

EDITORIAL

E. G. EBERLE, Editor

253 Bourse Bldg., PHILADELPHIA

A MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY.

“A MAN without a country” is strangely typical of the American pharmacist, considering pharmacy in its broader, more comprehensive sense, and this unfortunate condition of the collectors, importers, manufacturers, distributors, and dispensers of drugs and medicines, in these United States, renders them quite as helpless and as inefficient, in personal potentiality, as would be “The Wandering Jew” in considerable multitude.

It may be justly advised that the commercial divisions of pharmacy are well and efficiently organized, that the educational and legal features are also properly associated, and that these national bodies are influential within themselves and for themselves. The phases: the *phases* of pharmacy are, then, organized and are in a position to be represented, just as the Diplomatic Service, the Army, the Navy, Internal Affairs, Postal Service, Agriculture, Commerce and Labor are organized and in a position to be represented. But what would be the result, what would be the loss or what the confusion if these departments were not correlated and did not make up the great executive part of the Government? Is it possible that any sensible person will say that the phases of pharmacy, as represented by our great national bodies, should not be correlated and attached to a catholic central body with a history, with prestige; with an association that has all the peculiar and liberal qualities that make it especially well fitted to become the greater holding body—“The Country”—of American pharmacists; remembering that a person who has anything of importance to do with drugs and medicines *is* a pharmacist?

At present the practical and clearly destined way of bringing about a quick and acceptable correlation of the phases of pharmacy is through the National Drug Trade Conference. Broaden its field of operations, not too greatly at first, and make *it a part of the American Pharmaceutical* and let the American Pharmaceutical cease to be a part of the Conference, and at once the great scheme of uniting *all* pharmacy has been accomplished. An appeal that enforces responsibilities is made to the members of the Drug Trade Conference and to the several organizations they represent for a serious, a generous, and a decisive consideration of this most important subject.

HENRY P. HYNSON.

THE DRUG TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

IF there were no other reasons than the different views of financiers and statesmen on “business after the war,” then these alone would deter us from attempting to express an opinion on this much-discussed subject.

Mr. Ray Morris, in the *Atlantic Monthly* for March, presents an analytical summary, expressive of the sober thoughts of two representative groups of prominent merchants and brokers—one sees golden prosperity; the United States as the

source of supply for Europe; also, South America being a creditor, that the commerce of that section will come here.—The other concludes that our mushroom prosperity, one hundred percent profits on war contracts, is unfitting us and raising wages to a point which will make effective competition impossible with rivals who will be compelled to secure outlets for their products of cheaper labor. South America being a raw-material producer, like the United States, must buy where she sells.

Perhaps the best that we may hope for is that both are right and wrong; surely, if one or the other is right, we are either fortunate or ill-fated. The conclusions seem to be quite as reliable as the prognostications based on the conspiracy of the ground-hog with the sun on the second day of February.

Manufacturers are realizing that the question of wages is becoming a serious one; also, that the influence of reduced profits needs explanation, whereas large dividends are received without apologies. It is generally accepted that all prices of drugs and chemicals are not at present based on supply and demand, and some day there must be an adjustment. All this will require careful study if we are to be prepared for business conditions when peace has been restored.

There is no matter of greater importance than the establishment of a tariff commission, without political attachments and the members chosen on account of their efficiency and courage to do right.

Chief among the reasons that contribute to lower prices of European manufacture are the coöperation of government with the industries and the universities; the low freight rates for export goods; encouragement of industrial combinations, and low wages.

Progress in contemplated research work is evident: only recently a Bureau of Industrial Research was established at the University of the State of Washington, which will attempt to coördinate the research activities already undertaken by the university, with a view to the utilization of the resources of that state.

While state and government should provide means for research work because thereby the national community is benefited, the industries themselves could well afford to encourage schools by provisional endowments and thus stimulate an interest which will prove a source of profit. The investigations and contributions of Hermann Frasch can be cited as just one example of what pharmacists may do in promoting the industries. The encouragement of schools and earnest associations may be considered in the light of good investments instead of mere donations.

Australia has recently provided a fund of two and one-half million dollars for the establishment of a national laboratory for the application of scientific research to Australian industries. The aim of the national laboratory is the coördination of existing institutions—commonwealth laboratory, universities, agricultural colleges, technical and mining schools, and ordinary schools.

It was not until about a year ago that Great Britain provided for the endowment of research. This took the form of a grant amounting in the aggregate to a hundred thousand pounds sterling contributed for experimental and laboratory

work in connection with the scheme for establishing the coal-tar dye industry. Later an Advisory Council on Industrial Research was provided with thirty thousand pounds for the purpose of devising plans and assigning investigations to laboratories, etc.

A possible British protective tariff is foreshadowed by the Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence in a report which reads, "that where the national supply of certain manufactured articles, which are of vital importance to the national safety, or are essential to other industries, has fallen into the hands of manufacturers ready to undertake the manufacture of such articles in this country, the manufacturers should be afforded sufficient tariff protection to enable them to maintain such production after the war."

