

To have survived seventy-one years, to have kept one clerk for thirty-eight years, may not be essential facts in history. From the vantage of human interest, it is a warm, compelling story. One cannot regard its record without dreaming a little, seeing in his mind's eye the neat, picture-book houses of the colony, blue-eyed Kunigunde from Saxony, Julius Meyenberg, the bearded patriarch, brooding over his memories and then young Julius, in the tightest of all Victorian trousers and flagrant necktie, his black mustachios drooping elegantly above his mouth, his hair combed up in a pomaded swirl, dispensing medicaments and spices and confections, behind the leaded window panes of the apothecary shop which flourished in the shade of a live oak tree.

THE PERFECT HISTORIAN.*

BY ROBERT W. RODMAN.

A half century ago Macauley, the noted English statesman and writer on historical subjects, described the perfect historian as one in whose work the character and spirit of an age is exhibited in miniature—one who does not merely describe men and events but who makes them intimately known to us.

This goal of perfection has stimulated many men to transcribe facts and events of various periods in order that others, and particularly those of future generations, may have an accurate understanding and a keen appreciation of the heritage which they have received from those who have gone before.

The individual who has taken part in an event of historical interest or importance is undoubtedly the most capable of recording its details, not merely accurately but also with the flavor and spirit of the age.

Until recently the written word was his only means of transcribing his thoughts for permanent recording. Although many historians have very successfully injected into their writings those characteristic manners and trends of thought of a particular period which help us to receive a true picture of what has taken place, the greater majority have found that when they transposed their story to writing, it became a stilted, prosaic, factual presentation. Such is not difficult to understand for it is hardly to be expected that the man who makes history should also be able to write of it with facile pen in the manner of a skilled historian. Many men, therefore, have contented themselves with telling the story to others and permitting them to set down the facts for posterity.

To-day, however, we have a new medium for transcribing the stories of those who make history. Through the development of radio, electrical recording and amplification, it is now possible for one to tell his story into a microphone and have it permanently etched on a disk of cellulose acetate which may be played hundreds of years hence and bring to that generation the word of mouth story of facts and events of to-day.

The Rutgers University College of Pharmacy, at Newark, N. J., has been one of the first to take advantage of this medium. Up until a little more than a year ago Dr. Philemon Hommel, one of the founders of the college and its first dean, was

* Section on Historical Pharmacy, A. Ph. A., Dallas meeting, 1936.

alive and he often thrilled those of us who knew him with the story of how the College of Pharmacy was founded forty-four years ago. It was a simple story—not of a few wealthy men deciding to underwrite a new educational institution—but of a few physicians and pharmacists of limited income seeking a way to provide better pharmaceutical services to a state.

No man knew or could tell the story as capably as could Dr. Hommell and through the vision of Dean Ernest Little, Dr. Hommell was persuaded to tell it for the last time shortly before he died, but this time it was not merely for the ears of a group of his friends but for the ears of future generations—the pharmacists of centuries to come who will thrill to the story of the inception of their college.

Through the generosity of the college I have the privilege of playing the records of Dr. Hommell's story for you to-day:

(The following is a transcription of the opening remarks of Dr. Hommell as contained in the records which Mr. Rodman played.)

"One fine summer afternoon, either late in July or early in August 1892, I was in the downtown section of Newark making some purchases of articles I could not obtain in Jersey City where I resided. On my way to the Market Street Station of the Pennsylvania Railroad to get my train, I was agreeably surprised to meet, near Broad and Market Streets, my old friend, Mr. August Drescher. Mr. Drescher was a prominent pharmacist in Newark and was always interested in the progress of scientific pharmacy.

"We shook hands heartily, and since Mr. Drescher wanted some information concerning the work of the Committee on Papers and Queries of the New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association, he accompanied me along Market Street. I gave him the desired information and we went on to discuss the work of the Legislative Committee and other ASSOCIATION matters. Mr. Drescher was always interested in the welfare of ethical pharmacy and a better coöperation between physician and pharmacist.

"When we reached the corner of Market and Ward Streets we stopped for a few minutes under the grateful shade of an old horse-chestnut tree that stood there. As Mr. Drescher looked up at the rich, green foliage of the tree, I said, 'Mr. Drescher, as regards the progress of pharmacy in the State of New Jersey, I firmly believe that the time has now arrived for the organization of a College of Pharmacy in the state of New Jersey; the same to take place in the progressive city of Newark, where the first state pharmaceutical association was instituted.'

"Mr. Drescher was very much delighted, and replied, 'I would certainly like to see a College of Pharmacy organized in the state.' He further declared that he and his pharmaceutical friends in Newark and vicinity would aid as much as possible in my efforts to establish the college.

"When we reached the waiting room of the railway station, we talked about the organization of the future college for nearly an hour, and I missed my train. Finally, in parting, I told Mr. Drescher that it would not be necessary to hire a lawyer to draw up an agreement for future charter members to sign, as I was familiar with that kind of work and willing to do the task personally.

"I forwarded the first draft of the agreement to Mr. Drescher for any changes that might be necessary. A few changes were made, and when the agreement was in satisfactory form, I arranged to meet Mr. Drescher one morning at the big clock that stood on Market Street opposite Beaver Street.

