

WOMEN'S SECTION, AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.*

PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION HELD IN
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, AUGUST, 1915.

SECOND SESSION.

The second session of the Women's Section was held in the Palm Room of the Bellevue Hotel on Thursday, August 12, at 3 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by the President.

The principal feature of the afternoon program was a symposium on "What the Women's Section Can Do," to which the following women contributed: Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Fennel, Mrs. Ruddiman, Mrs. Kenaston, and Miss Creighton.

SYMPOSIUM: WHAT THE WOMEN'S SECTION CAN DO.

Mrs. M. M. Gray: I have two things in mind: First, keep up the agitation for women members. I feel certain that there are a great many women pharmacists all over the United States that have not yet been reached by our Membership Committee, and there are a few women graduates each year. Second, I have thought of membership in the American Pharmaceutical Association as a prize to be offered by the Women's Section to women graduates from recognized colleges of pharmacy, these to be given for proficiency in college work. If several prizes of this nature could be given each year, it would be the means of interesting a much larger number of women in the American Pharmaceutical Association and the Women's Section.

Mrs. C. J. Fennel: Being a German by birth and conversant with German pharmacy and pharmacists, I believe I am in a position to discriminate between German and American pharmacists.

The German pharmacist occupies a very high professional and social standing. In my opinion, American pharmacists—and by that I mean the great mass of American pharmacists, and as a rule, not members of the American Pharmaceutical Association—enjoy no professional standing and socially occupy no exalted position. There must be a definite reason for such a condition, especially when only about five percent of the pharmacists of this country are members of the only association that stands for, and has always aimed to maintain, the highest ideals of American pharmacy, the American Pharmaceutical Association.

I believe education and business conditions to be the two main causes of this state of affairs. Overcrowding of stores forces the pharmacist to become a merchant, and so puts him in the merchant class. The main reason is the low standard of admission to some of our colleges, and, too, the fact that too many are permitted to make state examinations without college education and are given degrees they have not earned. I am sure when the pharmacist will accept *only* college graduates as clerks and assistants conditions will change gradually, and when the pharmacy of to-day has become the real *drug* store as it is in Germany, then will the American pharmacist receive his due recognition.

Mrs. E. A. Ruddiman: One of the best things the Women's Section can do is to take up the matter of shorter hours for druggists in the two forms of decreasing the number of hours of work daily and also partial closing on Sunday, emphasizing the fact that pharmacists themselves should regulate this matter and see to it that any laws passed are of a kind to help them in their business.

I would suggest that a central committee be appointed whose duty it shall be to prepare articles on this subject for publication in the trade journals, in magazines, and in the daily

* Continued from p. 365, April issue.

papers of the country. They may use material from any source and written by any person. The articles thus prepared should be sent to the different sections of the country for dissemination by the local members. The committee should cooperate with the women's sections of the state associations and the other national associations. They should be persistent in their efforts and not be deterred by lack of results. All of this is for the purpose of educating the members of the profession, physicians, and the public at large in the necessity for this reform and the best way to accomplish it.

In this Women's Section I am sure it is not necessary to call attention to the fact that by uniting and by continued effort women have accomplished a great deal toward a better life for the community.

Mrs. H. R. Kenaston :

South Dakota sends this beautiful thought to carry away :
It may lighten our burdens and brighten our day ;
Pharmaceutical study is so full of beautiful things,
Let us gather them in and equip them with wings ;
Thus the knowledge we gain may rebound to another,
And help upward and onward some sister or brother.

The ladies who, by their invitation, have permitted me to participate in this symposium of ideas as to what the Women's Section can do have conferred upon me an honor which has given me great pleasure. To have a share in the deliberations of this distinguished body is a distinction any one should be proud to accept.

The creation of the Women's Section by the American Pharmaceutical Association at its meeting in Denver in 1912 was the expression of an organized effort on the part of the pharmaceutical profession of this country to recognize the place women are attaining in the profession. As a Section of this great national scientific body, more will be accomplished for the women in the profession than they could hope to attain by separate organizations of women, because their efforts will be sustained by the influence of the American Pharmaceutical Association and the prestige accorded that body as a result of its sixty-two years of excellent work.

Women pharmacists should all be active members of their state and national associations, and to this end I would heartily endorse the commendable plans of the Special Subcommittee on Women Members and their action when they appointed a chairman in each state with duties assigned to interest the women members of their respective state associations in membership in the American Pharmaceutical Association.

Since service is the price we pay for the benefits of membership, each member should be designated some service which she is to render the Women's Section. True, she can solicit membership, create enthusiasm, etc., but for what? For the benefits each is to receive through the service she performs.

