

EDITORIAL

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MEMBERSHIP.

DR. ERNEST LITTLE points the way to another great coöperative effort which can be executed by the present members of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. The need for this organization is well established. The importance of an aroused, active and representative membership is too well recognized to dwell upon it. To bring about the realization of this and improve our position Dr. Little places the responsibility, or divides it, equally and rightly, and says, "Let's see what we can do." His plan furnishes each member an opportunity to do his full share by securing at least one new member. This should not be difficult to do. It is the way to a greater and more useful AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. I hope each member will do his share and do it promptly.
— P. H. COSTELLO, *President*.

LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO.

Some 400 members have just returned from the Eighty-Third Annual Meeting of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION which was held in Portland, Oregon, from August 5th to 10th.

These members have returned home with greatly varying impressions of the importance of what transpired at this convention and I trust with many and varied ideas as to what can be done to further increase the usefulness of our ASSOCIATION to pharmacy; how to set about performing this very important service.

The report of one of our officers called attention to the fact that at the present time our ASSOCIATION is made up of but about 3000 members.

It is discouraging and somewhat surprising to learn that less than 3% of the 132,000 registered pharmacists in the United States are direct members of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. I recognize that all state association members are affiliated members of the A. P. H. A.

I would feel that I have done nothing of a constructive nature if I did no more than call to your attention the fact that our membership is exceedingly small. The important questions involved are: "Why are so few of our registered pharmacists members of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION?" and "What can be done to improve existing conditions?"

We are all in agreement, I am sure, as to the need and absolute necessity of a strong parent organization to head up and direct all pharmaceutical activities, to constantly increase and improve the service which pharmacy is offering, and to increase the effectiveness and well-being of its practitioners. The small membership of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION is not due to the fact that there is no need for an organization of its scope and purposes.

It is not due to lack of talent and ability within the organization. At the Portland meeting our members had the privilege of listening to more than 300 scientific papers, committee and officers' reports, before the various divisions of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and its related organizations. As

a group, these reports were of high quality. They indicated, very definitely, that we are possessed of our full share of talent and ability and that these talents are being successfully and effectively applied in a variety of ways and in many directions. The necessary talent is within our ranks.

I believe also that you will agree that the deplorably small membership in our ASSOCIATION is not due to lack of interest or effective endeavor on the part of our ASSOCIATION officers, the most important of whom is the secretary. It requires but one visit to our secretary's office to impress upon you his many and varied activities in behalf of pharmacy and the conscientious and efficient manner in which he is devoting himself to ASSOCIATION affairs.

The difficulty, as I see it, rests with the individual members of our ASSOCIATION; with you and with me. I know that such a statement is never a popular one. I know it may be resented by some individuals. My desire, however, is to prove helpful rather than complimentary.

Well do I remember the determined drive Dr. Robert L. Swain made during his term of office as president of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION to increase our membership. The fact that the results were disappointing is not to Dr. Swain's discredit. He pointed the way and organized the drive. In this detail his experience was the same as any other efficient leader would have encountered under such circumstances. Without the active support and cooperation of the individual members even the most effective and dynamic leader can accomplish but little.

My challenge is, let us stop shifting responsibilities to the shoulders of others—
"Let's See What *We* Can Do."

There are few, if any, members of our ASSOCIATION who could not, with a minimum amount of effort on their part, secure at least one new member before the next annual meeting of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. It is possible that there are some members of our ASSOCIATION who are so situated that they could not induce even one pharmacist to join our ranks. This condition is more than offset by the fact that many of our members could, with a reasonable amount of effort, secure a dozen new members during the current year. What fine cooperation we would be showing President Costello if we, without any effort on his part, doubled the membership of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION during his administration, thus leaving him free to devote his time to problems of administration and organization. It can be done. Are *we* interested enough to do it?

I am to-day sending the following note:

Dr. E. F. Kelly, Secretary,
AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Kelly:

I shall endeavor and persistently strive to bring not less than six new members into the A. PH. A. before the 1936 annual meeting. You may consider me definitely obligated to the above responsibility.

Yours for Pharmacy,
ERNEST LITTLE.

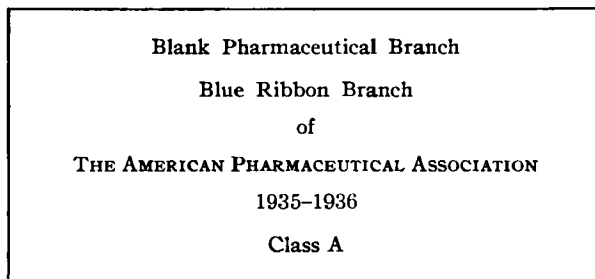
The membership year is the calendar year. Under the By-Laws membership taken between June and January may also cover the succeeding calendar year. It is, therefore, advantageous to join at this time. The Report of the Progress of Pharmacy including the Pharmaceutical Abstracts heretofore appearing in the YEAR BOOK, is now printed monthly in the JOURNAL, bringing this helpful review of the literature of pharmacy to the members each month. The JOURNAL is included in the dues.

