

Contributed and Selected

DREAMING AND DOING.

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Professor Charles H. Rogers, Dean of the Department of Pharmacy of the West Virginia University, of Morgantown, W. Va., has very kindly asked me to send you a word of greeting to be read at the organization-meeting of your branch on November 19th inst., and I do so with pleasure.

I have no special message "to send to Garcia"—only a few cursory thoughts—but I do want to congratulate you upon the splendid forward step you are taking in forming your branch, and I do want to wish you God-speed in your future work. You are building wiser than you know!

The older I grow the prouder I become of my membership in the American Pharmaceutical Association, because this organization stands for the highest ideals of American Pharmacy, and because membership in it is a privilege and an inspiration.

Its objects are to advance the science and art of pharmacy and to improve the conditions of pharmaceutical practice—by stimulating original research work, by diffusing scientific knowledge, by fostering sound education, by promoting rational and well-balanced legislation—and we badly need it, both national and state—by teaching the history of Pharmacy and tilling the soil for the making of future history, and in a hundred different ways striving to better American Pharmacy and help American pharmacists.

The American Pharmaceutical Association represents, in its membership, not only the rank and file of pharmacists, but also, the captains of industry, the teachers of pharmacy, chemistry, botany, materia medica and related subjects, the editors, publishers and writers of pharmaceutical literature, the food and drug officials, the chemists, biologists and bacteriologists. The comprehensive character of the American Pharmaceutical Association is shown by the fact that, at the recent annual meeting, one hundred different organizations in pharmacy and related interests were represented by delegates to the House of Delegates of the Association.

The American Pharmaceutical Association was born in 1852 of a dream or ideal, but a dream backed by action. Sixty-two years ago, there were no legal standards for the identity, purity and strength of drugs, adulteration, substitution and misbranding were exceedingly common, the examinations of imported drugs at ports of entry were most superficial—in fact the first Federal Drug and Medicines Act to control the quality of imported drugs had been enacted but

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four years before—and such a thing as the regulation of the use of habit-forming drugs was not thought of.

But a few far-sighted men in American Pharmacy dreamed dreams—had visions of what American Pharmacy should be and should stand for, and they founded the American Pharmaceutical Association, decided on the principles of action that should govern their professional and business conduct, and then they toiled and toiled and toiled in the upbuilding of the structure of their organization, and their *work*, and that of their successors, led by those master-minds of American Pharmacy—Procter, Parrish, Maisch, Squibb, Prescott, Curtman, Ebert, Hallberg, Oldberg, Searby, and many others—some of the old “war horses” are still with us, and long may they live—made for the wonderful progress in the science and art of pharmacy that has taken place during the past sixty-two years. The history of the work of the American Pharmaceutical Association, as exemplified by its publications, is the history of American Pharmacy! These fathers of our calling have left us a priceless heritage of deeds well done, which we will do well to emulate. They dreamed dreams, but they actualized their dreams into deeds; and it is up to us to carry on the work of dreaming and doing so well begun.

In an address at Freemason's Hall, London, over half a century ago, Charles Dickens said:—

“The most delightful paper, the most charming essay, which the tender imagination of Charles Lamb conceived, represents him as sitting by his fireside on a winter night telling stories to his own dear children, and delighting in their society, until he suddenly comes to his old, solitary bachelor self, and finds that they were but *dream-children*, who might have been, but never were. ‘We are nothing,’ they say to him, ‘less than nothing, and dreams. We are only what might have been, and we must wait on the tedious shore of Lethe, millions of years, before we have existence and a name.’ And immediately awakening, he says, ‘I found myself in my armchair.’ The dream-children whom I would not raise, if I could, before every one of you, according to your various circumstance, should be the dear child you love, the dearer child you have lost, the child you might have had, the child you certainly have been.”

And so it is with the dream-children of our brains in our work for Pharmacy. We dream, we idealize, perchance we act, and the act brings forth fruit, but how often, oh! how often, we lack decision, we fail to act when dream-opportunity knocks at our door—and our dream children die. For to dream only is to die, so far as results are concerned, but to dream and to do, is to live and grow and develop all the latent possibilities within us.

We love Pharmacy and our daily work. We see every now and then something that could be improved, changes that would be helpful and make for genuine progress. We know that if the children of *our* brains were developed, they would grow into lusty fledglings and then into sturdy manhood and would do a whole world of good. But we falter. We hesitate. We demur about training our dream-children. It means work. It means new duties and responsibilities. We don't want to wear the yoke of service. We know it means self-sacrifice. And so we remain mute, inglorious and lazy. We “job along” in

the same old way, in the direction of least resistance or rather in the direction of least endeavor, and we let "George do it." And George does it and he don't do it right. We *know* he don't. His work is all full of flaws. We see a dozen different places where we could have done it—oh! so much better and more effectively. But we didn't and we don't. We fear to plunge into the seething maelstrom of work and self-sacrifice. We are afraid that we may be criticized. We are afraid that we may not be appreciated. *We are afraid to do a man's work for the sake of men and not for the sake of self!* And so we drift, and drift, and drift, just like Charles Lamb did in his dreams, until we awaken from our dreams to find that the shadows of life are deepening and the evening of eternity is drawing near, and then we realize how little we have done despite the insistent calls of our dream-children, during the years that have passed and gone; how little we are doing for ourselves and our fellowmen!

Just a word more and my preachment will be done. Be strong and loyal members of the grand old American Pharmaceutical Association. Do all in your power to advance the objects it stands for. Develop yourself and your latent possibilities. There is more in you than you give yourselves credit for. Don't be afraid of work for the benefit of the other fellow. It will benefit you in the end, as much so or more, than it will him. Dream, dream, dream all you can of what you can do to help yourself and your fellow pharmacists, but be sure—very sure—that your dreams are not idle figments of the imagination, but real pictures, beautiful pictures, *and* that they are backed by action! action! action!

Paraphrasing Froude, it can be said that "the dreams that men use are the only real dreams, the only ones that have life and growth and convert themselves in practical power. All the rest hang like dust about the brain or dry like rain-drops off the stones."

COLLEGE EXAMINATIONS—A DEFENSE.

PROF. ZADA M. COOPER.

Examinations have been called a "useless antiquity" but, however antiquated they may be, there seems to be no modern substitute that at all accomplishes the desired result. However, among the arguments presented are some that are not without merit and deserve some consideration in any discussion of the question.

It is said that, if they are given to compel review, they are quite unnecessary, that it is possible to review without the test at the end. In theory, that may be true but it has little basis in fact. Experience has shown that such review will be half-hearted with some students. Other individuals will not even do their regular work consistently, to say nothing of review work, unless the fear or dread of an examination hangs over them. Nothing less will induce them to work. There is a possibility here, which has probably been tried more or less successfully by every teacher. It is to set a certain standard, the attainment of which, will excuse from the examination; requiring students to do the review work, not knowing that they shall not be obliged to take the examination, until