

EDITORIAL

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THE DALLAS MEETING.

IN ADDITION to the reports which showed steady progress in the affairs of the ASSOCIATION, there were several developments at this meeting that will, in all probability, have a decided bearing upon the future of pharmacy. The purpose of this article is not to list these developments in the order of their merit or to discuss them, but rather to bring them pointedly to the attention of those who may believe because of surface conditions that pharmacy is not making progress.

1. The adoption by the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education of minimum standards for the accreditation of schools and colleges of pharmacy and the announcement by the Council that inspections to ascertain which institutions meet the standards will be undertaken promptly. The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy has done a good work in standardization but the situation could be met only by a composite group representing the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and the National Association Boards of Pharmacy, working with the American Council on Education.

2. The preliminary reports by the A. A. C. P. and the N. A. B. P. on the basic studies these associations are making in respect to education and registration to supplement the studies being made by the A. PH. A. on the extent and character of professional practice. By the next meeting, we should have basic information about every phase of professional pharmacy and should be in position to make such changes in the program of education and registration as may be required.

3. The decision to transfer, early in 1938, the research work now being done under the direction of the Committee on National Formulary at the University of Illinois and other institutions, to the Building in Washington and to establish the Research Laboratory which has been contemplated since the institution was planned. This step, modest at first, should have a distinct influence on U. S. P., N. F. and R. B. revision in the future for obvious reasons and without interfering with the splendid volunteer work now being done all over the country.

4. The decision of the Committee on Research and the National Conference on Pharmaceutical Research to appoint a Joint Committee to study the field of pharmaceutical research and to recommend such steps as may seem advisable to secure more effective direction and control of this important field.

5. The establishment of a Sub-Section on Hospital Pharmacy in the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing will give the hospital and institutional pharmacists a division where their special problems can be dealt with. More important still, it will give the A. PH. A. the advice and guidance of this organized group in working out suitable standards for pharmacies in hospitals and institutions, which is the first job to be undertaken by the Council on Pharmaceutical Practice.

6. The offer of the Historical Records Survey, of the Works Progress Administration, to make a comprehensive inventory of the records and other collections of the A. PH. A., marks a further recognition of Pharmacy by the Federal

Government and will provide a disinterested survey of the Association's facilities. The fact that the offer followed a preliminary examination is evidence of the value of the ASSOCIATION's records and other collections to laymen as well as to pharmacists.

This brief review will indicate that these developments are related and that they are parts of a comprehensive plan for advancing professional pharmacy through improvements in education, registration and practice. They are also coöperative efforts supported by all professional groups. Other important steps are in progress and within a few years, pharmacy may expect to take its rightful place with the other public health professions.—E. F. K.

THE PHARMACOPŒIA AND THE PHYSICIAN.

LIBERTY is taken in quoting an editorial comment of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*,

"The new Pharmacopœia, the eleventh revision, became official in June 1936. The preparations included in the Pharmacopœia for use in the diagnosis or treatment of diseases were selected by the Subcommittee on Scope, which included many prominent physicians. In order that doctors may have easily available a reference to the products included in the Pharmacopœia and also to their manner of use, a special series of articles has been prepared suggesting the ways in which these medicines may be prescribed in the treatment of disease. The series of articles, which begins in this issue of the JOURNAL, has been developed through coöperation by the Committee of Revision and the Board of Trustees of the Pharmacopœia with the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. In order that the suggestions may be as useful as possible, the writers of the articles have not been restricted to the use of official medicines if in their judgment other therapeutic agents seem to be more useful. It is proposed to publish these articles at frequent intervals until the entire series is completed, at which time the articles will be assembled in book form and be made generally available at as low a price as possible. The purpose of this series is to encourage the use of Pharmacopœial and other well-established remedies rather than the use of unestablished and unwarranted proprietary preparations."

The first of the articles referred to is published in the September 5th issue of the *Journal A. M. A.*, and contributed by Walter A. Bastedo, M.D., President of the United States Pharmacopœial Convention. The first paragraph of the article reads:

"Fundamentally the physician is a therapist, for he must treat his patients. In his therapeutic armamentarium, drug remedies assume a large importance. It follows that any method for the selection of the best drugs and the establishment of standards to ensure their quality, purity and strength must appeal to him. Hence his interest in the Pharmacopœia."

This undertaking is outstanding and, correspondingly, contributes a most valuable service.

Dr. R. T. Gunther, at the July meeting of the British Medical Association in Oxford, stated that toward the close of the 17th century conglomerated prescriptions gave way to simple medicines, as advocated by John Floyer, who wrote a treatise on "The Tastes and Odors of Medicines." He said, if practitioners will use simple medicines, "their patients will be more suddenly, safely and pleasantly cured."