

EDITORIAL

E. G. EBERLE, EDITOR

2215 Constitution Ave., WASHINGTON, D. C.

HEROES IN HEALTH SERVICE.

HISTORY abounds in records of valor stimulated by patriotism in defense of country and the world. The acts longest and most generally remembered are those wherein lives are sacrificed in their country's cause; memorials are erected so that their names and deeds may be reminders of duties and service honorably rendered.

Paintings, statues and printed pages remind us of outstanding deeds in military service and dedications to the unknown, honoring those who in large numbers had an essential part in the success of a just cause.

The memory of those who have achieved great things in public health matters lives in the results of their researches, whereby sections of the world have been made habitable, destructive diseases have been conquered, and painful and burdensome afflictions have been made more bearable. Among these benefactors are scientists who suffered greatly so that others may be happier and more comfortable, individuals characterized by heroic unselfishness, thinking modestly of themselves, but intensely desirous of aiding the afflicted; their viewpoint regarding them reaches millions represented in types they know and with whom they sympathize, because of their affliction.

In the class referred to are many; their services differ, but all of them have made signal contributions to health, prosperity, discovery, education, commerce, industry, arts and professions, all closely linked in the benefactions derived from devotion, labor, study, investigation and, above all, the loftiness of purpose which prompts their efforts. Reference may be permitted to discoveries which have converted to livable areas in which life was constantly endangered by disease and thereby development made impossible; laboratories conducting research are not free from dangers and its workers receive coöperation from laymen who desire a part in discoveries that may result in disease immunity, citing as a recent example the volunteers to submit themselves as tests for the efficacy of anti-paralysis serum. There may also be included the hardships of carriers of food and medicines to afflicted sections. Yellow fever was conquered because of the heroism of Gorgas, Lazear, Finlay, Agramonte, Reed and others; the achievements in Cuba and the Canal Zone were heroic and of inestimable value not merely through the immediate benefits and benefactions, but by proving that disease can be controlled and plagues checked, of which there is continued evidence.

This editorial comment was prompted by the passing of a heroine, the discoverer of radium, Madam Marie Curie, who endured the hardships of poverty in early life and had the courage to carry on, resulting in her great achievements; she could appreciate that fortune was with her when she found employment at Sorbonne cleaning the furnace and washing bottles in the laboratory, and modestly accepted recognition of the great honors which came to her not very many years later. With her passed out a heroine and one of the prominent figures in science and an outstanding benefactress of humanity. One of the great days in her life was May 20, 1921,

when she received the gift of radium through President Harding, not for herself, but because she realized its great value for the afflicted, whom she relieved and served. The effect of radium made itself known in her health and exacted its toll. During the few days prior to her death Mme. Curie gave directions concerning experiments being conducted in her Paris laboratory, and, later, she gave directions for her funeral.

“Heroism is active genius; genius, contemplative heroism. Heroism is the self-devotion of genius manifesting itself in action.”

THE SERVICE OF PHARMACY.

THERE is a growing development of the service of pharmacy and a greater realization of the need of closer coöperation of those engaged in the medical professions. Discussions of the subject occupied much of the time at the recent AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION meeting in Washington, and at state medical meetings there was an evident desire to gain a better understanding of how to prescribe and how coöperation of the physician, dentist and pharmacist may serve the patient better. This desire is in evidence everywhere; to impress that, parts from two addresses are quoted—one delivered before the pharmacists in Edinburgh, Scotland, and the other in far-off Bengal.

Dr. J. M. Johnston, pharmacologist to the Scottish Department of Health and a member of the Poisons Board set up under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933 (Great Britain), said in closing an address to the Edinburgh pharmacists that “the pharmacist has a part to play in the question of the use and misuse of drugs. There is ample scope for the education of the public, and also, as opportunity arises, for the education of the medical profession. I hope the pharmacists will rise to the occasion, and, steering clear of the dangers of commercialism, will raise the profession of pharmacy to its proper place in the battle against disease. Much of the analytical work at present undertaken by pharmacologists could more properly be left to the pharmaceutical chemist, for whom there is also awaiting the promising field of biochemical investigations which are so necessary for modern clinical medicine. The keynote for the future of the pharmacist would appear to be a combined policy of education and investigation.”

Lieut.-Col. Chopra opened his presidential address to the All-Bengal Compounders' Association by saying that “as a pharmacologist who has to work with drugs I am very interested in the profession of pharmacy which you practice. The important part which pharmacists play in relation to drugs needs no special emphasis. You, as their representatives in this country (Bengal), are the custodians of drugs. You prepare and compound drugs and on your efficiency depend the purity and efficacy of the preparations dealt with by you. Your relation to the practice of medicine in every-day life is intimate and you are an integral part of it. The busy physician dealing with diagnosis and treatment of disease has no time at his disposal to dispense his own medicine as he used to do in the old days. Pharmacy has developed enormously along with medicine and the wider scope of the two sciences makes it impossible for the medical practitioner to devote himself systematically to the study of pharmacy. In matters of drugs, their preparation and

dispensing, therefore, the physician has to depend entirely on the advice and guidance of the pharmacist. The physician has sometimes to use very potent drugs which require to be handled with the most exact and scrupulous care. Skilful dispensing is essential for the successful treatment of disease by those practicing medicine."

"A Suggestion for the Establishment of a National Council on Pharmaceutical Practice," has as the first objective a study of the needs of each field of activity and then a preparation for announcing these needs to the country; it also is proposed to make a restatement of codes of ethics and practice, for each group as the basis for a high professional standard.

CODES.

THE great hindrance in undertakings to be overcome is selfishness and the desire to stand out in public appreciation. This, frequently, is also true in legislation, for while all statesmen are politicians, not all politicians are statesmen. The work of recovery depends upon honesty, initiative, understanding, self-reliance and resourcefulness to meet conditions as they arise.

The greater number of druggists have expressed themselves as favorable to a continuation of the National Retail Drug Code, and the *Literary Digest* survey shows that more than sixty per cent are in favor of the New Deal policy.

The first year of NRA was devoted chiefly to codifying industry, more than four hundred basic codes of fair competition have been put into operation, representing 96 per cent of trade and industry in the United States, the next year's work will largely be directed to the enforcement of the codes.

As seen from the press there is contemplated a reorganization of the Recovery Administration under a board, instead of a single administrative head. The question arises as to the kind of administrative agency is best adapted to carry on the activities of the NRA. When the change will be made seems to be undecided, however, the surveys indicate that the life of the Recovery Administration will be indefinitely prolonged. The size of the administrative body has not been determined, but there is quite general expression that the members should have well-defined duties and share in the responsibilities of the administration and the work of the administration should be placed on a broader basis.

Notwithstanding the different opinions as to the workings of the NRA we should seek and encourage "the greatest good for the greatest number;" and "the highest law is that created to relieve the imperative needs of the people."

PHARMACY EXHIBIT AT PROGRESS OF SCIENCE.

When you are in Chicago see the Pharmacy Exhibit. The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION is, as last year, sponsoring the exhibit. A significant indication of the enthusiastic approval given last year's enterprise is the fact that the committee this year received almost 100 per cent favorable responses from participants to the questionnaire sent to the leading contributors to the 1933 exhibit. The pharmaceutical showing of last year proved to be one of the most popular of the exhibits in the medical division.