

EDITORIAL

E. G. EBERLE, EDITOR

10 West Chase Street, BALTIMORE, MD.

MADISON NEXT.

IT SEEMS only a little while ago since we met in Toronto, but it is not nearly as long to the time when the eighty-first session of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION will be convened in Madison, the beautiful University City surrounded by four Wisconsin lakes. The University buildings and campus are located on Laké Mendota. Longfellow's tribute reads:

"Four limpid lakes, four Naiades
Or Sylvan deities are these,
In flowing robes of azure dressed;
Four lovely handmaidens that uphold
Their shining mirrors rimmed with gold,
To the fair city of the west."

In the April number of the JOURNAL we introduced you to the Local Secretary; you should now become acquainted with the officers of the Sections; refer to the roster for them, beginning on page X. Partial programs should be printed in the next issue of the JOURNAL, papers can be mailed to the Section officers, later, and carbon copies may be mailed to the Editor, 10 West Chase St., Baltimore, Md. Abstracts of papers should be mailed to the respective secretaries, so that they may be manifested for publicity in the pharmaceutical publications, and serve for the presentation of papers that cannot be submitted within time-limits. If the officers and contributors of papers will do their part the program can be published without undue haste.

It is hoped to have information relative to rates and routes and hotel charges in the June issue. Most of those going to Madison will, probably, arrange for a visit to the World's Fair, going or coming to the Madison meeting of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

In this number, on a preceding page, is a picture of a photograph of a model of the Pharmacy Building exhibited at the World's Fair in Chicago and on another, page 375, is a print of the Pharmacy Building as it appeared about a month ago.

Each state and national association will desire to report on the progress being made toward the completion of the headquarters, and as endowments should be provided, associations and individuals have opportunities that will be welcomed.

One mounted photograph of the model of the Building has been mailed to each state pharmaceutical association.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OR REVISION OF THE NATIONAL FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION came into being as the outcome of a meeting of representatives of the then existing four Colleges of Pharmacy called, in 1851, to consider the best means to prevent the importation of sub-standard and adulterated drugs. To prevent sophistication and to raise the standards of drugs has been one of its chief interests.¹ It promptly took an active part in the revision of the United States Pharmacopœia; later, it established the

National Formulary to meet a need for standards that the U. S. P. could not supply. The issuance of the Recipe Book and the work of the Committee on Unofficial Standards are extensions of the effort and many other contributions are cited in the "Standards Year Book" issued by the Bureau of Standards.

The ASSOCIATION has consistently supported legislation to regulate the quality of drugs and to legalize and enforce standards for their identity, purity and strength. It took an active interest in the Pure Food and Drug Congress, a voluntary organization to promote national legislation on the subject. Its members had an important part in drafting the national and state acts and, particularly, in having the U. S. P. and N. F. named in these acts as providing standards for drugs when furnished under official names.

In its report to the ASSOCIATION, in 1906, the Committee on National Legislation—Albert E. Ebert, chairman—observed that,

"While this law in some directions goes far beyond the intent of its original promoters, it is, on the whole, a reasonable and conservative measure; and, if wisely and impartially administered, should benefit not only the general public, but the drug trade also. Every pharmacist should welcome a law designed to secure to the trade, drugs of standard strength and purity. It is true that nothing in this law prohibits traffic in goods of inferior quality, but the law does require such drugs to be labeled for what they are; and, when this law is fairly in operation, no pharmacist who has eyes to see and a determination to know, need have any fear of having inferior goods imposed upon him."

During the intervening twenty-six years, the law has been reasonably enforced and the results bear out the Committee's prediction. A tremendous advance has been made in the quality of foods and drugs and the American people have benefited beyond the expectations of those who worked for the legislation. The general opinion is that the Food and Drugs Act is one of the most effective and best enforced federal and state laws. The absence of demand for amendment, except in the field of advertising, is evidence.