We may summarize that if the American industries concerned with the drug trade are to be materially developed there must be coöperation all along the line, from government to people. The latter must be willing to encourage American manufacturers, while the other divisions in the coöperative chain must studiously work out a plan of action and put it into effect. The means employed for exploitation and selling by foreign countries have been subjects of the magazines and press.

A thought that might be here included relates to, who would be entitled to the results of research work made possible by the people or the industries? The spirit that prompts such endowments is altruistic, hence the results should be made available, under proper conditions, for the public advantage.

The American Pharmaceutical Association has from its very inception largely contributed to the knowledge of pharmaceutical and chemical manufacturers, and the latter have helped to make the transactions of the annual meetings of the Association mutually profitable. Industrial research is but the expansion of one idea that has been fostered by the Association. The JOURNAL and the YEAR BOOK are valuable mediums for communicating and conserving knowledge relating to pharmaceutical and chemical activities and the progress being made therein. Many of the industrial enterprises, somewhat removed from pharmacy, have been made possible, or rather the products manufactured by them had their origin as medicinal agents. Such developments are just as probable hereafter, and manufacturers should not be unmindful of their inheritance. A deeper interest and substantial encouragement of the American Pharmaceutical Association and the JOURNAL will energize their endeavors preparatory for a period that, more than ever before, will require the coöperation of the coördinated forces of the drug trade. There are some who think there is no possibility for improving pharmacy, and that is largely the reason for slow progress or seeming failure. The future is always based on what we *will* it to be: history demonstrates that. E. G. E.

THE VALUE OF HISTORICAL PHARMACY.

BIOGRAPHIES of great men, in whatever field of activity, are most instructive and useful as helps and guides, and serve as incentives to others. The present state of things is the consequence of the past, therefore a source of information

anent the good we enjoy or the disadvantages we contend with. "History teaches philosophy by example." The two subjects are so closely related that for this article we will not make a distinction between history and biography.

All of us have been inspired by the lives of others, therefore no argument is needed for convincing any one of the powers of biography and history. We may not attribute a stimulus to this source because the influence seems to come from within ourselves. Our culture is resultant upon the study of one subject with another, one radiating light into the other, and becomes part of ourselves. No one will deny that the lives of pharmacists are activated by their tutors, preceptors, and patrons any more than that the acts of our statesmen are expressions of popular demands.

The introduction of manual training into our public schools was responsive to the necessity for developing the industries, helpful to the young men and women in their chosen vocational occupations. There is another auxiliary side to secondary education, and that is through a knowledge of the men similarly engaged and their activities, whether successful or unproductive. The contemplation of the lives of men inspires faith in times of discouragement. They have accomplished, and so can I; it also tends to the creation of higher ideals and a resolve to succeed, though others have failed. In other words, the study of biography has both inspirational and sustaining power.

The greatest difficulty presented in making history a subject for encouragement of the student lies in speaking only of the achievements of men and not of their struggles and failures. Both are essential from an educational point of view: one is a sequence of the other. The youth finds encouragement when he succeeds where another is less efficient, but is discouraged rather than enthused when he reads of work still beyond his reach, the result of trials he himself is now experiencing.

Biography is a culture medium which permits young people to enjoy the company of those who have served their profession, interests them in the knowledge they have made available, enables them to understand that which has been accepted as truth, and enkindles aspiration for higher ideals.

A pharmaceutical education is incomplete unless it comprehends a general familiarity with the important diverse fields of human thought and also is linked with the history of the profession and those who pursued it. Without the vision that enables him to view the past, with only the concentrated gaze on the present-day conditions, the young pharmacist lacks perspective, is out of sympathy with the spirit of the history of progress and unappreciative of the common interests of related activities and those whom he serves. He cannot realize the more serious duties involved in his work, nor does he understand the current of advance that sweeps beyond the sphere of proximate things. An analysis is not complete if the preliminary determinations are not considered with the final results; so also the purposes of pharmacy are better understood if we have a general knowledge of its development.

Those who attend the annual meetings of the American Pharmaceutical Asso-

ciation go away with higher ideals for pharmacy, with an inspiration and a determination to be more useful to their profession. True, like resolutions, these promptings nearly always lose their power, but nevertheless there is inspiration from others. The important thing is for each of us to keep faith in himself and the profession, increase the knowledge thereof, work usefully and prove grateful to those that worked therein before, beneficially to those that are to come after.

“History is neither more nor less than biography on a large scale.”—“The best thing which we derive from history is the enthusiasm that it raises in us.”

E. G. E.

OUR VISION IS NOT MEASURED BY WHAT OTHERS HAVE SEEN.

WE reproduce an editorial from the Alumni Journal of the Columbia University College of Pharmacy under the caption of “A Word About the A. Ph. A.”

The remark that the American Pharmaceutical Association does not appeal to the average retail pharmacist is heard much too often not to be taken seriously. One of the several reasons advanced is that “it is composed too largely of ‘high-brows,’ college professors, etc.”

Only recently we heard a member make this selfsame statement. The speaker was one who had only a short time since retired from the presidency of a state pharmaceutical association upon the completion of an exceptionally successful administrative year. The association had hit, as many thought and said, a slump, the finances were in poor condition, and interest was lagging.

