

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS.*

BY ROBERT P. FISCHELIS.

This occasion is at once the Anniversary of fifty years of continuous activity by Dean Gregory in a profession serving the public health and the Golden Anniversary of the college which can rightfully be termed his "lengthened shadow." In point of service, Dr. Gregory is the Dean of Deans of the seventy odd American Colleges of Pharmacy. The esteem in which he is held in the realm of pharmacy is due to his charming personality, his patience, tolerance, keen wit and gracious manner, as well as to his great ability as an educator and administrator.

Within the span of years covering Dr. Gregory's association with pharmacy, profound changes have occurred in the methods of medical practice, which have been reflected in the practice of pharmacy. About the time the Buffalo College of Pharmacy was organized, Pasteur was completing the researches which led to the development of successful vaccination against anthrax and rabies. Synthetic Chemistry was just beginning to produce the coal tar drugs which have assumed such great importance in the field of medication. Antipyrine, one of the earliest of these, was first prepared in 1884. Diphtheria Antitoxin was discovered in 1889, the X-Ray in 1895 and Radium in 1898.

The first Federal Food and Drug Act was passed in 1906, the Harrison Anti-Narcotic Law in 1914, and the National Prohibition Law of 1919 made its exit some fourteen years later. The first State law requiring pharmacists to be college graduates was passed by the State of New York in 1904. These are but a few of the outstanding events which have passed in parade before the eyes of the guest of honor. His influence upon nearly 2000 pharmacy graduates, his activity within the profession and his work in behalf of the University of Buffalo, have made him a figure of national importance in American Pharmacy.

Anniversaries are occasions for evaluating the past and contemplating the future. As the College of Pharmacy of the University of Buffalo enters its second half-century of service, conditions in the practice of pharmacy challenge the best thought and ability of its leaders. We see the actual compounding of medicines taken over by larger manufacturing units and the reduction of the average retail pharmacist to the position of a dispenser of ready-made medicines.

Without adequate control over advertising and production of their remedies, the public is being educated by manufacturers to medicate itself, and the use of possibly harmful drugs, without medical or pharmaceutical advice, is being encouraged to the point where the public health demands some type of supervision. Passage of a revised Federal Food and Drug Law giving the U. S. Food and Drug Administration control over advertising, requiring the disclosure of the formulæ of proprietary remedies and strengthening the public control over the drug industry, is essential to the public welfare and should be forthcoming at this session of Congress.

The possibility of absorption of the functions of private medical and pharmaceutical practice by the State, through some form of Health Insurance, is no longer academic. It is seen by some as the only way out of the difficulty of providing adequate service to all the people at a price they can afford. Enrollment of freshmen in 68 colleges of pharmacy throughout the United States dropped 53% between 1924 and 1933. The number of graduates in pharmacy has decreased from one for every 17 drug stores in 1924 to one for every 25 drug stores in 1933. The so-called one-man drug store operated by a single registered pharmacist working 96 hours per week or more is unable to cope with the type of competition offered by chain organizations. However, several pharmacists associating themselves for the purpose of conducting a professional establishment may be able to cope with the problems of high rentals, quick merchandising and store management, while providing the indispensable professional service which the public still prefers to receive from private practitioners.

Better organization of professional pharmacists with county and local units becoming integral parts of the National Association of Retail Druggists and the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, and observance of a stringent code of ethics which will refuse to subordinate professional service to commercial exploitation, will assure survival of the private practice of pharmacy.

* Brief summary of an address at the Golden Anniversary Banquet of the College of Pharmacy, University of Buffalo, April 22, 1936.