

warded with extra business. Anything like this law that advances public health should be, and is, thoroughly indorsed by Pharmacy.

If we are to strike a balance between these assets and liabilities, I am sure we all can agree that there remains a net worth or capital amount. Pharmacy, to those who practice it well, still has a great value. From it they earn not only a financial return, but also a psychic income—that love of work and accomplishment that makes the heart beat faster. In what other retail branch can the owner-worker find a thrill equal to that enjoyed by the druggist when he masters a prescription incompatibility, catches an error in a prescription before harm is done or receives the blessings of those whom he has served or aided in an hour of need?

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DR. LEWIS MOTTET'S PROJECTED INSTITUTE OF PHARMACY  
(1769).\*

BY J. HAMPTON HOCH.<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Lewis Mottet was a talented physician, a native of France, who settled in the province of South Carolina before the middle of the 18th century. He attended the plantations in St. John's Berkley and St. James' Goose Creek and had what at that time was probably the most genteel range of practice in the province. Dr. Mottet was said to have been a bon vivant with a true Gallic appreciation of good food and in his professional visits contrived to administer to his own appetite while prescribing for his patients' relief. Several anecdotes illustrative of the man's independence and striking personality are related by Dr. Joseph Johnson (1).

As to his professional antecedents we unfortunately know nothing but infer that they were not inferior to most and were superior to those of some of his contemporaries. An interesting and unusual announcement was placed in the press by Dr. Mottet in February 1762. To quote (2):

"The subscriber being requested by several persons to prepare for them Belloste's celebrated pills, so well known by the inhabitants of this province, to be the most effectual medicine in the cure of all intermittent fevers, as well as for constant, synochal, putrid, bilious and all other fevers, hereby informs them of his willingness to oblige them, but, as the preparation is very troublesome and dangerous, he cannot, without loss, prepare the said medicines in a small quantity, as the trouble is nearly equal for a small or large mass. He will therefore be glad that all persons, desirous of having those pills would subscribe for one or more boxes. A box will contain fifteen dozes for eight pounds currency, with each box he will give plain and exact directions: also information of their efficacy in several other deceases, particularly in all cholicks, fluxes and scorbutick cases.

"Subscriptions will be taken in at the following places, from this day to the first of May ensuing, after which time none will be received as he must then go about preparing the medicines. At Charles-Town, by Mr. James Poyas, merchant on the bay; At Goose-Creek, at the subscriber's house; At Monck's-Corner, by Mr. Thomas White, merchant; At Ponpon, by Mr. Gideon Dupont; At Stono, by Mrs. Wilkinson. Where the boxes will be delivered on the 3d day of August next, and where the back settlers may subscribe on paying the money.

LEWIS MOTTET."

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Skipping to November 1769, we find Dr. Mottet presenting a unique proposal which is, as far as we know, the earliest attempt to establish a pharmaceutical institute or as he terms it a "general pharmacy." To quote (3):

"As dangerous and irregular Methods, in the Practice of PHYSIC, are followed in this Province, from the Want of a general PHARMACY; the Subscriber proposes to the Public, the Necessity and Expediency of constructing a LABORATORY, chymical and galenical, for the Safety and Preservation of the Patient, and Credit of the Physician; as therein he will find Medicines proper and adequate to all Cases, which cannot be had in private Collections. He will join with the other methodical Practitioners in Town, to prove the Inconveniences they labour under, and the Advantages of which the Public are deprived. By not having a general Pharmacy, Physicians are obliged to conform to the common irregular Methods, having no other *Materia Medica* than those imported from Great-Britain, in general so adulterated, that the best Prescriptions may be rendered ineffectual, and probably very dangerous. Without a Pharmacy, the Physician cannot exercise his speculative Faculty, to find various Compositions, or simple Substances adapted and natural to this Climate, or Correctives for vapoural Impressions, emanating in particular from this Soil; neither can he exert himself in the Analysis of the abundant Quantity of Vegetables, Animals, and Minerals peculiar to this Soil, in order to extract Substances pure and fit for Use. With Intention then, not only to analyse all the natural Productions, and to find genuine Preparations of all Kinds, he humbly requests the Honourable House of Assembly, to take under Consideration, if the establishing a general Pharmacy, and collecting a Botanic Garden, would not be the most effectual Means for regulating the Practice of Physic, and the surest to prevent Partiality; and encourage from all Parts of the World, the Republic of the Literati to concur with their Advices, to be judiciously examined by your composite Society. As the opening of a botanic garden, without a chymical Laboratory, in order to discover, by Analysis, the Nature and Effects of Simples or Materials unknown, will be to the Public an useless Expense: The Subscriber therefore takes the Liberty to offer himself for the Direction of the Laboratory, chymical and galenical; and when erected, to collect, analyse, and read the general System of the *Materia Medica*: But in Case there should be found a Director and Lecturer, of superior Knowledge in this the most essential Part of Physic, after the Construction of the said Laboratory, he, the said Subscriber, will then be ready to resign in his Favour. It remains to acquaint the Honourable House, that the Cost of Implements, Vessels, Utensils, Glass, and Metalics, Aparatus, Furnaces, and all other inside Work, with some Materials for the Beginning, will amount to between Six and Seven Thousand Pounds Currency. Should this Proposal meet with Opposition, the Subscriber, having already Part of the Aparatus, will, on his own Account, undertake to complete the Pharmacy, if the Public will favour him with the Loan of Six Thousand Pounds Currency.—With this advanced, he proposes to admit, as Students and Apprentices, any young Men, having an Inclination and sufficient Education; and shall also make known the Time when he is to perform any capital Operation. The Pharmacy being completed, the Advantages arising from a Botanic Garden, will clearly appear."

This proposal, however, was "found, by the learned Committee, appointed by the Honourable House of Assembly, to be too premature" and the public did not favor Dr. Mottet with six thousand pounds, so the project died aborning.

#### REFERENCES.

- (1) Joseph Johnson, "Traditions of the American Revolution," Walker and James, Charleston, S. C., 235-238 (1851).
  - (2) *South Carolina Gazette* (No. 1438), February 6 to February 13, 1762.
  - (3) *Ibid.* (No. 1825), September 27, 1770.
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