

EDITORIAL

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RATIFICATION OF THE NARCOTICS LIMITATION CONVENTION.

THE promulgation of League of Nations Narcotic Treaty became effective on July 10th and its importance was announced to the public in a radio program on July 9th, in which speakers of national prominence, including President Roosevelt, participated. The action by manufacturing and other nations is confidently expected to constitute an effective and important step in the direction of suppressing the evils of the illicit narcotic traffic and of reducing the production of narcotics to the amounts needed for medical and scientific purposes.

While "listening in," the radio program suggested this as a timely opportunity to speak briefly of pharmacy's contributions to the suppression of narcotic addiction. Long before legislation was enacted for regulating the dispensing of narcotics and preparations containing them, pharmacists studied ways and means for checking the increase of narcotic medication and resulting addiction. No group has more persistently and consistently advocated regulations for controlling the sale of narcotics to safeguard public health than have pharmacists, and officials have stated on a number of occasions that pharmacists have given the best of coöperation. It seems almost unbelievable, but nevertheless a fact, that when pharmacists first made concerted efforts to have restrictive legislation enacted, they found objection by legislators who thought there must be an ulterior motive back of their efforts, because it reduced sales volume.

Coming nearer to the time of enactment of the Harrison antinarcotic law the PROCEEDINGS of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION contain reports and papers on the subject and reference to some of them will be pardoned. On page 567 of Volume 50 of the PROCEEDINGS is the report of Chairman H. P. Hynson which gave impetus to continue the study of addiction by the ASSOCIATION. In Volume 51 is another report of the Committee (page 466) and a paper by James H. Beal—"An Antinarcotic Law," which may be designated as a step toward national legislation relative to the handling of narcotics, for at the same meeting a draft for an antinarcotic law was submitted and a revision of it at the 1904 meeting (page 104) at which time also a paper on "Pharmaceutical Legislation with Special Reference to Antinarcotic Laws" (page 180) was presented. The report made at the 1905 meeting indicates how seriously the conditions were viewed by pharmacists throughout the country. That Congress did not realize the importance of antinarcotic legislation is evidenced by the fact that the federal law was not enacted until December 1914. The law added burdens to the many willingly assumed by pharmacists, quoting the closing paragraph of an editorial (1913) in advocating the passage of a federal antinarcotic law: "It must not be imagined that any form of law can be devised that will be entirely free from objections, or that will not impose some burdens upon pharmacists and physicians, no matter how conscientious they may be in the handling of these drugs.

"Since society began those who have been willing to deal justly with their fellow men have been compelled to bear the burden of laws intended to curb the actions of those who are not controlled by conscientious motives, and no one has yet

been able to suggest a method that will relieve the honest and conscientious citizen from this hardship."

The references made are not intended to take credit for performing a duty to mankind, but to call attention to the important services rendered by pharmacists, because they recognized their duty long before general recognition was given to the control of narcotic sales and all divisions of pharmacy entered into this service. It is contended in the interest of the public, that the sale and dispensing of all medicines be restricted to those who because of training and education know the effect of medicines and realize their individual responsibility, as professional men and women, in safeguarding the public.

The Association sponsoring the radio program spoke for uniform state anti-narcotic laws. The subject has recently (October 1932, page 989) received editorial consideration and need not be further discussed at this time. Pharmacists are awake to their responsibilities, they understand the needs and are appreciative of the support of all good citizens; "they desire to assist in strengthening the federal and state laws and in making them uniform, in so far as this is possible, and will assist heartily in adequate control."

The ratification of the Narcotics Limitation Convention is an important step in suppressing the evils of illicit narcotic traffic, which has been the great source of trouble; the legalized sale may be further controlled, but at the present reflects credit upon pharmacy in its several divisions and the prescribers of medicine.

PROGRESSIVE THOUGHTS ON COÖPERATION.