No surprise should follow the recent announcement by Federal authorities that enforcement over a quarter of a century and developments with respect to foods and drugs during that time have developed defects in the law and also shown the need for additions. A number of changes are recognized as desirable by the pharmaceutical profession and industry, including the producers of proprietary medicines. The profession and industry were concerned, however, when it was proposed that the Act should be entirely rewritten on the ground that it was obsolete, and should include some provisions that appeared to be radical in effect and unjustified by experience.

A wealth of judicial opinion and of regulation has been accumulated which would be lost by a complete revision of the Act. Fundamentally the law is sound and to a large extent accomplished the purposes intended. All this should be conserved and the Act *amended* to take care of deficiencies and of additions made advisable by new conditions.

Conservative supporters of the Act cannot but be disturbed by the attitude of Government officials, which has not been frank, and by the rumored re-writing

¹ The Constitution of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, Article I, Object 1, reads:

"To improve and regulate the drug market by preventing the importation of inferior, adulterated or deteriorated drugs and by detecting and exposing home adulterations."

of the Act by those who may be forward-looking but inexperienced. On the other hand, pharmaceutical interests must coöperate to conserve the present act and should not oppose reasonable changes, but should guide them so as to benefit the public and pharmacy. This was the sound policy of pharmacy in the drafting of the original act as well as of the narcotic and liquor laws.

Pharmacists are licensed by society to protect its interests in a necessary and dangerous service requiring specialized knowledge. They should not support over-zealous officials nor those who for selfish or misguided reasons may oppose necessary amendments to the law. They should be mindful only of the interests of the people which are frequently at variance with the views of both groups just referred to.

The conference between officials of the Food and Drug Administration and of representatives of the profession and industry in Washington, on April 27th, was not productive of the results it should have been. Pharmaceutical representatives were informed that at least a tentative draft or outline of the proposed amendments or revision would be discussed. When this was not submitted and they were met with the request for their comments and suggestions, without preparation, confusion resulted. If a tentative draft or outline had been submitted with frank explanations and then the pharmaceutical representatives given the opportunity to confer, frank expressions and suggestions would, no doubt, have been forthcoming from them. As it was, the relation of the U. S. P. and N. F. to the Act was the only subject properly discussed, outside of the proposed inclusion of cosmetics.

In principle, there can be no reasonable objection by pharmaceutical interests to the several proposals the Government officials are said to have in mind. They do not question the constitutionality of the Act so far as the U. S. P. and N. F. are concerned and express satisfaction with their revision and with the standards and tests set up by them for drugs officially recognized. They ask in general, that: (1) The Secretary of Agriculture be given authority to promulgate additional tests or assays to establish that the standards of the U. S. P. and N. F. have been observed in such cases as the so-called "Ginger-Jake," where the dangerous conditions could not have been foreseen by the committees of revision and where time does not permit sufficiently prompt action by the committees through ad interim revision. (2) Some addition to the variation clause which will give the user accurate and easily understood information on the label about the extent and character of the deviation from the official standards. (3) Some control over advertising, similar in character and extent to that now exercised over labels. (4) A requirement for the labeling of all drugs and medicines; a possible addition to the list of drugs now required to be named on the label; a partial formula disclosure and a possible time-limit on products that deteriorate rapidly. (5) A requirement for the licensing of classes of manufacturers, if and as long as conditions may require for adequate control of abuses.

Pharmaceutical interests may well question the language of the proposed amendments to accomplish these proposals and the regulations that may be made under the amendments. Requests were submitted by all groups that pharmaceutical representatives be given the opportunity to study and submit opinions upon the amendments or revision when drafted and before submitted to Congress.

It is important to all concerned that this request be granted and, particularly, to the public.

If it is granted, pharmaceutical interests should be constructive in their approval or objection to suggestions by the officials based on experience and should show a willingness to consider and support reasonable strengthening of the Food and Drugs Act.

If it is not granted, discussion and disagreement will almost certainly follow in the committees of Congress. When officials and professionals disagree, laymen have to act for the people. The result has usually been unsatisfactory to all parties. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the pharmaceutical interests will be given the opportunity to contribute of their technical knowledge and experience to the improvement of the act and that they will use the opportunity if offered, to the best effect possible.—E. F. KELLY.

“ACADEMIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF
THERAPEUTICS.”

SIR HENRY H. DALE, director of the National Institute for Medical Research, London, and secretary of the Royal Society of London, delivered the Dohme Lectures at Johns Hopkins and the address at the opening ceremony of the Merck Research Laboratories. The activities of this research worker are representative of the text of his addresses on the occasions referred to. He referred to Dr. Reid Hunt's investigations and his own at a somewhat later period, which exemplifies the relationship of the research in industrially supported laboratories, in academic laboratories and in institutes supported by public funds. He states regarding the investigations referred to that “Acetylcholine thus passed from the class of synthetic curiosities into that of natural substances, and a fuller study of its action showed a remarkable relation between its effects on different organs and those produced by parasympathetic nerves. This work, in an industrially supported laboratory, had brought us no nearer to practical therapeutics than Professor Reid Hunt's original discovery had done; but it arose from a chance observation, for which only the industrial connection could have provided the opportunity, and of which we were able to take advantage through our association with large-scale work.”

In referring to the laboratories of pharmaceutical houses of this country Dr. Dale said: “It must surely be generally recognized that some of the great advances in medical knowledge, which has in recent years come from American Universities, have been made possible by the coöperation which only industrially supported research could give.”

The instructive dedication address was comprehensive, dealing with every phase of research activities, and these brief quotations have been selected for stressing the title of this comment. The writer asks pardon for not making more extended selections and comment and concludes with the following quoted paragraph:

“I have suggested, as the primary concern of the laboratories supported by Industry, the development to a practical outcome of the fundamental discoveries

which the academic and endowed institutions may be expected, in the main, to furnish. But just as the academic worker ought not to be restrained from following freely the line of his enquiry, because it happens to lead to a practical application, the investigator in an industrially supported laboratory ought to have a large freedom, to follow a clue to new knowledge of a fundamental kind, if it presents itself in the course of his practical investigations. Indeed, I think it is probably of great advantage to an industrial laboratory that its staff should have always in hand a substantial body of investigation having no direct relation to any practical development. My own personal experience, if you will pardon a further reference to it, perhaps influences my views unduly. If the Head of a great pharmaceutical house, who gave me my first real opportunity as an independent investigator, had been inclined to judge me by my output of therapeutic novelties directly remunerative to his firm, I think he must have concluded that I was a very unprofitable investment. If he did so, he never let me suspect it; on the contrary, I received a steady encouragement to follow, with my colleagues, the natural lead of the problems which our initially practical investigations had presented. And I believe that such a policy is undoubtedly the right one. If necessity is the mother of invention, the spirit of free investigation is most certainly its father. The men who work here will need it, to preserve their active interest in what is happening in the larger world of science, and to maintain their contacts with men of like interests in the academic world."

CONFIDENCE AND COÖPERATION ESSENTIAL TO PROGRESS.

THE idea has prevailed too much in private, national and international affairs that relationship is based on economic warfare. As a result there is lack of foresight, errors of judgment, selfishness, disregard as to the situation of the other fellow—and, in some cases, dishonesty. Few have been free from bank experiences that are not conducive to a fellow-feeling and, if the measure was applied reversely, there might result a better understanding of the fact that honesty is a principle, and the observance of every ethical and economic principle is good policy. The same applies to a related extent in the industries and in the professions. Constructive thought and action are necessary in pharmacy as in other activities; discord develops weakness. As in other activities changes are developing and these can be guided by coöperative efforts, not only of the bodies which are closely related but with the coöperation of those having related purposes in their services for the people. Pharmacy is well organized, workers are engaged in endeavoring to improve existing conditions, but there is need of better coöperation, of a fuller understanding of the course to pursue, not by division but by proper linking. Re-adjustment is going on in all lines and pharmacy may not be the exception; it is destined to be carried on so long as sickness and disease exist and the members of few professions have been more alive to the duties incumbent upon them and mindful of the obligations assumed in its practice.

In proper shaping of affairs the thought must lead that success depends on unison in action as far as this is reasonably possible and confidence within the groups is essential, strengthened by a right understanding with related activities.