

# THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES OF PHARMACY

## *The Publication Board*

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ONE of the most hopeful signs of the times is the fact that those engaged in pharmaceutical education have come to the realization of the fact that if they are to attain the highest efficiency in their special field they must concern themselves in secondary education, education on the college level and education in related professional fields. Isolation of pharmaceutical education is fast becoming a condition of the past. The same condition has prevailed as regards pharmaceutical research. Through four decades Dr. Edward Kremers has been the leading exponent of the philosophy that pharmacy must become productive in its own right in the field of research and cease to be parasitical upon the other sciences. The answer to that philosophy is a vast army of highly trained young men now engaged in productive research in the pharmaceutical sciences. When Dr. Henry B. Ward a few years ago became the permanent secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, he energetically set himself to the task of bringing about a closer relationship between the sciences, pure and applied. As a result there was established a pharmacy and a dentistry sub-section to the Medical Science Section. Thus pharmacy allied itself with all the other sciences in the mass effort to advance human progress through scientific research. On June first, Dr. Ward retired from active service as Secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and at the request of the Editor of the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education* he wrote the article on "Pharmacy and the American Association for the Advancement of Science" printed in this issue. It points the way to greater opportunity for service.

The paper entitled "The Iowa Interprofessional Association" by Walter F. Meads, Secretary of the Association and of the Iowa Pharmacy Examiners, contains material which has more than a local interest. In it Mr. Meads discusses clearly and convincingly the wide and fruitful field of service that such an association can accomplish. He points out the part colleges of pharmacy can take and must take in the accomplishment of the purposes of such an association. For this reason the Editor requested permission to publish the paper in the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education* and the Editor also feels that it should reach every member of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. This accounts for its appearance in this Department. The Editor has been on a search for the smartest piece of wisdom expressed so far by any pharmacists in the year 1937. In his opinion the honor so far belongs to Mr. Meads when he says—"The pharmacist should get this one point firmly fixed in his mind, that it will never be possible to promote successfully any legislation in the interests of the profession of pharmacy, that is not backed by the sound policy of public health and welfare."—RUFUS A. LYMAN, *Editor*.

## PHARMACY AND THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

BY HENRY BALDWIN WARD.\*

Relations of the American Association for the Advancement of Science to the organizations and workers in the field of pharmacy is a large subject, indeed, quite too extensive to be covered within the limits of a brief article. Even the opportunities I have enjoyed for many years of intimate contact with the Association have not covered by any means the subject of possible relations between the Association

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\* Retiring permanent secretary, American Association for the Advancement of Science.

and any field of science. New possibilities continually arise and new relations open up which afford unexpected opportunities for the discharge of our fundamental function which is, as the name indicates, the advancement of science.

On the other hand, the considerations involved in the relations of the Association to pharmacy are not particular or limited in character. What has been or might be written of one field could, with a few changes in wording, apply with equal force to other fields of science. Pharmacy, properly considered, is truly a field of applied science, the extent and variety of which is often not fully considered. It is also a subject the beginnings of which go back to the earliest records of the human race and in all probability beyond those limits. Behind the witch doctor of savage tribes lies a mass of information accumulated through an unknown series of years which constitutes a substantial foundation, the real basis of whatever successful results he had in dealing with the true ailments of his group. His information was strikingly crude but has been verified in a marked degree by the experiments of his predecessors regarding the effects on the human system of the materials which he handles and his merit was measured by the success with which in his practice he has recognized the real and separated it from the false. The herbalist of the middle ages had risen above the witch doctor of savage times through sincere devotion to the search after new remedies and to the advance in general knowledge which through reason and experimentation had shorn the ancient profession, in large part at least, of its desire to control by terror and incantations.

To-day the pharmacist is confronted with a vast supply of new products, substances not only with changed names and revised formulas, but measured and standardized in a fashion that gives far better control than was ever known before. But beyond this, every day brings forth unheard of compounds, substances that never existed before and that have been built up to produce precise effects previously incapable of realization. The knowledge of the past is inadequate to handle the problems of the present. The worker in the field of pharmacy can no longer be satisfied or even safe with the limited training of the past. He must gain ground not merely in chemistry and among chemists but also in possibilities of understanding science in new and broader aspects if he is to discharge his duties properly and utilize the new opportunities for personal advantage and public service. He must be inspired, his views broadened by a richer, deeper understanding of the possibilities that modern science affords than he has ever had before.

This wealth of new materials at his disposal is accompanied by conditions that lay upon him greater responsibilities. The exploitation of these substances is often unmistakably commercial. Even under the best of circumstances their very newness leaves us uncertain with regard to their ultimate effects, and their utilization by untrained hands has been accompanied in well-known instances by most serious results. The common practice of many in asking for some drug of which they only know that it is widely and artfully advertised, in order to remedy conditions of which they have at most a superficial and imperfect knowledge lays upon the pharmacist a double responsibility and demands broad training and ability to discriminate between the safe and the unsafe with full appreciation of the consequences of error. For such purposes the student of pharmacy finds the appeals of the salesman and the arts of the optimist are poor training. Indeed, one may safely say that present-day conditions in pharmacy furnish greater dangers for

society than in the recent past and some added protection must be found to guard the public against the misuse of the products of modern scientific research.

