

ADDRESS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

BY ROWLAND JONES.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the House of Delegates:

We are met here in the great Northwest, for the eighty-third annual convention of our ASSOCIATION. The eighty-third year in the life of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION just closed has been eventful. It seems that as the age of our organization increases, our problems increase in more than direct ratio. Organization for mutual effort is fast becoming one of the salient characteristics of the age in which we are living. We should be grateful that this ASSOCIATION continues to meet these problems, as in the past, in an honest and sincere manner and without any of the compromises which are the burdens of other professional organizations. I know of no organization of like kind in the country which is blessed with such a group of unselfish workers, often laboring in comparative obscurity, who only ask the opportunity to serve. It is this spirit, which I believe is unique, that has made this ASSOCIATION great and obtained for our profession the long list of major accomplishments of which we are all so proud.



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The House of Delegates is representative of every interest in pharmacy. Its machinery is simple and direct in action. Every part of the nation has a place among its delegates. It offers to the state associations a national forum to which they may bring their problems and their successes. But I feel that the House of Delegates has not been used to the full extent of its possibilities and I invite the attention of the members to this fact. Ways and means should be formulated through which we may utilize the full potentialities of this body.

It has been my privilege during the past year to live in close proximity to the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHARMACY, that marvelous monument to our profession which this ASSOCIATION now calls home. It is with pleasure that I take this opportunity to tell the members of this House how fortunate you are to have the services of E. F. Kelly and E. G. Eberle. I have had the privilege and pleasure of working closely with them during the past year. Their unceasing labor and outstanding devotion to this ASSOCIATION is inspiring to see. With such men as this in charge of the business of our ASSOCIATION, the future can never be in doubt.

In tracing the history of the past year, it is probable that it would be difficult for us to agree upon what the outstanding development in pharmacy has been. To my mind it has been the stipulation by Federal and State Relief agencies that prescriptions, paid for with public funds, shall call for U. S. P. and N. F. preparations whenever possible. As far as I know, this regulation has been in effect in every state and it is my experience that it has been generally complied with. I believe that this policy has brought our official compendiums to the attention of the

medical profession as never before and in a manner impossible by the usual methods of publicity and education. In my opinion, the salutary effect upon pharmacy has been enormous and we will feel it for a long time to come. I do not know who is responsible for the policy, but whoever he or they may be, we owe them our deepest gratitude.

During the past year, we have seen additional states join the ranks of the great number having adequate prerequisite laws. We are just beginning to feel the effects of this great change which we have accomplished in such a remarkably short time and I predict that during the next few years we will realize the results of which we have dreamed.

I invite you all to visit at the earliest opportunity one of our colleges of pharmacy, if you have not done so recently. Examine the plant, acquaint yourself with the members of the faculty, but above all observe the quality of the student body. The men and women now graduating from our colleges will give you a real thrill. These young men and women are the hope of our profession. As their number in active practice increases, many of our ills will disappear. The average income of the practicing pharmacist will increase to somewhere near the level commensurate with his educational investment.

But these happy developments may bring another serious problem. I fear, unless economic conditions affecting retail pharmacy are not soon improved, that we will face a growing demand for a relaxation of present prerequisite requirements. Should this happen, we will find ourselves in a vulnerable legislative position. The annual graduation roll from our colleges has been drastically reduced. A scarcity of pharmacists with the increased remuneration which they will be sure to demand will strengthen the demand for a retrogression in standard of education in pharmacy unless competitive conditions improve or if they become worse as is a distinct possibility at this time. While the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION has never been particularly active along commercial lines, and I think justly so, in the past at least, we may be forced to enter that field, in active competition with the other national body, in order to protect what I believe to be this ASSOCIATION'S greatest accomplishment, the 4-year law. Present profit and loss statements of the average retail drug store indicates that an increased salary budget cannot be maintained with financial safety. A return to educational standards of twenty years ago would be a bitter pill to swallow. We simply cannot allow it to happen. No sacrifice would be too great if necessary to prevent it. I urge your earnest consideration of this very possible future trend of events.

Just a word about NRA and the codes. I deeply regret that the court decision invalidating that whole effort came just at the time when the loss limitation provision had begun to demonstrate its possibilities. However, I believe that the whole code effort has been worth all it has cost, that even to-day we are feeling benefits from the lessons learned in that experience. Secretary Kelly's work on the National Code Authority was outstanding and invaluable and commercial pharmacy is indebted to the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION for his services.

A great deal has been written of late about the multiplicity of pharmaceutical organization in this country, and the desirability of some method of consolidation of membership. Plans have been suggested but no one of them has been generally well received. While I feel that a physical consolidation of the AMERICAN PHAR-

MACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and the National Association of Retail Druggists is neither desirable or possible, I am of the opinion that some mutually advantageous method of joint dues and membership can be found and recommend that further joint study of the matter be made.

All of us in attendance at this convention are familiar with the long list of accomplishments of this ASSOCIATION which have improved the status of the profession of pharmacy and have thus vitally affected every pharmacist in every state. But I am of the definite opinion that far too many of the pharmacists of this country do not realize the extent of the benefits which have come to them as a direct result of the work of this ASSOCIATION. This is, because they have not been told about them. Modesty is to be admired but I feel that this ASSOCIATION has carried modesty a little too far for the good of the organization. I believe that efforts to bring the things that have been done and that are now in the process of fulfilment, to the attention of the average pharmacist might profitably be made without loss of dignity or prestige. I am not so sure but that the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION has been hiding its light under a bushel, to some extent at least.



The President and Vice-Presidents of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, 1935-1936.

The officers of the House of Delegates for 1935-1936 are: *Chairman*, Roy B. Cook, Charleston, W. Va.; *Vice-Chairman*, C. Thurston Gilbert, Noroton, Conn.; *Secretary*, E. F. Kelly, 2215 Constitution Ave., Washington, D. C.