

JOURNAL OF THE  
PHARMACISTS AND THE WAR.\*

BY H. M. WHELPLEY.

Twelve months ago, we met here and expressed privately our opinions of the human slaughter then going on in the old world. Since then, the war cloud has extended until it is now easier to name the countries that are at peace than it is to enumerate the ones engaged in the greatest and gravest of all human conflicts. One year ago, we congratulated ourselves that the United States was not in the struggle. Now, we are preparing to enact the most important part in "making the world safe for Democracy." These are, indeed, momentous days. The entire Western World will likely be a participant in the contest before our next Mo. Ph. A. convention. The "six weeks' war" which started in 1914 may continue far past that number of years. These are thought-provoking times for every citizen. The words "citizen" and "alien" have assumed a new and grave significance. It is not difficult to recognize our duty to our country and to the human race in our determination of "setting the world free." But we are pharmacists by training and occupation. The retailer has long practiced serving the public. How can pharmacists now serve their country? What more have they to offer than physical fitness and eligible age? Will the pharmacists of the United States, as the years of war go on, be found digging trenches "somewhere in Europe," or will they contribute service dependent on pharmaceutical skill and knowledge?

Unfortunately, our own government does not give pharmacists the recognition in a war that they receive in France, Italy, Japan and Germany. But that recognition may come before this long-drawn-out war is over. To-day, the pharmacist has the best opportunity for service in the Navy. He also has a place in the Army and one in the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service. All young men now in pharmacy, and particularly those just entering as apprentices, should make certain of having sufficient preliminary education. They should push their studies in pharmacy at college or home, as the case may be. Those who cannot enlist will find plenty to do without going to war. The cry for drug clerks is already loud and will become more insistent as the drafts follow each other. The Medical Section of the Council of National Defense is pleading with physicians to enlist. We do not hear a government cry for more pharmacists but this country is just approaching participation in the war

We are equally concerned with problems affecting the pharmacists who remain at home to follow their calling. It is needless to say that they will be affected by all general taxes, food regulations and other conditions imposed on the public at large. The special taxes on their business and high cost of drugs they should be able to pass on to the consumer, to whom they belong. I regret that some retail druggists continue even at this late date to sell drugs at figures based on original cost instead of market value. One druggist disposed of his entire stock of potassium permanganate at less per pound than he can replace the chemical per ounce. Similar cases occur daily in spite of drug price lists and market reviews. Pharmacists are quite as likely to make a success of a drug garden as they are to glut the market from a home truck garden, but that is not saying much. No one should attempt a drug garden before consulting with the U. S. Department of Agriculture,

---

\* Read at the meeting of Missouri Pharmaceutical Association, 1917.

at Washington. In England, the British government reports quite as much success in harvesting wild drugs as in cultivating plants. It must be remembered that England has a much more restricted flora than is the case in the United States. We have a long list of indigenous drugs and climate, latitude, altitude, etc., for the growing of many exotic plants.

Now, to be more personal, I bring home to you the duty we owe the Missouri Pharmaceutical Association, which secured our original pharmacy law of 1879 and for nearly forty years has had a hand in all pharmaceutical progress in Missouri. War or no war, we should continue to develop and expand the organization. Here we can solve practical questions in a practical way.

One form of recognition which our government has recently given pharmacy is to use the laboratories and faculties of certain colleges of pharmacy for testing medical supplies. This is done in lieu of establishing government testing laboratories.

Now, in conclusion, this horrible war is waged to make the world better and mankind secure from molestation. At the same time, let us gain for pharmacy a just position and recognition. We bewail the fact that our government is far behind Japan in using in war the talents of pharmacists. I quite agree with Hugh Craig, when he says, "The pharmacist has been so careless of his position in the social economy as to leave the public ignorant of his deserts."

I feel that we should not be satisfied after the war with a status *quo ante* but now look forward to better pharmacy after the war.

#### REASONS FOR SOME OF THE CHANGES IN THE FORMULAS OF GALENICALS MADE IN THE NINTH REVISION OF THE UNITED STATES PHARMACOPOEIA.\*

BY GEORGE M. BERINGER, PH.M.

At the meeting of the Philadelphia Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association held in November 1916, the writer presented a paper under the above title. As the program for that meeting was a symposium on the Pharmacopoeia and there was assigned to me the title, "Extracts, Fluidextracts and Tinctures," my communication was primarily restricted to the changes made in these classes of official galenicals. The favorable comments elicited by the publication of that paper appear to indicate that a continuation of the subject to the other galenicals of the pharmacopoeia would be an appropriate topic for presentation at this meeting.

The reasons for some of the changes made in the revision of the Pharmacopoeia are so easily understood as to be classified as "self-apparent," but for other changes it may be difficult to assign a tangible explanation.

The decision whether an article or formula shall be admitted to, retained in, or deleted from the official list of titles is presumed to be based upon the medical practice of the time and the general or extended use of such medicament. The late Professor C. S. N. Hallberg assiduously gathered statistics from all over the United States to determine the facts regarding the use of hundreds of drugs and preparations with the expectation that the statistics so gathered would be available and accepted by the Committee of Revision as the basis for deciding the admission, retention or dismissal of articles on the official list. The decisions of the committee seem to indicate that these data were not given the consideration it had

---

\* Read at the meeting of the New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association, 1917.