

EDITORIAL

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LOCAL AND STUDENT BRANCHES.

EVERY ONE interested in Pharmacy appreciates that any investment we make in the profession is an investment in our own personal futures. We realize also the necessity of a strong national parent organization if our profession is to become and remain strong and virile. In building up the national organization it is basically important to increase its active membership and to make the members of the profession better acquainted with the program and the work of the ASSOCIATION. Local and Student Branches can be very helpful in promoting both objectives. The increased interest being shown in these local units is very encouraging. Four Student Branches and a Local Branch have been established since the last annual meeting, and several branches have revived and extended their activities. Plans for several additional branches are being carried forward and branches should be established in every locality and school where the conditions will justify.

Another equally important consideration is to hold the ground which we have already gained; in other words to keep our existing branches strong and active. This will necessitate thought and planning and action on the part of our members, especially our branch officers. Our programs must be kept strong and must be widely publicized. Pressure must be brought to bear on certain of our members to attend our meetings until they have established the habit of doing so. When this has been accomplished, we have added new recruits to the band of crusaders who are giving themselves unreservedly to the welfare of Pharmacy.

In spite of requests from the Chairman of the Committee on Local and Student Branches, some of our branches have neglected to send in the names of their officers, others have failed to send reports of their meetings. Although such neglect is the result of carelessness rather than fundamental lack of interest, it is the sort of thing which slowly undermines our branches and eventually leads to loss of ground which we have won with difficulty.

All of its present members must be profoundly appreciative of President Lascoff's efforts to increase the membership of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. His personal efforts have brought splendid returns. The activities of the membership at large have been less intensive and consequently less fruitful.

Here again the branches have done much and can do more. Their officers and members are acquainted with the conditions and the possibilities in their localities and schools. The Local Branches can interest a greater number of pharmacists in their work by arranging their programs to furnish the desired professional information and discussions.

Very soon Secretary Kelly will be sending greetings and good wishes to the young men and women graduating from our colleges this coming June. This message can be supported by the Student Branches. It would be helpful if our Pharmacy College Deans would speak to their graduates urging them to join the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and play lay their full part in helping to secure the future of our profession. Personal letters from the Deans to each of their graduates should prove even more helpful and effectively pave the way for Dr. Kelly's suggestion.

Strong programs, active committees, in fact well-rounded branch activity is the sort of thing which will not develop of and by itself. It will follow only as a result of proper planning and hard work on the part of you and me. Let us resolve to do better for the balance of the ASSOCIATION year that we have so far done.

ERNEST LITTLE, *Chairman Committee on Local and Student Branches.*

THE SPATULA CLUB.

THE EFFORTS being made in many sections of the country to promote closer relations between physicians, pharmacists and dentists are bringing results. These efforts should be continued and extended until the public health professions will cooperate fully in rendering their necessary services.

The results are being brought about in many ways and through many forms of organizations. Pharmacists are leaders in many of these efforts. A large majority of the state pharmaceutical associations now have active fraternal relations committees and they are supported by local committees and organizations. Many of the latter are doing excellent work because in these smaller groups it is possible to promote friendship and cooperation through personal contacts.

The organization named in the title to this comment is a case in point and affords a striking example of what can be done by a small group of pharmacists. The Spatula Club was organized in Pawtucket, R. I., in 1936 to cooperate with the Caduceus Club which is an organization of physicians. Each club has a Committee on Complaints to which any difficulties that may arise between the members are referred as well as any practices that should be initiated, changed or discontinued. The Spatula Club has carried on a campaign of health advertising in the newspapers stressing the necessity for cooperation between the public and the health professions in the control of disease and in the promotion of good health. "Community Health Depends Upon Intelligent Medication," is the theme of the advertising.

The Spatula Club meets about four times per year at a dinner, has only a few rules and no by-laws, and the dues are one dollar per week which also covers the advertising expense. Visits are exchanged with the members of the Caduceus Club each year at a dinner or an outing. The Club is now cooperating with the Dental Club of the city in the same way.

The object of the Spatula Club, as its President expresses it, is to develop better pharmacists, to promote public health and to cooperate with the physicians and the dentists in every way that can be helpful.—E. F. K.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION—CONFERENCE OF TEACHERS OF PHARMACOGNOSY AND PHARMACOLOGY.

The round table type of discussion which featured the program of the Conference of Teachers of Pharmacognosy and Pharmacology at last year's meeting in Minneapolis was enthusiastically received and it was resolved to continue that type of program this year.

The topic selected as the general theme for discussion is, "The Aims and Objectives of the Course in Pharmacology (or Pharmacognosy) and How to Attain Them."

Four pharmacologists (Professors: Bliss, Hiner, Dille and Zeigler) will serve as leaders for the first half of the program; and four pharmacognosists (Professors: Gathercoal, Bacon, Schwarz and Justice) will lead the second part of the program. Ample time for general discussion of each section is planned.

In order that everyone may derive as much profit as possible from the free exchange of ideas and viewpoints it is earnestly requested that all planning to attend the Conference should carefully consider the topic set out above and contribute to the discussion.