The creation of a Committee on Botany and Medicinal Plants would open a line of service in which both professional and non-professional women could effectively work together, and that along professional lines both elevating and educational. Combined with progressive thought and ideas, make the preliminary plan to investigate the honest therapeutic value of plant life, the possibilities of improvement in drug value of the drug plants, as well as the economic value to the nation which would result if weeds that are used in medicine were collected and preserved. How many useful and beautiful phases of economic value are represented in the despised weeds surrounding us, if we only look for them! The Creator has told us many things, but much still awaits the investigator before His great plan of the plant life is wholly utilized for the benefit of His people.

The women of to-day have reason to rejoice as they pause upon the threshold of the future and with confidence and unflinching trust comprehend the greatness of women's organizations and the possibilities for manifold benefits to womankind as represented in our Section.

A great benefit would result to pharmacy in general and to women in particular if the Women's Section of the American Pharmaceutical Association could bring before the young women, at the time in their life when they are deciding the very important question of their life-work, the comparative advantages of engaging in the profession of pharmacy.

Here is the opportunity for service in the vital interests of the problem which our young women must solve. We, as women, will render the greatest service when we realize the part assigned to us in this critical period of decision, and by a plan worked out by the deliberations of the Women's Section during the San Francisco meeting, be prepared to give inspiration and encouragement to the young women of our high schools and universities, and to do all in our power to diffuse favorable public sentiment toward young women desiring to enter the profession of pharmacy. To this end, the members of our Section should emphasize the right and capabilities of women to engage in the profession of pharmacy as a means of earning their livelihood; to unite the women now engaged in pharmacy, in any and all of its phases, for mutual assistance and protection; to cooperate in the promotion of the general progress of pharmacy.

Miss Mary L. Creighton: While it is reputed to be an easy matter to say little in many words, to reverse the case, in compliance with our Secretary's suggestion is far more difficult.

In attempting to answer the query, "What can the Women's Section do?" the thought presents itself, why do not women take more interest in the increased efficiency of our schools and colleges of pharmacy? These institutions, as a rule, are controlled exclusively by men, who, with very few exceptions, constitute the entire teaching force as well as the official boards, and who fix the courses of study, laboratory equipment and practice, etc., to suit their ideas of what is required for proper instruction in the various branches of a pharmaceutical course—a condition which is recognized as being largely, if not wholly, due to the difficulty of securing competent women to fill such important positions.

Experience shows that in connection with public school work women not only take a lively interest in the welfare of the pupils, but that a large majority of public school teachers are women. The conditions are not radically different in technical schools, and there is certainly an opportunity here for wisely-directed effort by the Women's Section toward raising the standard of pharmaceutical education:

First, by increasing the entrance requirements, so that the unfit will be prevented from entering upon a career for which they are unprepared and in which they can have but small hope of success; and

Second, by the adoption of uniform courses of study in all the teaching institutions of the profession—with accompanying laboratory training of approved scope and character, as proposed by the A. Ph. A. Syllabus.

With proper preliminary education and the additional training received in a first-class college of pharmacy, the student acquires the ability to apply the knowledge thus gained when he takes up the actual duties of the pharmacy. His information will be in usable form, so that he is able to draw general conclusions from particular facts. In other words, his work as a student will have so developed his reasoning powers that he will not be compelled to stop and consult authorities when some prescription difficulty arises.

Unfortunately there are many of whom the above cannot be said. They are lacking in the initiative which would enable them to infuse sufficient energy into the performance of professional obligations to lift them from the level of those "who work from sun to sun to do what other men have done"; a habit for the cure of which the logical prescription is intelligent cooperation with their fellow pharmacists through the medium of the various pharmaceutical organizations and publications. Such cooperation will obviously be increased as more attention is paid to the proper preparation of the student, since it is a well-established fact that a liberal education broadens the outlook of the individual so that he is apt to be moderate both in the views which he maintains and in their expression. He has learned the rules of the game of life and is able successfully to apply them. In short, he is able to see the other side, a fact which goes far toward promoting harmony and community of interests professionally.

Without ideals there can be no satisfactory advancement, and in order to gauge progress it is essential to work with a definite purpose in view. Opportunity, "master of human destinies," knocks at our gate. As members of the American Pharmaceutical Association the Women's Section represents *our opportunity*, no matter what the particular form in which each of us may recognize it.