"When we met that morning, I handed Mr. Drescher the agreement, and after he had read it carefully I asked him to be the first to sign it. A copy of that agreement is to be found in the present college catalogue...."

How impressive will the playing of these records be in 2036 and in still later years!

You of the colleges of pharmacy and state pharmaceutical associations who have in your midst individuals who can tell at first hand of the founding and early years of

your institutions or organizations have an obligation to future generations to record your history now while those who know its details are alive.

For those who are interested these records may be made by recording studios in principal cities of the country. The cost is approximately one dollar a minute for the transcription and copies of the records may be made at a low cost. The records come in ten-, twelve- and sixteen-inch width which record, on their two sides, talks of six, twelve and thirty minutes, respectively. The records are unbreakable and each can be played about a hundred times.

DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE AT THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION BOARDS OF PHARMACY.

Among those in attendance at the 33rd Annual Meeting of the N. A. B. P., Dallas, Texas, were the following: *Alabama*, L. C. Lewis, Paul Molyneux, N. G. Hubbard; *Alaska*, H. C. Christensen, proxy; *Arizona*, Russell Meadows; *Arkansas*, C. R. Counts, H. W. Parker, Frank Ward, L. K. Snodgrass, Vince Harrington; *Colorado*, Joseph P. Murray, Arthur D. Baker; *Connecticut*, William J. Dunphy, Hugh P. Beirne, Edward J. Murphy, George Blackall, Charles Gustafson; *District of Columbia*, Vincent B. Novelli; *Florida*, Nat H. Hunter, J. H. Haughton, William M. Hankins, John K. Clemmer; *Georgia*, W. G. Bridges, Charles Hall Evans; *Indiana*, Albert C. Fritz; *Iowa*, George Judisch; *Kansas*, Joseph Paradowsky, Pat Mulligan, Mac Childs, Walter Varnum, Kelsey Petro, Gene Cook; *Kentucky*, J. W. Gayle, James F. Wilson, J. W. Hutchinson; *Louisiana*, John E. Guess; *Maine*, Alfred P. Manson; *Maryland*, Robert L. Swain; *Massachusetts*, John F. Walsh, Augustine J. Lawlor; *Michigan*, Norman A. Weiss, M. Norton Henry; *Minnesota*, Edward J. Prochaska, J. G. Pasternacki; *Mississippi*, T. H. McMillion; *New Hampshire*, Percy J. Callaghan, George A. Moulton; *New Jersey*, Robert P. Fischelis; *New Mexico*, G. H. Sasser; *North Carolina*, R. A. McDuffie; *North Dakota*, N. N. Brakke, P. H. Costello; *Ohio*, M. N. Ford, F. H. King; *Oklahoma*, W. D. Patterson, A. L. Puryear, Edward Milligan, Thomas B. Casey, T. J. Dean; *Oregon*, A. O. Mickelsen, proxy; *Puerto Rico*, H. C. Christensen, proxy; *Rhode Island*, A. Norman La Salle; *South Dakota*, E. C. Severin, Kenneth Jones, G. W. Lloyd; *Tennessee*, Robert T. Walker, George W. LaMar; *Texas*, M. E. Dooley, Paul D. Carroll, W. H. Cousins, E. E. Weaver, J. Dan Allen, Roy E. Phillips, E. M. Joseph; *Virginia*, A. L. I. Winne; *West Virginia*, Roy B. Cook, *Wisconsin*, Sylvester H. Dretzka; *New York*,

associate, J. Leon Lascoff, F. C. A. Schaefer. There was 100% attendance from Arkansas, Connecticut, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas.

Honorary Members in attendance were: George A. Bunting, Charles J. Clayton, C. Thurston Gilbert, Clare F. Allan, Rowland Jones, Charles Avery, John Muir, Charles Ehlers, Samuel L. Hilton.

J. M. Woodside, of Pennsylvania, prepared a tribute to the memory of L. L. Walton. A short Memorial service was held in memory of those who departed during this year.

OFFICERS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION BOARDS OF PHARMACY.

Honorary President, George Judisch, Iowa; *President*, George A. Moulton, New Hampshire; *Secretary*, H. C. Christensen, Illinois; *Treasurer*, J. W. Gayle, Kentucky. *Vice-Presidents*: District No. 1, John Walsh, Massachusetts; District No. 2, Roy B. Cook, West Virginia; District No. 3, R. T. Walker, Tennessee; District No. 4, S. Dretzka, Wisconsin; District No. 5, E. C. Severin, South Dakota; District No. 6, Edward Milligan, Oklahoma; District No. 7, A. D. Baker, Colorado; District No. 8, P. H. Brady, Washington.

Committee Members: *Resolutions*, A. C. Taylor, District of Columbia; *Syllabus*, M. N. Ford, Ohio; *Executive*, Mac Childs, Kansas.

Delegate, American Council on Pharmaceutical Education, R. L. Swain, Maryland.

FORDHAM ANNIVERSARY.

Fordham Alumni will celebrate their 25th Anniversary at Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City, February 9th. More than one thousand are expected and an interesting program has been prepared for the occasion and speakers have been named. A special tribute will be paid to former Dean Jacob Diner, of the College of Pharmacy; Joseph J. Hammer is chairman.