One of the important lines of development in science is certainly greater emphasis upon those agencies which bring together workers in different scientific fields and are organized to interpret the results obtained in various lines, both to workers in allied sciences and also to the general public. Men frequently lament that society in general is so little informed and so scantily appreciative of the advances of science and the possibilities given for higher average well being.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science is not only the largest, but the only nation-wide general organization devoted to assembling workers from all fields of science for the discussion of problems in individual lines. Through its meetings it seeks to interpret broadly the results of study and research in one field to workers in other lines and to the public which all seek to serve. Its own programs are in the main devoted to presenting significant results of recent research. In discussions and symposia the relations of such results to other fields of science are presented and interpreted. In this way fields of pure and of applied science gain knowledge and direction for their further work.

By virtue of content and development pharmacy is intimately connected with various aspects of many other sciences. Its workers will profit by opportunities to learn at first hand of new lines of research and new results obtained in other fields. Moreover presentations of its problems will stimulate other workers to recognize undeveloped lines in their own fields and to seek to interpret new relations. Thus the American Association for the Advancement of Science serves to develop in the Section on Medical Sciences and in the subsections on Dentistry and Pharmacy phases of these subjects not ordinarily considered in clinical and technical societies in the confident expectation that thereby the future activities in these fields may be broadened and deepened.

But the sessions themselves do not represent by any means all of the opportunities afforded by the Association for the discharge of its important functions. The magnitude of its power is not measured by the roll call at individual meetings. Indeed, the attendance on particular occasions is conspicuously regional. Yet by adjustment of the series of meetings well in advance and by their distribution widely over the country, an ever-increasing circle of members is brought into contact with the organization and a larger membership served than would be possible otherwise. At the same time contact is maintained with all members through the distribution, as a membership privilege, of its various publications. In this the weekly publication, *Science*, is undoubtedly the most important element bringing, as it does at brief intervals, to the attention of all the subscribers not only the notice of plans for each meeting, but also personal information regarding scientific happenings in affiliated societies, institutions of learning, research laboratories and independent scientific gatherings. It prints also some of the leading addresses delivered by prominent scientists at meetings of the Association and on other occasions as well as brief notices regarding individual researches. The *Scientific Monthly* which appears less frequently gives those who prefer it more extended addresses and discussions of scientific achievement and summaries of advance in particular fields.

Through your own technical societies and their publications, among which I

should mention especially the new *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*, serving publicly the faculties and students of colleges of pharmacy, more complete information regarding technical advances is provided in the individual field of your subject, but if adequate work is to be done in any field of science, if you are worthy of the profession in which you are engaged and are serving it adequately, you must acquire further knowledge of associated subjects and of advances in standards in all fields. The last half century has seen tremendous progress in the development of knowledge and its application in varying fashion to human welfare. If that advance is to be continued, if its followers are to contribute their quota in extending the limits of knowledge, they must in some effective way be in contact with progress in other fields. Many unfortunate results follow upon failure to achieve broader contacts not the least of which is that the small society working alone and without relation to larger undertakings exercise relatively little influence on public opinion. That the American Association, with its nearly twenty thousand active members and with more than seven hundred fifty thousand members in affiliated societies, is a power will be appreciated without further emphasis. Its voice properly expressed is heard above the din of conflict of opinion. It has exercised its influence with evident success in the past and with greater prospects for the future in the development of both pure and applied science with appropriate emphasis upon research as fundamental and with the ultimate objective of advance in human welfare. It seeks to associate with itself all those who have a living interest not merely in futhering personal aims but primarily in contributing to social progress.

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#### THE IOWA INTERPROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION—ITS PURPOSES AND POSSIBILITIES.

BY WALTER F. MEADS.\*

The past quarter of a century has witnessed rapid changes in our profession, both in merchandising and in the qualifications of the pharmacist himself. The drug store, however, remains an essential and responsible factor in caring for the public, its health and its interests. To pharmacy as a profession has been assigned not only the public's interests but the interests of the public health professions. Medicine and pharmacy are sister sciences and as such have gone down the years together; dentistry and nursing are newer in the field, but now join us in the forwarding of our own welfare and that of the public. To further the interests of *all* groups, to raise the standards of each, and to coöperate to the fullest extent one with the other, there has been organized during the last two years the Iowa Interprofessional Association.

The organization was brought about by representation of the committees of the organized professional groups in the state, namely, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, veterinary medicine and nursing. These representatives presented a resolution for an allied organization which was presented to each organization and adopted by each at the regular annual meeting of each organization in 1935. In 1936 following a similar procedure, a constitution was presented and adopted.

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\* Secretary of Iowa Pharmacy Examiners and of the Iowa Interprofessional Association.