At this point President Caswell A. Mayo, of the American Pharmaceutical Association, was introduced and spoke as follows:

If you will pardon the interruption, ladies, I wish to apologize when I failed to appear earlier. We have only one President, and I have no astral body, otherwise I would have my astral body remain here. If I had my choice, I would have joined the Women's Section first.

At the last meeting of the Section, at Detroit, the President mentioned with regret that there was no gavel, to learn which I was rather surprised, because I thought the ladies were absolutely orderly and did not require being called to order, but since it has developed it is necessary to provide some means of calling ladies to order, and since we are in California at the wonderful Exposition they have created, I thought it would be rather interesting, possibly, if the ladies could carry back with them a souvenir, and so, after a great sacrifice of time on the part of Mrs. Phillip, we have obtained this orange-wood gavel.

It would be entirely appropriate that there should be something to indicate the very high esteem in which the Women's Section is held by the Association at large. I only wish I could contribute something of serious value to your deliberations.

You are well aware of the fact that since the division of the work of the Association into sections, it is almost impossible for any one present here to cover all and give attention to each.

I wish you every success in your work, and trust that this gavel will be used but little, so it may last for many generations. I have, therefore, great pleasure in presenting this gavel, and trust that you may wield it lightly and have no trouble in keeping the ladies in order. (Applause.)

The President: Mr. President Mayo, I take pleasure in thanking you from the bottom of my heart for this gavel, and to receive it gives me great pleasure.

After the departure of President Mayo the reading of the papers in the symposium was discussed.

The President: If there is one note struck more than another in all of these papers it has been that women might work for pharmaceutical courses on the part of the schools. There seems to be a lack everywhere in the lower schools of particular instruction in pharmacy, and from nearly every section of the United States they have struck the note that we might work for better courses in the lower schools. If we had nothing else to work on for the next several years, we would have plenty to do, and we might begin to investigate with the view to the proper foundation work. My greatest reason is that my son, at his majority, will likely go into the store, and I am afraid to have him go away from home for his pharmaceutical training; I am afraid of the influence, and believe those who leave home to go to college towns are in tremendous danger. Cannot we do something so that in our high schools foundation work shall be done? It has been done in some states, very well done. After that, cannot we have our university courses prepared just a little better? If we do nothing else but this in laying the foundation work for next year, it seems to me that we have something to take home.

While it seems to me that the Women's Section has not progressed, when I hear these papers I am still convinced that there is still some interest in the Women's Section of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

Mrs. Godding: We must remember we were not born until 1912. Nashville was our first meeting, Detroit was the second, and we are very, very young. There are members of the American Pharmaceutical Association—men and women alike—who do not understand why this Section was formed and what it

is to do. The women did not start it. It was the men—men who have been leaders in the Association and always worked for its best interests—who suggested this Section. Women pharmacists have a place here which we wives have not, but we are closely allied to pharmacy; we have married pharmacists, and if our husbands bring us to these meetings because of the pleasure of travel and the pleasures that come from seeing this great country of ours, is it not due that we as loyal and true wives shall help to sustain our husbands and give to this Section the support that we must give it if it shall be a success? It is yet but a child. It is the acorn from which the great oak will grow, and I feel that we need to disseminate knowledge of the objects and aims of this Section.

Mrs. Phillip: Mrs. President, when you asked me if I would speak of our California association, I promised to tell what the women have done here and what I know the national association wants them to do. Many auxiliaries have been started, usually in the city where the state convention was held. I have been watching the progress in this state for the last four years, and I will say that the men who attend regularly and who constitute the largest part of the attendance are the men whose wives belong to the auxiliary. Another thing that has been done is the Sunday closing. On our side of the Bay we close on Sunday from 1 to 6. We tried in various ways to get the proprietors to come together and discuss the benefits to be derived from having a day off. We did not succeed wholly. Then the wives decided they wanted their husbands one day when they would not be thinking, "What on earth is that clerk doing while I am gone?" and influenced them to close the store for at least a part of the day, and the result is that some of the stores are closed all day and some from 1 to 6, and I would like to say that every wife is worth what her husband loses in business Sunday afternoon if he closes that store. In our section we do not find it necessary that one store keep open each Sunday. Sunday afternoon closing has taught the people to rest and to prepare for Sunday on Saturday, and the morning trade on Sunday is ruined. There is, of course, some Sunday evening business. Emergency calls are not taken to drug stores as they once were. The wives have done another thing. By getting together they have become interested in their husbands' interests and are able to vary the monotony of the long store hours with retailing the conversation and happenings learned among the women.

The Chair then called for the paper by Mrs. J. M. Bladen on "The Sphere of the Druggist's Wife as Affecting Public Health"; "Women in Pharmacy," by Miss Ott, and "The Woman in Her Own Pharmacy," by Miss Frick.

