

EDITORIAL

E. G. EBERLE, Editor

253 Bourse Bldg., PHILADELPHIA

THE NEW PHARMACOPŒIA AND NATIONAL FORMULARY AS A MEANS FOR BRINGING ABOUT A CLOSER CO-OPERATION OF PHYSICIANS AND PHARMACISTS.

THE thought of bringing about a closer co-operation between physicians and pharmacists by mutually studying the Pharmacopœia and National Formulary in order to use it intelligently is not new, but more and further practical application should be made of the propaganda. Chairman Frank H. Freericks of the Section on Education and Legislation, A. Ph. A., very convincingly brought this to the attention of the members in his address before that Section. When the U. S. P. VIII became official, pharmaceutical societies in various localities met for discussion of the changes that were made in that revision, and physicians gladly accepted of the invitation to participate in the discussions, and in some instances outnumbered the pharmacists in attendance at these gatherings, thus evidencing their deep interest and desire to become informed.

The success of such meetings depends upon proper preparation of a program, and then, the selection of qualified men for the subjects to be discussed. Without such planning in advance and thorough preparation for intelligent discussion, the results will prove more than disappointing. On the other hand, if the attention which this propaganda or study is deserving of is given, there will be a growing interest. It is as much a necessity for the physician to have a knowledge of the drugs and preparations of the Pharmacopœia and National Formulary as it is for the pharmacist to have a thorough acquaintance with these two standards. This seems rather an unnecessary statement, but it presents the reason and purpose for such "get together" meetings.

J. Leon Lascoff, in a paper before the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, pointed out that there were quite a number of modifications of formulas, more particularly in the preparations of the National Formulary, that would result in products quite different in taste and appearance from the corresponding galenicals heretofore official. The author in his paper tabulated the titles of these preparations in alphabetical sequence and commented briefly on the changes provided by the new standards, and such was the interest of the members that the request was made by the Section to have the contribution published in an early issue of the JOURNAL. In compliance we hope to have the paper in this number, and the suggestion is offered that reprints be made by pharmacists for distribution among physicians of their respective localities.

Pharmacists should not overlook the opportunity of co-operating with physicians in this matter, and by so doing they may save themselves not only annoyance but perhaps loss of trade and prestige by creating doubt in the minds of their patrons

when a difference in dispensing is noted by them, without being pre-advised relative thereto.

It is mandatory that pharmacists have a thorough acquaintance with the U. S. Pharmacopœia and National Formulary, and these standards at this time afford pharmacists a perfectly legitimate opportunity for ethically advertising that they are informed, progressive and observant.

While they are furthering their own interests in that way they are also promoting the cause of pharmacy. Every pharmacist should do his part in the propaganda for a more general and extended use of U. S. P. and N. F. preparations.

E. G. E.

RESEARCH IS PREPAREDNESS.

THE industries of a country are influenced by the demand for their products. The development of the industries is dependent upon an increasing demand for the goods manufactured; necessity promotes demand and stimulates investigation.

Ordinarily, progression is along the lines of least resistance, extraordinary conditions develop energies that push obstacles aside or surmount them.

It is exceedingly more difficult to arouse an interest in research work when there is no compelling necessity for it, than when there are awaiting extraordinary inducements or when there is urgent demand for investigation. Under latter conditions possibilities are recognized and opportunities shaped into accomplishments.

Chemists may have known of the possibilities of chemical manufacture in this country, but not until recently did the American public know of them, when they were enabled to see what had already been achieved by a visit to the exhibition held in New York City under the auspices of the American Chemical Society. The exhibition was a revelation to everyone, and demonstrated the ability of American chemists and industries "to deliver the goods." Many new products were exhibited that would not have been manufactured in this country, at this time, if the conditions had not forced their production. The value of the exhibit, aside from the immediate interest and the revelation of possibilities, was the systematic showing of natural resources that are available for American manufacturers.

The fact that chemists responded to the necessity of the hour gained a hearing from the public and developed an educational campaign, which eventually will place the American chemical industries in a front rank. There has not been a full comprehension of what the establishment of such industries means. The universities, financiers and Government must participate in the movement. Educational opportunities for preparing chemists must be provided, investments must be made, railroads must help in exploitation of resources, and the Government must lend a helping hand and in some degree offer protection, at least for a time, against unreasonable or destructive competition of foreign manufacturers. While these industries would not be promoted if there was absent the opportunity for profit, the economic purpose should be paramount. If the American chemical industries are really to be extended and become established, there must be team work.

While research is to-day a popular topic for the chemist, a deeper interest along the lines should be awakened for pharmacy. Extraordinary circumstances have brought research in chemistry to the front, that of pharmacy must have its encouragement through a desire for progress and of service. Comparatively little assistance will be given to pharmaceutical research work, and hence requires courage and persistency for the cause if progress is to be made. Assistance cannot be expected of the Government, the universities have given little thought and limited appropriations to their pharmacy departments, the opportunities of the average retail pharmacy are not conducive to research work, hence it is up to the schools of pharmacy and the scientific departments of manufacturing houses to extend pharmaceutical research.

The contention of the medical profession is that therapeutic agents should be scientifically proven, but even they are not prepared for such limitations in their practice. Such limitation would reduce the size of the Pharmacopœia to a volume fitting the vest pocket in the judgment of some, and increase it to that of an unabridged dictionary according to the views of others. The functions of the medical profession are directed to the prevention and cure of disease and the relief of suffering, hence very liberal views should obtain relative to therapeutic agents; the narrow specialist may be just as hurtful as the lay adviser. Pharmacy cannot pass judgment or withdraw its service because of different views held by members of the medical profession, their duty is in providing the therapeutic agents and having them prepared according to attested standards, whether they be active constituents of plants, or a combination of all, or whether drawn from other sources. Research therefore is imperative, pharmacy must take up its problems and solve them. The address of Chairman W. L. Scoville is timely and should be carefully read and studied.

E. G. E.

FOR TO-DAY

Above all, that I may not be a coward! That I may have courage—courage to be unmoved by the uncertainties of life, and without dread of loss, whether of friends, of health or of fortune: That I may come with a firm and tranquil mind to the work of this day, fearing nothing—ready to meet bravely failure or deprivation.

That I may bring to the day's efforts, good humor and a cheerful regard for all with whom I may come into contact: That I may not judge others hastily or with bitterness.

That I may not be grasping, but content with a fair share of this world's goods, willing to let others have theirs: That I may be diligent in the performance of duties and cheerful in manner: That I may be earnest in pursuit of the right.

That I may stand with open mind ready to receive the Truth in small affairs and in large—whether in learning new and better methods or in receiving that philosophy necessary to a brave, tranquil, well-poised, well-harmonized life.

JOHN BRISBEN WALKER.