

EDITORIAL

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EXTENDING THE USE OF OFFICIAL MEDICINES.

CONSPICUOUSLY listed in the "Contents and Subject Index" of the cover page of the December 19, 1936, issue of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, under the caption "Special Article," will be found a contribution entitled "The Pharmacopœia and the Physician: The Action and Use of Diuretics, with special reference to mercurial compounds, N. M. Keith, M.D., Rochester, Minn.—2047."

Turning to page 2047 of the *Journal*, the above statement is prominently repeated with the following explanation in italics:

"This is one of a series of articles written by eminent clinicians for the purpose of extending information concerning the official medicines. The twenty-four articles in this series have been planned and developed through the coöperation of the U. S. Pharmacopœia Committee of Revision, and The Journal of the American Medical Association.—ED."

Twenty-four such articles are appearing this year in the *A. M. A. Journal* and arrangements have been made for another series to continue for probably another year. Some of this second series will deal with pediatric treatments.

The complete and enthusiastic coöperation and assistance of A. M. A. officials, including Dr. Morris Fishbein, Editor of the *Journal*, Dr. Olin West, secretary of the A. M. A. and Dr. Paul Nicholas Leech, secretary of its Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry, assured the success of this program.

The U. S. P. Committee has received the most gratifying help from authors and also from a special committee of practicing pharmacists. The Pharmacopœia Committee consists of Dr. Walter A. Bastedo, Dr. Bernard Fantus and Professor E. F. Kelly, of the Board of Trustees, Dr. H. C. Wood, Jr., Professor Charles H. LaWall and Mr. Leonard A. Seltzer, of the Committee of Revision, with E. Fullerton Cook as Chairman. All medical members of the Committee of Revision have also assisted in the selection of authors.

Another feature of this program, as planned by the U. S. P. special committee, is a type exhibit for physicians, for each of the medical articles. These are being set up each two weeks in the headquarters building of the Philadelphia County Medical Society, and have created much interest in medical circles.

A corresponding series of pharmaceutical articles was also proposed, one for each medical article, but this proved to be impracticable, as it was found impossible to arrange in advance for a definite order or time for the medical articles to appear and the pharmaceutical plan had to be replaced by an even more effective pharmaceutical program. This is explained more fully below and also on page 4. A photograph of one of these exhibits, and the wording on the display cards will also be found on page 5.

An important feature for the successful promotion of this educational effort among physicians, is for pharmacists to place similar exhibits in other medical centers throughout the country. This will be especially helpful in hospitals, so that these articles may be emphasized before both the medical staff and the interns. It

is important for doctors to actually see these official therapeutic agents, and to see and handle the filled prescriptions recommended by these nationally known clinical specialists.

Finally, the clinching step in the plan is the offering to pharmacists throughout the country of an opportunity to secure these articles in reprint form, punched for filing and in an attractive loose-leaf cover, at approximately cost. The individual articles are available soon after they appear in the *Journal*, and pharmacists in many communities are presenting the reprints already issued to physicians practicing in their neighborhoods, or to those who send prescriptions to their pharmacies. As new articles appear in the *Journal*, these, as soon as reprinted, are mailed to the pharmacists who have subscribed to the series. The pharmacists then distribute them, and this gives them frequent opportunities to meet medical associates and discuss with them the latest therapeutic suggestions. This is particularly effective when pharmacists show doctors some of the recommended prescriptions, as filled in their own pharmacies.

Many pharmacists are taking advantage of this opportunity to extend their professional service in their communities, and to become better acquainted with their medical associates. The pharmacists who are preparing themselves to effectively meet physicians by studying these articles, and who are investing the necessary amount for covers and reprints and then demonstrating their faith in themselves and their profession by actually taking them to doctors, are building a sound foundation, which is certain to bring many direct, and many indirect rewards.—
E. FULLERTON COOK.

A JOURNAL OF PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION.