In discussing Mrs. Bladen's paper the President asked for remarks.

Mrs. Howard: I think that possibly the thought of doing something to bring about a general interest in the state organizations in reference to this national movement would be advisable. It is almost impossible to create an interest in the national body unless there is some subdivision of states. If each state had a subdivision of this Section under the supervision of a vice-president in each state, and these subdivisions were used in the manner that political organizations are used, it seems to me it would be the best way to create a fuller and greater interest. The Exposition has detracted from the interest of this meeting, but at the same time there are many women in this national body who do not care for and are not interested in the Women's Section. I believe, from my experience in other club work, that the basis on which to work is the subdivisions of state organizations.

The President: Mrs. Howard, has it occurred to you that, relative to the state organizations, all the members of the state are not members of the American Pharmaceutical Association? If we create interest among women whose hus-

bands are not members of the American Pharmaceutical Association, how can we proceed?

Mrs. Howard: I would lobby among the men to join the American Pharmaceutical Association, and then I would lobby among the women to attend the American Pharmaceutical Association. I believe in this world that nothing will come to us without going after it.

The President: In my state—Utah—we have but five members of the American Pharmaceutical Association. We have a fine organization of women who attend the state convention and who would be perfectly easy to get into the national body, provided the men were members.

Mrs. Howard: If you have five men in Utah who are members of the American Pharmaceutical Association and who attend the state convention, those five wives should be interested in the Women's Section. If you get only one from each state you have a larger circle than you have to-day.

The Report of the Committee on Resolutions was read as follows and accepted.

WHEREAS, The long hours of service required of the proprietors and assistants in most of the pharmacies of the United States are a severe hardship and unnecessary burden, not only for those who are subjected to them, but also for their families; and

WHEREAS, A reform of this inveterate evil, in order to be effective, must come from the ranks of the profession; therefore,

Resolved, That we, Women's Section of the American Pharmaceutical Association, respectfully submit this subject to the Association for their earnest consideration, and urge the officers, Council, and members to promulgate a plan for betterment according to their wisdom, and institute a propaganda over the whole United States to bring about better conditions in this respect.

Resolved, That we earnestly request the Council to advocate and recommend the closing of pharmacies on Sundays, or part of Sundays, and encourage every effort and movement in this direction, believing that in small cities a concerted action will bring about the desired result, while in larger cities the division into a number of sections, each possibly requiring separate action, may be necessary.

Resolved, That the Secretary of this Section be instructed to forward a copy of these resolutions to the sections or committees of women in other pharmaceutical associations, with the request to cooperate with us in this movement.

Resolved, That we respectfully request the Council to have a copy of these resolutions forwarded by the official secretary to every state and local association in the United States, with the request for earnest consideration.

Resolved, That the women of the A. Ph. A. Women's Section desire to make it possible for the licensed members thereof to be able to exchange positions for stated periods, in order that they may be able to take advantage of educational facilities offered in other states, and at the same time be able to pursue their occupation, without being subject to the state boards of the various states; to be understood that such changes are but temporary; that the woman desirous of making the change is at the time employed by a reputable store or institution and has been a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association for at least two years, and has the personal endorsement of the President of the local branch, that such woman will report, both on assuming and quitting her duties, to the Secretary of the board who has afforded her the opportunity of carrying out her wishes. Also, that a practical yet comprehensive voucher be given to each one who, complying with the requirements, desires to take advantage of the opportunity.

Be it further resolved, That an earnest request for the passing of this resolution by both the Women's Section and the entire American Pharmaceutical Association be made, because it will surely broaden and make better each one's view of her life-work.

ST. CLAIRE RANSFORD-GAY.

Resolved, That we extend to the officers and committees of the Women's Section our keen appreciation and sincere thanks for their earnest efforts during the past year.

Resolved, That we extend to the chairman of the Executive Committee, Miss Zada M. Cooper of Iowa City, our grateful thanks and appreciation for her untiring effort in the preparation of the program of the Women's Section for this meeting.

WHEREAS, Our stay in San Francisco during the days of the Convention of the American Pharmaceutical Association has been one uninterrupted succession of surprises and enjoyment prepared for us by the generous hospitality and sacrificing friendship of the ladies of the California associations, their friends and the local committee, who by their loyal and unselfish devotion to our welfare and happiness have won our hearts and merited our everlasting thanks and appreciation; therefore.