Quite a few of the speaker’s friends criticised the organization, not at random and iconoclastically, but usually constructively, and, when the gentleman was chosen president, flocked to his support and assisted him in performing wonders in infusing new life and interest into the Association.

No doubt there are others, real workers, not shirkers, active in divers pharmaceutical bodies, who hold similar views of the American Pharmaceutical Association. If this be true, it bodes the American Pharmaceutical Association no good, and something should be done to disillusion the doubters and to induce them to become active workers in the ranks of the pioneer pharmaceutical association of our country.

Perhaps the foregoing editorial should have a reply, even though the oft-repeated charge is quoted, that the American Pharmaceutical Association is composed too largely of “high-brows,” college professors, etc., and is part of the first paragraph.

The Association speaks for and welcomes accessions to the membership; the Treasurer each year sends out a series of persuasive letters to those who are not sufficiently interested in their membership. Every one is invited to participate in the activities of the Association, and those that come invariably feel well repaid for their time and expenses they have incurred. There is no section that does not offer information for all and presents ample opportunities for discussions of subjects that apply to the activities of the druggist.

The Association invites criticism that is constructive: he who has a valuable scheme for reform should not wait for others to make the beginning. It is an easy matter to offer a suggestion: to activate it requires persistent work: quibbling and wrangling over things cause dissension, but do not make for progress.

It should be understood that no exception is taken to the editorial, because such statements every one has heard. The desire, however, is to convert the thought into some useful accomplishment. The term "high-brow" must be ignored entirely, for it is not specific; but, as a matter of fact, is it desirable to exclude the teacher? Surely not. Rather they should be encouraged to greater and deeper interest, and the larger membership should offer them problems that are nearer and more advantageous to the success and the promotion of the drug business.—Lend a hand.

Every one will admit that the Association is not perfect, no, and that is simply saying that the individual members are not. There is no organization that is not subject to some kind of criticism, unless there is no life in it.

Unity and cohesion are essential conditions for association work. The American Pharmaceutical Association is engaged in harmonizing many separate interests, while at the same time it is endeavoring to carry on constructive work. The complexity of the drug business in itself offers many problems; the educational status is not the same in all states or even within respective localities; there is wanting the close coöperation between physicians and pharmacists that should obtain. And so we might enumerate the many diverse situations which engender a spirit of criticism from one or more contending factions. This is the crux: both coördination and coöperation are necessary, and with it all an altruistic spirit and a desire to be really helpful in upbuilding the Association.

Means must be sought to hold the members within the ranks and bring outsiders into the Association. Let us not forget our duty in promoting harmony, remembering that the Association must reconcile conflicting pharmaceutical interests and harmonize those of pharmacy, on the one hand, and the medical profession, the public in general, the government and the state, on the other; also, that we are prone to forget the potential work the Association has done and is doing, but possessed of keen sight for deficiencies, that men now and in the past have sacrificed much so that many might be benefited.

If the desire is ardent and sincere for a better, stronger, and more efficient Association, it will become so, provided we all work together. Criticism has an enlivening value in correcting errors and stimulating energy, but there should also obtain the constructive faculty, promoting the legitimate aim of criticism; namely, to direct attention to the excellent.

E. G. E.

PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF HOSPITAL CORPS.

IN the proposed reorganization of the Hospital Corps of the United States Army, this division becomes part of the Medical Corps. The enlisted men of the Hospital Corps are transferred to the corresponding grades of the Medical Corps established by the act which provides for reorganization.

The titles given are "Master Hospital Sergeant" and "Hospital Sergeant," etc. Chairman Hilton, of the Committee on the Status of Pharmacists in the Government Service, writes that, while the titles provided are not what we may desire, the provisions are otherwise in accord with what we have been asking for. He also urges that the Association use every means at command to push the bill through Congress and thereby help the members of the Hospital Corps.

The total number of enlisted men in the Medical Corps under the contemplated act will be approximately equal to five percent of the total enlisted strength of the army, and in time of war the Secretary of War is authorized to increase the number. The master hospital sergeants and hospital sergeants represent each one-tenth of the Medical Corps. Master hospital sergeants are appointed by the Secretary of War, following an examination which includes pharmacy, and they must have served for not less than twelve months as hospital sergeants or sergeants.

The recognition of pharmacists in the Government Service speaks for the valuation that the public places on the services of pharmacy, and our duty is plain for proper recognition of those engaged in the service and also that their qualifications will reflect credit. American pharmacy is deeply interested; let us see to it that all the recognition pharmacists are entitled to is accorded.

E. G. E.

RIGHTING AN OMISSION.

IT is to be regretted that, in the sketch of Professor Diehl's life published in the February number of the JOURNAL, a very important part of his activities for pharmacy has been inadvertently overlooked; namely, his work in behalf of the National Formulary, with which he has been preëminently connected since its inception. In the preparation of the first edition he was active as a member of the committee from the Kentucky Pharmaceutical Association. Of the succeeding editions, including the one now in process of revision, he has been the dominant factor, having been chairman of the Committee of Revision from the beginning of the first revision to the present time.

JULIUS A. KOCH.
