

not only furnish dates and names, but also serves to disclose the inner thoughts, the underlying motive power, that actuated leading men in their doings, which to discover and analyze is the highest and most difficult aim of history.

Together with such records, should go a historical museum. The first historian of this section, Dr. E. Kremers, has contributed valuable papers on the usefulness of such an institution which to repeat does not seem necessary. But as but little has been done, so far in this direction, I again urge the Association to provide some means for this most useful and necessary institution, and to create the position of a custodian, whose duty it should be to collect objects of interest, classify and arrange them and enter into correspondence with all who might be able and willing to contribute to such a collection. The importance of such a museum, and the interest evinced in it, is best shown by the zeal with which traveling pharmacists visit the Germanic Museum in Nuremberg where three different pharmacies representing the 13th, the 15th and the 17th centuries, are exhibited. The articles shown there were contributed from all parts of Germany and every German pharmacist is proud of the collection. Other similar collections may be seen in Berlin, Vienna and Berne, each representing the history of pharmacy of its country. Our country should not be backward, and defer the establishment of a pharmaceutical museum until it will be difficult, or even impossible to collect articles of interest of past years. If the proposition to erect a home for the American Pharmaceutical Association ever becomes a reality, such a house would be the proper place for the museum and historical records. But a beginning should be made now, and a custodian should be appointed, who has time, ability and inclination to perform this work and who can give it a temporary abode.

I therefore recommend that such a custodian be appointed by the council or the work of the historian be extended and sufficient funds be appropriated to carry out the work in a dignified and proper way.

Before closing my address I consider it my duty to express my sincere thanks to our Secretary, Mr. F. T. Gordon, who has filled this important office for a number of years with most praiseworthy zeal and remarkable ability. It is owing to his energy that the sessions of the Historical Section have been crowned with success in past years. I also thank our Historian and all members who have contributed in such able manner to the archives of this section and to the members of the Association in general for their faithful attendance and interest.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

The work of the secretary for the past year has chiefly been the soliciting of contributions from members on topics of historical interest to pharmacy and the collection of historical material. The suggestion made at the Nashville Meeting, that the collection of pharmaceutical journals and daily newspapers containing reports of the meetings of this Association, has proven successful, and I have received copies of all the leading pharmaceutical journals of that period, which will be extremely valuable in future years, through the photographs and personal items concerning members and their activities. I wish to express my thanks, and that of the Association, to those editors who have so willingly complied with the request for copies of their journals. We are so accustomed to throw aside newspapers and other printed matter that we often overlook the importance it will have to future students of the history of pharmacy. There is no doubt as to the value of such material, but WHERE ARE WE GOING TO KEEP IT? If we, of the present day, really wish to add material to the building of the temple of pharmacy we must have a place to put it, and not let it be scattered in all parts

of the country. For the preservation of historical material alone, we are absolutely obligated to establish some permanent home or place where the vast collection of personal and scientific data may be available to the student and historian.

This brings me to the greatest difficulty I have met in obtaining material of historical value. Plenty of such material is offered but who will take care of it, who will arrange it so that it will be available? It is not fair and it is, certainly, not creditable to the American Pharmaceutical Association that it should solicit contributions of historical material and then leave their safekeeping to volunteer members in all parts of the country. How does the man who sends us rare photographs, priceless documents and mementos of friends dear to him know what will be done with them? I confess, myself, that I prefer to keep my own collection of historical material where it can be seen and utilized, instead of consigning it to the oblivion of a packing case, located—WHERE? This question of providing a home, headquarters or whatever it may be called, is now the vital one before this Association and the sooner it is attended to the better. We claim to be the guardians of American pharmacy, its past, present and future guides, but, if this claim is to continue, we must assuredly provide a home for the guardian and not let him depend upon the chance hospitality of a stranger. *Ipsa facit?* Not if history is true.

The following recommendations as to continuance of the work of this Section are made, based on my experience of the past two years: 1. That state pharmaceutical associations be requested by the secretary of this Section, through their proper officers, to furnish a copy of the printed proceedings of their annual meetings for inclusion in the Historical Collection of this Association. Such material should be obtained by the secretary and transferred to the care of the Historian as convenient. But once again, where will it be kept?

2. That the secretary request copies of the American Pharmaceutical journals containing reports of the annual meetings of the American Pharmaceutical Association, the National Association of Retail Druggists and other national associations connected with pharmacy, in all its branches, and that these shall be sent to the Historian as part of the Historical Collection. Again, where?

3. That such foreign and American publications devoted to pharmacy, as may be received in exchange by the Editor of the Journal of the Association, be ultimately forwarded to the Historian for inclusion in the Historical Collection.

Our chairman has outlined plans for collection and preservation of other historical material in his address, therefore I will close my report by recalling the fact that history is being made now, that will profoundly affect the world, and that our members have an opportunity for laying the foundations of a mighty temple of truth in the history of pharmacy. Until such time as the Association shall provide a suitable place for safe keeping and exhibition of the historical material contributed, I will gladly take care of any sent me and will try to preserve it for future installation in our "Home."

The expenses of this Section have been chiefly for postage and printing, the total amounting to something less than \$10.00. All bills have been paid and vouchers are in the files of the General Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

F. T. GORDON.