I recommend and urge that all Sections of the A. PH. A. adopt as one of their major projects for the year, the doubling of their membership by August 1, 1936, and that the undertaking be initiated by securing from each member of their section the promise that he will faithfully strive to obtain at least one new member for the A. PH. A. as his contribution to this most worthy project.

I recommend that the various Branches urge their members to send to Secretary Kelly a letter similar to, if not identical with, the one given above, substituting any number which they may desire for the word "six," found in the first sentence of the letter.

I recommend also that during this "membership year" the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION publish in a prominent place the names of our new members and the name of the member responsible for each new membership. It might be advisable also to publish each month an "Honor Roll," containing the names of the ten members of our ASSOCIATION who have secured the greatest number of new members and the record of each to date.

To further stimulate this effort for membership, I am glad to announce that the Northern New Jersey Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION will be pleased to present a pennant, each year for the next two years, to the Branch showing the highest percentage gain in membership during the year. This pennant might appear somewhat as follows:



I suggest that this pennant be prominently displayed at the annual convention and all the general meetings of the A. PH. A. and that it then becomes the permanent possession of the successful Branch, which Branch shall have the privilege of having the pennant on display in the Headquarters Building in Washington, D. C., during the remainder of the year if desired.

I feel that two, or possibly three such pennants should be awarded each year to Classes A, B and C, depending upon the size of the Branches. Such a classification might make an award, based upon percentage of increase in membership more equitable. I would suggest also that no Branch be allowed to be the donor

of a pennant for more than two consecutive years, providing another Branch desires such privilege. Other necessary details can easily be worked out.

It is possible that there is but little of merit in the above suggestions. If such be the case, this article may still serve a useful purpose, provided it stimulates action on the part of our members and prompts some one to submit a better plan which can be put into immediate operation.

It is time to stop merely bewailing our small membership and weakly pointing the finger of responsibility at our national officers. Let us place the responsibility where it rightfully belongs—on the shoulders of the individual members and then "Let's See What *We* Can Do." What do you think? May we have your comments and suggestions?

THE EDUCATIONAL VALUE TO BE DERIVED FROM THE TRAVEL TO THE CONVENTIONS OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

ASIDE from the beauties of the section in which the Portland meeting was held, and its unsurpassed scenery, those who were privileged to attend were brought in contact with the history of the Northwest United States made known and resourceful by the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

In this issue of the *JOURNAL* a paper on the "Badianus Manuscript" is published—the original is in the Vatican Library and is believed to be the earliest herbal produced on this side of the Atlantic. Dr. Emily Walcott, of Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, is the author of a monograph concerning the Manuscript, an Aztec herbal, composed in the year 1552 in the famous College of Santa Cruz at Tlalteolco, Mexico City.

The contribution is of interest because it deals with research in Mexico of about the time when the resources of this part of the New World were brought to the attention of Charles V, during whose reign the Spaniards conquered Mexico. In 1936 the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION will hold its annual meeting in a section of the United States, celebrating the centennial of its independence from Mexico, a neighbor Republic with which cordial relations exist.

The meeting next year will make the members acquainted with the varied resources of the Southwest, developed by pioneers whose names reflected credit and honor, predominant among them—General Sam Houston with a splendid record as a member of Congress from Tennessee, Governor of that State; President of Texas, its Senator and its Governor. A man whose outstanding characteristics were honesty and loyalty, interested in the development of resources, in the establishment of educational institutions, he was one of the founders of Baylor University. Here lived for a time "O. Henry," a druggist in his earlier years. The Pharmacy School of the University of Texas is well equipped and its home is in one of the larger buildings on the Campus at Austin.

Several missions of the Franciscans—who in the earlier years cared for the sick and dispensed medicines—are still in a good state of preservation in San Antonio.

Mexico is launching an educational experiment in San Antonio—a library is to be established, partly supported by the Mexican Department of Education which will supply books and a librarian. It is hoped to expand the library into a cultural

center for Mexicans and furnish them with the means to enjoy their language literature.

Every meeting brings opportunities for further acquaintance with our history, resources and contributions of the section to the wealth and health of our people.

THE PRESCRIPTION DEPARTMENT.