Resolved, That we, the Section of Women of the American Pharmaceutical Association, hereby express our heartfelt thanks to our sisters of the Pacific Coast, and the various committees that planned and carried out these entertainments, thereby making us forget all cares and worries, and leaving in our hearts the sincere feeling of gratitude, friendship, and sisterly love for all time to come.

MRS. JOHN G. GODDING, *Chairman*,
 MRS. W. C. ALPERS,
 MRS. J. H. BEAL,
 MRS. C. M. SNOW,
 MRS. A. V. PEASE.

Mrs. Phillip: I move that the Secretary send out to all of the families of American Pharmaceutical Association members in good standing women membership card saying, "You are a member because your husband is."

(The motion was carried.)

The President appointed the following on the Nominating Committee: Mrs. Fennel, Mrs. Godding, and Mrs. Howard.

The President: Miss Cooper has taken all the responsibility this year in getting together the program. It was an elaborate one, with many things to be discussed, and has entailed upon her part a great deal of work. I wish Miss Cooper would say something about what might be done to help the Women's Section this year.

Miss Cooper: I think I cannot say anything more than I said in the report of the Executive Committee. We must find some way to interest the women who are associated—the women of the families of the members of the American Pharmaceutical Association. I am free to admit that I do not know how to do that. In my work as member of the Executive Committee I wrote a great many letters and did not, in many instances, get replies, so that I am unable to say what the attitude is. Where I have been able to get an expression of opinion women seem interested. I feel that the women pharmacists want to know the non-professional women and feel the need of their acquaintance. We don't want to give up our acquaintance with other women because of our profession, and I know the professional women are very anxious to see this Section succeed on the basis on which it was originally established—both classes of women. But I have not come to a decision in my own mind as to any one particular thing it would be best to do. The suggestions which you have just heard made by other women as to what the Section can do, in every case I can heartily approve. I do not feel, however, that we should feel so very much discouraged when we consider how long we have been in existence and the small attendance there is sometimes at the other sections that have been working so many years. Perhaps we should not expect to interest everybody the first year. I think we cannot. One thing I do believe is that the women of the families do not understand as thoroughly and as well as they should what the intention of this Section is.

The matter of placing the meetings of the Women's Section on the program

was discussed, and it was decided to leave that for the incoming officers to work out. The meetings should be timed so that the sessions would not conflict with any other sessions to prevent the professional women attending. Also the room for holding the meetings should be definitely decided upon.

The Nominating Committee reported as follows:

Honorary President: Mrs. F. C. Godbold, New Orleans.

President: Mrs. G. D. Timmons, Valparaiso, Ind.

First vice-president: Mrs. W. Bruce Phillip, Fruitvale, Calif.

Second vice-president: Mrs. E. A. Ruddiman, Nashville, Tenn.

Third vice-president: Miss Jean Gordon, Chicago, Ill.

Secretary: Miss Anna G. Bagley, Columbus, Ohio.

Treasurer: Mrs. W. B. Day, Chicago, Ill.

Historian: Miss Bertha Ott, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Member Executive Committee: Miss Clarissa M. Roehr, San Francisco.

The Secretary was instructed to cast the ballot for the nominees.

The President: Is there any further business to come before this Section at this time? If not, we will stand adjourned.

Miss Cooper: I would like to move that we again express our appreciation of what our President has done by a standing vote. (The members rose in response to the vote.)

The President: May I wish you all a pleasant time at the Exposition, a pleasant year, and express the hope that I may see you again at the next convention. I thank you for your assistance at this convention. Adjourned.

THE PHARMACIST AND PUBLIC HEALTH.*

BY MRS. G. D. TIMMONS.

The training of the pharmacist eminently fits him to be a potent health factor in the community. This special training gives him definite knowledge concerning the compounding of drugs and skill in their identification. If the doctor sent *all* of his prescriptions to the pharmacist and the pharmacist, in turn, insisted upon a prescription from the doctor, each would be doing the work for which he was trained and, at the same time, conserving public health.

Outside of his professional line of drug merchandise, the pharmacist gives *special* thought to securing such other stock as has to do with the health and comfort of his community. Toilet articles, everything that cleans and purifies, as paints, oils, varnishes, wall-paper, etc., and particularly germicides and insecticides, do much to promote the public health. Side-lines should not lower the dignity of the pharmacist. Unscrupulous is a word that should *never* be used with reference to the pharmacist and seldom is, for he usually prefers to carry any side-line that is at all suitable in a drug store, rather than doubtful patent medicines, etc. A drug, good for every ailment, is not often seen advertised, except by "quacks." The pharmacist advertises his side-lines mainly, leaving his drugs to be sold only as the

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