

Section on Historical Pharmacy

Papers Presented at the Sixty-First Annual Convention

HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

E. C. MARSHALL, BOSTON.

The first steps looking to a state-wide organization of Massachusetts pharmacists were taken at a meeting of the Essex County Druggists' Association at a meeting held by that association on Eagle Island, in the Merrimac river, in July, 1881.

This action was the direct result of the failure of the Essex County Association to secure favorable action by the legislature of that year upon its petition for the enactment of a pharmacy law for the state. On motion of Mr. Joseph W. Colcord, a pharmacist then in business in Lynn, the association voted to appoint a committee to consider the question of the formation of a state pharmaceutical association and as to the advisability of the enactment of a pharmacy law, the two questions being thus connected because it was believed that should it be deemed advisable to petition for a pharmacy law, there would be much greater probability of such a law being approved by the legislature, if petitioned for by an association embracing representation from all parts of the state, than if it were to be asked for by the druggists of a single county. The motion of Mr. Colcord was adopted, with the substitution of the standing committee of the Essex county association for a special committee, which the motion contemplated, and after several conferences of that committee it was decided by them to take the consensus of opinion of the druggists of the state as to the formation of an association, and a circular was issued to all the members of the profession in January, 1882, asking for their opinion upon that question.

This circular met with a favorable response from about two hundred and fifty of the druggists, and in consequence of their approval, the committee of the Essex county association called a meeting of those druggists who had responded favorably to their suggestion. This meeting was held at the Revere house on March 8, 1882, with the following persons in attendance:

C. B. Emerson, Haverhill.	W. H. Flynn, Boston.
H. M. Whitney, Lawrence.	J. J. Whipple, Brockton.
H. A. Estabrook, Fitchburg.	Archie Dakin, Wareham.
W. W. Hill, Woburn.	F. M. Pease, Lee.
A. F. Thompson, Boston.	W. S. West, Hudson.
A. M. Cutler, Holliston.	E. S. Stebbins, Boston.
F. T. Whiting, Great Barrington.	E. G. Frothingham, Haverhill.

N. D. Toppan, Brockton.	W. A. Macurda, Fitchburg.
S. O. Daniels, Natick.	A. K. Tilden, Boston.
Thos. B. Nichols, Salem.	C. F. Thayer, Holliston.
W. B. Morse, Ind. Orchard.	W. W. Bartlett, Boston.
J. W. Colcord, Lynn.	G. F. Densmore, Worcester.
J. N. Ames, Chelsea.	A. L. Kimball, Charleston.
W. E. Luscomb, Salem.	E. B. Gordon, Lynn.
C. F. Hanson, Taunton.	G. F. Wheeler, Randolph.
C. A. Southworth, Hingham.	J. H. Lawrence, Boston.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. C. B. Emerson, of Haverhill, who read the call for the meeting and called for nominations of officers for the organization of the meeting. Mr. C. F. Dinsmore was elected as Chairman of the meeting, and Joseph W. Colcord was chosen Secretary. A committee was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws for the government of the association and also one to nominate officers. After a discussion of the objects and advantages of the proposed organization the gathering adjourned to be called together at a later date.

The next meeting of the organizers was held at Horticultural Hall, Worcester. About one thousand notices were sent out to the druggists of the state, said notices reading as follows:

"IN UNITATE POTENTIA EST."

In response to a circular issued by the Standing Committee of the Essex County Druggists' Association, thirty or more druggists met at the Revere House in Boston, on the eighth of March last to consider the practicability of forming a State Pharmaceutical Association similar to those in existence in many other states. The object and aim of the proposed association having been presented by several gentlemen interested in the subject, it was voted unanimously that such an association be formed in deference to the expressed desire of druggists from every city and important town of the Commonwealth.

The committee to whom was referred the selection of time and place of holding the first annual meeting have decided to accept the generous invitation of the Worcester Pharmaceutical Association, to meet in their city, Wednesday, May 17, in Horticultural Hall. The meeting will be called to order promptly at 10 a. m. It is desired that every pharmacist in accord with the subject of the proposed association shall be present, as prominent members of our profession will address the convention upon topics of great interest to all of us at the present time.

The annual assessment will be made very small so that no one be debarred from becoming a member. It is unnecessary to call attention to the value of concerted action in all professions, more particularly in one like our own. We all know that where the one singly may fail, the many united, achieve success. Exhibits of special value to pharmacists will be welcomed, suitable rooms being assigned for this purpose. Let each one of us so interest himself that our Association shall be second to none in efficiency or membership.

Art. IX of proposed Constitution: The aim of this association shall be to unite all reputable druggists and apothecaries of this state for mutual encouragement and assistance; in improving the existing methods of pharmacy by disseminating the latest discoveries in our art, thereby stimulating to farther discoveries and inventions; to establish closer and more cordial relations between pharmacists, physicians and the public at large; whereby we may promote the general welfare and tend to the mutual advantage of all; to discourage within due limits unwise competition in our own ranks, and to devise means to

prevent our lawful profits being taken by those, outside our profession, engaged simply in commercial pursuits; to elevate the standard of our profession and ultimately to restrain the practice of pharmacy to properly qualified druggists and apothecaries.

