation of worthless stocks. We believe that some of the authors of certain writings, the fairness of which has been questioned, know that they have gone far beyond justice and right in their effusions.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT REVISION UNDER CONSIDERATION.

W. G. CAMPBELL, Chief of the Food and Drug Administration, discussed food and drug control, on April 4th, at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, and since then, and probably earlier, steps have been taken to revise the Food and Drugs Act. On April 10th, the Executive Committee of the National Drug Trade Conference met in Washington and discussed phases of the revision which had been made public by the press and otherwise. The general features of the proposed bill have been discussed with President Roosevelt by Secretary Wallace, Assistant Secretary Tugwell and Mr. Campbell. The latter believes there is necessity for certain control of advertising, of labeling, that manufacturers should be licensed under certain conditions, that supervision should apply to foods and that, in emergency, there should be authority to employ additional tests to insure that the official standards are observed. It is stated that opportunity will be given to divisions of the affected industries to discuss the revision before the bill goes to Congress for action.

Details of the proposal have not been made public, but the provisions being considered for inclusion are stated in the foregoing; stricter penalties are being considered. The experience with adulterated Jamaica ginger is referred to as an example for the need of tests not provided in the U. S. P. and N. F.

Under the direction of Rexford G. Tugwell, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, representatives of the Food and Drug Administration and the office of the Solicitor of the Department of Agriculture have been working for some time in preparing a draft of the proposed legislation. Proposals to amend the present act have been discarded as too cumbersome, and the plan therefore is to rewrite the law completely.

The Assistant Secretary of Agriculture is a former professor of economics; he has been interested in such organizations as Consumers Research, Inc., and the People's Lobby; he has written a number of books and articles expounding progressive ideas, and is a strict regulationist in his political theory. The attitude of the Secretary of Agriculture, Henry A. Wallace, and of President Roosevelt, toward strengthening the Food and Drugs Act is known only by the fact that the Secretary has permitted the work to progress to its present stage. It has been stated that the revised law will cover cosmetics, and various other provisions have been mentioned. The National Drug Trade Conference is observing the progress of the revision, as far as this is possible, with a purpose of representing the drug industry and mindful of the interests of the people.

PLAN TO REUNITE BUREAUS.

THE newly appointed director of Prohibition in the Department of Justice is developing a plan to reunite the bureaus of prohibition, narcotics and industrial alcohol. He announced his belief that greater efficiency and greater economy could be achieved by a merger of the three groups and that he would make an intensive study of the proposal with the view of presenting recommendations for his plans in the near future.

Director A. V. Dalrymple served in the prohibition unit of the Bureau of Internal Revenue a number of years ago and his plan is said to be based on that of the Wilson administration under which there was a centralization of the statutes relating to prohibition, narcotics and permissive use of alcohol.

There is opposition to the plan, because it is believed by a number of those affected, that no economy would result and they base their conclusions as to efficiency on former experience. This seems to be a day of changing the order of things—it evidences activity, but effectiveness and improvement are just as essential.

NARCOTIC CONTROL AGREEMENT.

THE Narcotics Limitation Convention of 1931 has been ratified, or acceded to, by twenty-nine nations; the manufacturing nations included are France, Germany, Great Britain, Turkey and the United States. It is expected that in making effective the agreement a forward step has been taken in reducing the amount of narcotics nearer to the requirement for medical and scientific purposes, which corresponds closely to the provisions enforced in the United States for the past several years, but the difficulties in making this effort a more complete success has been due to illicit traffic, which will now in a large measure be corrected.

The convention plan provides a system whereby each country submits the amount of its requirements, and manufactures of the respective countries must not exceed the total quantity shown by the estimates. The treaty requires also control of the distribution of codeine and of substances synthetically prepared that are identical in chemical constitution with the corresponding derivatives of opium and of coca leaf; other provisions seek to control the distribution of related derivatives which may be discovered or developed.

A forward step has been taken by the adoption of this international agreement.