PHARMACY as a profession is being more generally recognized in the Government activities wherein pharmacy serves. State and national legislative bodies realize the importance of placing in authority those who are equipped by education and training to fulfil the obligations of a profession and its ethics. The development is based on coöperation, in which prerequisite legislation is a factor, and the progress toward general acceptance is encouraging. The progressive results have been strongly supported by pharmaceutical education and legislation which demands requirements commensurate for public health service and appreciation of understanding, honor and privilege. The advancement has been seemingly slow, but this has advantages because the structure is erected on a firm foundation. Pharmacies will be activated on the higher appreciation in equipment and management.

Schools and colleges have great opportunities and pharmacy assumes a wider scope and by them the responsibilities increase; jointly, the future of pharmacy rests upon them in developing pharmacists that are qualified by education and training, for the profession is shaped by those engaged in it. The Committee on Development of Pharmacy Laws, published in the October *JOURNAL*, pages 947-950, reports the progress which has been made, and the outlook—these studies and efforts are being continued by serious study of education and legislation.

Quoting another—"Pharmaceutical education has taken on new significance and a publication devoted to this highly specialized branch of activity can render

a great service in stimulating continued progress in pharmaceutical education and in correlating it with other educational groups."

The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION is appreciative of the encouragement of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy in the JOURNAL and is pleased that the organization plans to continue and improve its Department in the JOURNAL A. PH. A. This is a helpful contact with the profession, because it informs pharmacists about the problems that concern the colleges. "The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION invites the A. A. C. P. to make this Department whatever it deems most helpful to the profession and the colleges."

The Colleges, the Boards and the ASSOCIATION must and will continue the work for pharmacy and in congratulating the Association of Colleges on the new undertaking, and the Boards on its service, the sincere hope is expressed for success, which depends on the earnest support of the three groups. May 1937 mark a mile-stone in pharmaceutical progress.

HOSPITAL PHARMACY.

SEVERAL developments have occurred during the year which are very encouraging and which provide the basis for the future development of hospital pharmacy on very sound principles. This article is not intended to discuss or evaluate them but rather to bring them to the attention of our members in order that the splendid progress they represent may be emphasized as well as their relation to the ASSOCIATION'S program for improving and extending pharmaceutical service in the more than 6500 registered hospitals in this country.

In order that it may take its proper place in these developments, reference should be made to the inclusion several years ago by the American Medical Association of a requirement among the other requirements of a registered hospital, that the handling of drugs should be properly supervised and should comply with state laws. This requirement was the first step in the program of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION to place hospital pharmacy on the proper basis.

Emphasis should also be placed on the conference between the officers of the A. PH. A. and the group of hospital pharmacists at Dallas last August and to the establishment of the Sub-section on Hospital Pharmacy in the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing. Chairman Whitney of the Section and Chairman Zopf of the Sub-section are hospital pharmacists of long experience and are therefore qualified to promote the success of the Sub-section and to make it a helpful agency to the hospital pharmacists of the country as well as to the ASSOCIATION.

The developments referred to may be enumerated as follows in sequence as to time:

1. The Catholic Hospital Association, at its meeting in Baltimore in June, gave the hospital pharmacists one afternoon sectional session to consider their problems under the direction of its Committee on Pharmacy, and later, the Association adopted the following resolution:

"Standards of Hospital Pharmacy Service.—Be It Further Resolved, That this Association endorse the recent formulation of standards of hospital pharmacy service and that it recommend to all its member institutions the adoption of and faithful compliance with these standards."

Secretary Kelly and Prof. M. J. Andrews were on this program.

2. The American Hospital Association, at its meeting in Cleveland in September heard a splendid report from its Committee on Pharmacy which is probably the most comprehensive study to date of hospital pharmacy and its needs. The report contained recommendations that the Committee be continued and that it be given the authorization and support to make a thorough survey of hospital pharmacy during this year. Such a comprehensive survey is essential to the development of adequate standards for the hospital pharmacy and would represent a splendid contribution on the part of this Association. Secretary Kelly, Chairman Cook of the Council on Pharmaceutical Practice, Chairman Whitney of the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing and Dean Spease met with this Committee in Cleveland and assisted in developing its program.