NEVER before has there been greater need of general coöperation of pharmaceutical organizations than at present. Just as state associations depend on the loyalty and support of individual membership, so also the body pharmaceutical must realize that progress is stimulated by a sense of loyalty and faith in the profession of pharmacy. The House of Delegates of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION is the forum for discussing problems of pharmacy where the associations may gain strength and understanding for meeting the situations that await improvement for their own good and of the public served by them.

At the Diamond Anniversary Meeting of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION in St. Louis, Surgeon McLaughlin, representative of the U. S. Public Health Service, said that he expected to find his greatest interest in the Scientific Section and he profited by the papers read there, but his interest was amazingly increased by attending other ASSOCIATION divisions which gave him an idea of the scope of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, and the thing that challenged his admiration more than anything else was the evident broadening scope from a purely scientific organization, the broad statesmanship displayed in the laudable effort to bring together many divergent interests which have, however, one objective in common—the advancement of pharmacy. He considered that a most hopeful augury for the future of pharmacy in the United States and emphasized the ASSOCIATION's opportunities and the possibilities and usefulness of bringing together the divergent interests of the drug interests and of pharmacy for exchange of ideas and working out problems of mutual benefit.

The splendid coöperation with the bodies, state associations and others, that had their inception within the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION have today a growing opportunity to bring about a better service and this is made possible by the House of Delegates, the Conference of Pharmaceutical Association Secretaries, the Law Enforcement Officials and other bodies meeting concurrently and now preparing programs for the meeting to be held in Madison. These are times when as never before wise conferences and discussions will be helpful and profitable.

The last meeting held in Wisconsin by the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION (1884) was presided over by the late William S. Thompson. Liberty is taken in quoting from his presidential address which may be applicable to-day: "During the past year, pharmacists of this country have been greatly concerned in an effort to secure remunerative retail prices for what are known as proprietary medicines. The prominence which the agitation of this question has assumed, combined with its possible influence on pharmacy as a profession, renders some reference to the topic almost indispensable at this annual assemblage, not for the purpose of discussing the proposed methods for accomplishing fair prices in the sale of these articles, for that properly belongs to a kindred organization, but of considering the effect of this agitation on the future of pharmacy."

In another part of his address he asks "Are we not justified in the belief that from the present trade conflict there will survive a higher pharmacy than that of our time? We are sustained in this opinion by a survey of the entire situation of pharmacy in this country." ". . . characteristic of our country in all that pertains to science and art—our profession will not lag behind, but the followers fully equipped with knowledge and skill, will stand shoulder to shoulder with the most advanced; and with equal strides will move on to that brighter era for which they appear to be preparing."

Times have changed, but in part what President Thompson said may be applied to the present conditions. What was stressed at the St. Louis meeting finds application now and our duty is to study the conditions which affect us and bettering them for greater service. The surveys that have been made of pharmaceutical practice are being studied and reported for the benefit of all concerned and, as never before, the standards soon to become official will serve the public in a larger way—unfolding opportunities that will be greatly strengthened with the completion of the Pharmacy Building in Washington.

ATTENDANCE AT CHICAGO WORLD'S FAIR.

Attendance for the first month, May 27th to June 27th, at the Chicago World's Fair—A Century of Progress—was 2,464,413. For two weeks after the opening the attendance averaged 60,000 a day. The third week the average jumped to 81,000 a day and the fourth week it went to 112,251 a day. In its first month the Chicago World's Fair of 1893 had 1,050,000 paid admissions.

The biggest day in the first month of A Century of Progress was June 23rd, Finnish Day of Scandinavian week, with 139,452. Next was June 18th, featured by the Kiwanis International assembly, with 132,490. Visitors' registration book in the Sears Roebuck Building near the North Entrance on June 25th had more than 150,000 entries including visitors from sixty-four different foreign countries and registrations from every state in the United States and every province in Canada.

The attendance at the Pharmacy Exhibit is very gratifying, not only in the number of visitors, but more particularly because of the interest shown by them in studying the displays.