MUCH has been said and written about the "Open Prescription Department." Included in an article of a recent issue of the *Pharmaceutical Journal of New Zealand* is a reference to the pharmacy of the late John F. Hancock, Baltimore, a former president of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. A picture of the interior is shown—the pharmacy is now owned by W. F. Thiede.

The following, from reminiscences of the former (*about 1866*), will be of interest, communicated in a letter received from James E. Hancock, son of the above named:

... "The store was newly furnished in walnut with side glass cases and, back of the archway, the rear room was fitted up for prescription work with a central semi-circle of shelves for small bottles containing duplications from the large shop bottles in the front room. The plans were carefully considered with a view to convenience, economy of space and safety to the dispenser. The prescription counter was placed in full view of those in the front room, but sufficiently retired to avoid conversation while prescriptions were being compounded. . ."

It may be of further interest that Mr. Thiede, the present owner, was asked why he had not remodeled the pharmacy and his reply was—"that the pharmacy was up-to-date."

Those who desire to read the article¹ referred to will find much of interest and value; the article is illustrated by drawings, drawn to scale. A purpose of this comment is to present the ideas, on a subject of present-day interest, of a pharmacist who devotedly served his profession and was a faithful member of the ASSOCIATION for more than sixty years.

IT IS DOING, AS WELL AS THE AIMS AND PURPOSES.

IT IS ALL very well to contend that pharmacists should practice pharmacy—all will agree to that—but the conditions are with us that limit the opportunities. This fact should impress the thought to shape the status so that a greater number can put their aims and purposes into practice.

There are some, perhaps many, who prefer to conduct what is known as the modern drug store, but can pharmacy attain to a higher professional standard thereby? There will be rightful differences of opinion. Many papers are written which seek to build on the foundation of existing conditions, but it is necessary to shape them with the end in view to remove the obstacles that hinder advancement; adherence to the code of ethics is an essential.

The schools of pharmacy had their inception, not by replacing the drug stores, but by giving those in the practice of pharmacy an opportunity for a deeper knowledge of its activities and derive a living income therefrom.

The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION had its beginning, because the founders realized that inferior materia medica and lack of uniformity in prepara-

¹ PROCEEDINGS, A. PH. A., 1872, pages 192-200.

tions interfered with rendering the right kind of service to the public and added directly or indirectly to the cost of production; the results of the efforts were better service, greater uniformity and an improved materia medica, and should have resulted in restricting the dispensing of medicines and sale of medicinal products to druggists. But as the latter recognized in the sale of side-lines, many of them foreign to their business or profession, an opportunity for increasing sales volume, so merchants ventured into merchandising medicines and products that properly belong to the drug stock. No exception is taken for the inclusion of side-lines nor is this intended for a discussion of the rights of merchants, for which the public is largely responsible.

Volume increase and profit are closely related, hence the step to competition, fair and unfair, by those who should seek, as far as is right, to cooperate. These practices have entered all lines and resulted in unfair means, which for the good of all should be corrected, for the nation and state are dependent on the relative prosperity of all classes and individuals.

An effort has been made in a very brief way by this comment to outline the developments which have brought about a more or less unsatisfactory status by removing from our business life a most valuable class of citizens, or at least reduced their number by bringing about unsatisfactory trade conditions.

Steps have been taken to correct unfair practices by states, but the federal government should join in the effort, for the prosperity of the nation depends upon that of the individuals engaged in whatever pursuit—success depends on proper relationship.

A STUDY OF THE ASSAY OF ACONITE AND THE STABILITY OF ITS PREPARATIONS.

Investigators of the stabilization of Aconite preparations have reported that increased acidity of the preparation promotes stability. The statement has been checked in this paper and has been found to be correct. A chemical assay procedure for determining the amount of aconitine present in Aconite preparations has been worked out based on the dissociation constants of the alkaloids involved. The assay procedure is of such nature that by use of certain values obtained in the assay procedure, aconitine may be calculated in milligrams from an equation the derivation of which is given in full.—George L. Baker and C. B. Jordan in a paper read before Scientific Section, A. P. H. A., Portland meeting, 1935.

APOTHECARY SHOPS OF COLONIAL TIMES.

A compilation of scattered historical data published in pharmaceutical literature and other sources of the past few years and describing apothecary shops, proprietors and distinguished customers of colonial days. The oldest American apothecary shop still in existence and doing business is the Rau Pharmacy in Bethlehem, Pa. The oldest record of an apothecary shop in America (1646) is that of Wm. Davies of Boston, Mass. This was probably the first store devoted exclusively to Pharmacy in America.—Abstract of a paper presented by Millicent R. LaWall at the Portland, A. P. H. A., meeting.
