

## EDITORIAL

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### THE PROGRESS OF PHARMACY.

**WE** HAVE come a long way since 1852. A mark of the progress of time is noted by the number of state associations which have concluded fifty years of organized effort with golden anniversary celebrations. We have every right to be proud of the record of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION in promoting the interests of the profession during the eighty-four years of its existence.

Profound changes in our economic and social structure have occurred during this period, but we are more aware of the progress and advances in the art and science of pharmaceutical practice since its beginning. We can be proud of the fact that all of the credit for the development of our science belongs to the profession itself. The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION deserves much credit for its influence and direction. What seems most remarkable about it all is the fact that, eighty-four years ago, the men who recognized and asserted the needs of Pharmacy were able to act as wisely as they did and lay a foundation of which a large part still stands.

Public health service, service to the physician and the public, has been and will always be the first order of the pharmacist. Interprofessional relations between the physician, dentist and pharmacist have been evident during the years. The same reasons which early prompted that small group of professionally minded pharmacists to band themselves together should prompt us to meet the more pronounced needs of to-day when the pace of progress is more rapid. The movement to create a greater spirit of coöperation between physicians, dentists and pharmacists is taking a definite form. Pharmacists should welcome the opportunity to coöperate to the fullest extent with others interested in public health. It is reassuring to see evidenced a greater interest in pharmacy by pharmacists and a greater recognition of both by the allied public health groups and the public.

Pharmacy is well equipped to meet the demands upon it and will either succeed in doing so or fail, depending upon the influence and direction applied. The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION must continue to assume the responsibility of leadership.

This responsibility cannot and will not be ignored by the ASSOCIATION nor its officers. Through coöperation, understanding and the individual effort of our membership Pharmacy will assume its proper rôle.—P. H. COSTELLO.

### THE FEDERAL FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

**T**HERE was an evident desire or willingness on the part of the drug trade activities to have new food and drug legislation enacted. There were differences among organizations affected, but these differences were not the immediate cause for the failure of the enactment. Either revision of the present Act or new legislation as submitted, *i. e.*, with certain changes, seemed necessary, but the lateness of the session and differences of opinion relative to phases of control in administration bodies and among the members of Congress, prevented acceptance of the conference action. The House insisted on its provision giving the Federal Trade Commission jurisdiction over advertising of foods, drugs and cosmetics; Senator Copeland "would not deprive the Food and Drug Administration of essential control over matters pertaining to public health."

The result points out that in measures of this kind there is a possibility to bring about an understanding which will serve the public better than a misunderstanding, if there is a willingness to reach conclusions that are uninfluenced by the sources of motives, but it is difficult to accomplish agreement in a last minute consideration.

It may be questioned whether a new law is necessary or whether shaping of present legislation is better, but legislation of this kind is for the protection of public health; it is a means that requires careful consideration, fairness in framing and in defining effective standards.

There were many changes in the bill, not much to criticize; perhaps the outstanding criticism to offer was that action was too long delayed and then hurried action expected on a very important measure. There may not have been jealousies, but there were contentions which prevented revision or enactment of the food and drugs law.

When the subject comes up again there should be early rational discussion without unwarranted disparagement, with a purpose to bring legislation into form which will have public health service as a first and paramount aim.

#### COMMISSIONED RANK FOR PHARMACISTS.

**P**HARMACISTS have had professional rank for several years under the Civil Service and commissions in the Public Health Service. During the 2nd session of the 74th Congress the National Defense Act relating to the Medical Administrative Corps was amended to provide commissions for pharmacists who are graduates of recognized schools or colleges of pharmacy, requiring four years of instruction for graduation, under such regulations as the Secretary of War shall prescribe. The President has signed the Act; this provides the basis, in the future, for the organization of a Pharmacy Corps when the number of commissioned pharmacists is increased; its adoption also makes possible the commissioning of pharmacists in the Reserve Corps and in the National Guard, as soon as arrangements can be worked out, which means that a properly organized pharmaceutical service can be established in time of War or of other necessity.

The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and affiliated organizations have contributed to the success of the enactment, and much credit is due to Surgeon General Charles R. Reynolds, who soon after his appointment gave attention to the question of improving the pharmaceutical service in the Medical Department of the Army and to giving pharmacists commissioned rank.

The bill (S. 4390) presented by Senator Morris Sheppard was amended in accordance with the views of the War Department and from that time forward the measure received the undivided support of the members of the Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate; of Representative John J. McSwain, Chairman of the House Committee on Military Affairs, of the members of the Committee; in fact, the bill did not receive an unfavorable comment or a negative vote in its passage through both Houses of Congress. The very evident purpose is to have pharmacy render an essential service, and the legislation contributes advancement to the profession.

The Medical Administrative Corps has an authorized strength of 72 officers; the bill limits future commissions in this Corps to pharmacists, and the 16 commissions at present authorized are estimated to cover the vacancies expected within the next year.

References to the measure and to those who were helpful in the promotion have been made in prior issues of the JOURNAL. The Acting Secretary of War, Harry H. Woodring, referring to enlisted men of the Medical Department with meager qualifications for such commissions, stated they have not materially added to the efficiency of the Medical Service because of their lack of professional and technical experience and attainments, and the letter from the War Department, bearing on the subject, closes with the statement that this legislation "will give these specialists the recognition in rank to which they are entitled."

Pharmacists will improve their opportunities and contribute to the professional service of pharmacy. The effort represents one of the promotions of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

Parts of *Bulletin No. 15*, A. Ph. A., of June 22nd, have been embodied in this comment.

#### THE PHARMACY EXHIBIT AT THE TEXAS CENTENNIAL.

ON PAGE 573 of this issue of the JOURNAL a view of the pharmacy exhibit at the Texas Centennial is shown. Chairman H. C. Christensen contributed largely to the success of the pharmacy exhibit at the Chicago World's Fair and Dr. Eben J. Carey, Chief of the Medical Section, Hall of Science, has donated to the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION an illustrated volume, depicting the medical sciences. Plates 37-39 show the pharmacy exhibits and pages 70-74 describe them and give the history therewith. Coöperating with Mr. Christensen at Chicago were Miss Esther Barney and Mr. Thaddeus Niemic, who were in attendance and contributed largely to the interest of the visitors at this exhibit. These co-workers designed and installed the Texas Exhibit and they were present at the opening in Dallas on June 6th.

The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION sponsored the latter, upon invitation and request of the U. S. Public Health Service. The exhibit is located in the U. S. Government Building; the space available did not permit such an extensive display as at Chicago, but it has been arranged by those named to bring pharmacy and its public health service to the attention of the visitors. Dr. R. C. Williams, Assistant Surgeon General, U. S. Public Health Service, is in charge of the Exhibit, portraying scientifically the "Story of Life," and the Pharmacy Exhibit is one of this group. The story begins with the geological investigation in Utah and other sections by the Smithsonian Institution and is carried through the evolution of animal life and finally to man, including his diseases and the methods he has developed for preventing and treating them. The exhibits of the public health professions are arranged to show their relation to each other and the laity. Pharmaceutical relics and equipment will also illustrate the development of pharmacy in Texas.

*Bulletin No. 16* has been drawn upon for the basis of this comment. The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION will convene August 24th-29th, in Dallas, and members will have the opportunity to visit the Texas Centennial Exposition. Each annual convention of the ASSOCIATION has its special attractions and affords attending members an opportunity to become acquainted with the section of the country in which the meeting is held and to study the problems of its druggists and pharmacists.