3. The American College of Surgeons at its meeting in Philadelphia in October included Pharmacy Service led by President Krusen of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, in the open-forum discussion of hospital problems and adopted as a Minimum Standard for a Hospital Pharmacy, five principles, published on page 202 of the October issue of its Bulletin, entitled "Approval Number," and in *JOUR. A. PH. A.*, page 65, January 1936. They constitute the first step toward the establishment of adequate standards for the hospital pharmacy, because they indicate the wide scope of the hospital pharmacists' activities. Secretary Kelly and Chairman Little of the Executive Committee of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy attended this meeting.

4. The November issue of hospitals, the *Journal of the American Hospital Association*, carries an editorial on "The Hospital Pharmacy" which in four splendidly worded paragraphs, states the importance of the pharmacy as a department of the hospital, and what the pharmacy should be, so clearly as to show that our problem is now thoroughly understood by hospital authorities. The editorial was printed in the *A. PH. A. JOURNAL* for November.

The progress here enumerated is more than might have reasonably been expected over a longer period of time. Best of all, it represents actions taken by the health organizations with which pharmacy must work closely. Hospital pharmacists are being invited to promptly organize themselves in the Sub-section on Hospital Pharmacy of the *A. PH. A.* under the able leadership of Chairmen Whitney and Zopf, Dean Spease and the other workers who have given so much time and thought to the problem of hospital pharmacy, so that they may be prepared to meet the greater opportunity as well as the greater responsibility which will be theirs as this program develops.

Dispensing pharmacists will be called upon to assist the smaller hospitals which cannot support a pharmacy, and should become acquainted with hospital pharmacy's problems.

Law enforcement officials can assist in this program by inspecting hospital pharmacies and by impressing on the management of hospitals and institutions that their pharmacies must be conducted in accordance with state laws.

Another important development in this program is the appointment of graduate pharmacists as interns, on the same basis as medical interns, to serve one or two years in the hospital pharmacy. During this period the intern lives with the other interns and establishes connections and acquaintances which should be in-

valuable whether future practice is in the hospital, in a dispensing pharmacy or in any other branch of pharmacy. If every large hospital had graduate pharmacists as interns our contacts with the other public health professions would soon be on a much better basis of understanding and coöperation. The schools and colleges of pharmacy should give this possibility serious consideration.



WORKING ON A MODERN PHARMACY LAW AT THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHARMACY.

A Committee to study the subject of a modern pharmacy law and to submit recommendations was authorized at the Dallas meeting last August and, later, President George D. Beal appointed the following as members of the Committee: R. L. Swain, *Chairman*, Baltimore; H. C. Christensen, Chicago, Ill.; R. C. Wilson, Athens, Ga.; R. P. Fischelis, Trenton, N. J.; A. D. Baker, Denver, Colorado; H. V. DeHaven, West Chester, Pa.

Seated at the Table Are: Left, E. F. Kelly, H. C. Christensen, R. L. Swain, H. V. DeHaven, E. G. Eberle; Right, R. C. Wilson, A. D. Baker and J. Lester Hayman. It will be noted several are not members of the Committee and R. P. Fischelis was unavoidably absent. The meeting was held at the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHARMACY on January 17th.

A definite program was worked out and the Committee plans to submit the complete draft of a modern pharmacy law at the New York meeting of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION in August, when it can be considered by the delegates representing every division of pharmacy.

"The officers of the State Pharmaceutical Associations and the State Boards of Pharmacy are being requested to give the Committee the benefit of their suggestions. The Committee will be pleased to confer with and assist any state that is attempting to amend or rewrite its pharmacy law."