If you intend being present please notify previous to May 5, so that the Worcester Association may have ample time to make necessary arrangements for our accommodation.

J. W. COLCORD, Secy. Pro. Tem.

April 15, 1882.

This meeting was called to order by Mr. William Bush, the President of the Worcester Druggists' Association, who delivered an address of welcome and congratulation to those present, after which the convention selected Mr. C. B. Price, of Salem, as President pro tem and J. W. Colcord as Secretary pro tem. A constitution and by-laws were adopted, under the provisions of which the convention proceeded to an election of officers. Mr. S. A. D. Shepherd was elected the first President of the association, and Wm. Bush, H. A. Estabrook and F. T. Whiting, Vice-Presidents; Joseph W. Colcord, Permanent Secretary, and F. B. Butler, Treasurer.

Prof. P. W. Bedford, of New York, was present and read a paper on Alkaloids. The other papers read were "The Pharmacopoeia," by S. A. D. Shepherd; "Hydrostatic Pressure as Applied to Pharmaceutical Purposes," by Henry A. Estabrook; "Pepsin, its Mode of Manufacture and Assay," by W. W. Bartlet, and the "Metric System," by Prof. G. F. H. Markoe.

Thus was the Massachusetts State Pharmaceutical Association born, and thus it entered upon its career of usefulness—not only to the pharmacists of Massachusetts, but to those of the nation, for many of the papers read at its several sessions, during the thirty-one years of its existence have been of positive service to the pharmaceutical profession of the whole country, and its proceedings are a mine of information embracing all subjects, some of most engrossing interest to all the members of the profession. Particularly has its labors been crowned with success in the legislative field, where its work has been of inestimable service to the pharmacists of our state.

Its legislative committee soon secured the passage of the law establishing a pharmacy board and regulating the practice of pharmacy in the state, and the continuous and unwearied work of that committee has been demonstrated, not only in securing the passage of many bills of advantage to the Pharmacists, but also in obstructing and preventing the approval by the legislature of many proposed measures, whose operations would have been trying, vexatious and burdensome to the members of the profession.

To show the important work achieved and the influence upon legislation exercised by its legislative committee, I have only to say that of the more than two hundred bills considered by the general court of Massachusetts at its last session which affected directly and indirectly our profession, not one bill was enacted into law which was opposed by the legislative committee of the association, and that every bill which that committee approved was passed and put upon our statute books.

A history of the Massachusetts Pharmaceutical Association which would present an adequate and complete idea of its activities and usefulness would be

manifestly impossible within the limits of such a paper as this. A proper presentation with its elaborate detail of facts, however interesting, would become wearisome to the listener before a tithe of the pages such a history would fill could be read. It is, therefore, with much regret that leaving unwritten a complete history of the thirty-one years of its career of usefulness, embracing the names of many of those eminent and loved in our profession, I submit this fragment of its history to your honorable body, which paper only describes the preliminary steps leading to the foundation of the Massachusetts State Pharmaceutical Association, and to the ultimate success of that work, and leave to time and some abler pen the writing of its fuller history.

SOME IMPORTANT DATES IN PHARMACAL CHRONOLOGY
SINCE 1700.

J. F. LLEWELLYN, MEXICO, MO.

1700. Franklin sold drugs for ten years.
1700. Kew Garden began on 11 acres, now 270 acres.
1702. Amonton calculated absolute zero -240 , and expressed the opinion that air could be frozen solid.
1711. First patent medicine in U. S. "*Tuscora Rice*" to cure consumption.
1713. Erection of the first "Anatomical Theater" in Berlin by King Frederick Wilhelm I.
1716. Apothecaries of Boston cut price of bleeding to sixpence.
1728. John Bartram established near Philadelphia the first botanical garden in U. S.
1740. Hellott distilled anilin from indigo.
1743. Lavoisier born (1743-1794).
1760. Haller injected aqueous extract of putrid matter and found that death resulted (1708-1777).
1766. Hydrogen discovered by Cavendish.
1747. Marggraf, an apothecary, discovered magnesia and alumina and showed identity of cane and beet sugar. He is the "Father" of Industrial Chemistry.
1771. Linneaus knew 8551 species of plants (1707-1778).
1750-1790. Period of Black, Cavendish, Watt, Priestly, Davy, Bergman, Scheele, Lavoisier.
1759. Braun at Moscow froze mercury.
1765. First medical school in U. S. established at Philadelphia.
1772-83. Scheele discovered manganese, chlorine, baryta, arsenite of copper, molybdenum, uric, lactic, mucic, gallic, oxalic, hydrocyanic and malic acids, and glycerin.
1772. Rutherford isolated nitrogen.
1774. Oxygen discovered by Priestly.
1776. Apothecary General for revolutionary army created, re-enacted 1789, abolished 1802, revived 1812, abolished 1822.