

EDITORIAL

E. G. EBERLE, Editor

253 Bourse Bldg., PHILADELPHIA

THE CHICAGO MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE indications thus far are favorable for a good and certainly an interesting meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association, during the week of August 12.

Chairman Matthews, Local Secretary Gathercoal and the Committees under their direction have been doing excellent work, and all the pharmaceutical journals have been generous in giving publicity relative to the meeting. Considering that within distances of a few hundred miles from Chicago there are a score of large cities and many with a population of 5,000 or more, and also that the Association has not met in Chicago since 1893, it is reasonable to assume, even under present conditions, that the Convention will be well attended.

According to reports from several State Association meetings the registrations exceeded prior expectations, which is convincing that pharmacists recognize their duty in such attendance, especially this year, when many would gladly have come who could not because of the shortage of help. This condition will have its effect on the meeting in Chicago, therefore it is to be hoped that members will exert extraordinary efforts to be present.

There are more vital questions that require attention this year than ever before in the history of American pharmacy. The one previously indicated is not of least importance, because it concerns the boards of pharmacy and schools as well as retail pharmacists. How will the present shortage of help and the further depletion be met?

Other timely topics relate to alcohol regulations, means and methods of conservation, the war revenue measures, explosives law, contemplated health insurance laws, and bills for regulating the dispensing of remedial diseases. The Section on Education and Legislation can well afford to assign an entire session, or the greater part of one, for a discussion of these problems, and the derivable value will more than repay members for their attendance. In fact, their importance suggests the expediency of holding a meeting of representatives of State Associations in the House of Delegates for joint action on these matters, as all of their constituents are concerned relative to these provisions and projects.

Other phases of the same questions will find place on the programs of the other Sections, and the coördination and utilization of these discussions and papers contribute to greater efficiency among pharmacists and the advancement of

pharmacy. Those who specialize in any of the branches concerned with pharmacy are specialists; they render a very essential service; the retail pharmacists are generalists—they seek information from all of these sources for their needs in the practice of pharmacy.

There are other subjects equally or more important, as, for instance, the promotion of a pharmaceutical corps in the U. S. Army, as a part of its Medical Department, the adequate representation and coöperation of State Pharmaceutical Associations in the House of Delegates, and a consideration of the advantages to be derived by federating the associations of all the drug industries. Relative to the latter proposition your attention is directed to a paper in this issue by Chairman H. V. Arny of the committee having this important matter in charge. Presentations and outlines of the plans have heretofore appeared in the *Journal*, in the messages of President Dohme, and as part of Ex-President Wulling's address, last year. A careful study of the subject will enable members to participate in the discussions and to lend their counsel.

The call is to attend the Sixty-sixth Annual Convention of the American Pharmaceutical Association in Chicago, during the week of August 12.

Do your best! Come!

E. G. E.

STANDARDS OF PHARMACY SHOULD BE UPHELD. PHARMACY
STUDENTS OF DRAFT AGE SHOULD BE GIVEN OUR
CONSIDERATION.

Pre-pharmaceutical education needs adjustment—"high school education or its equivalent," is indefinite. The "preliminary drug store experience" may signify a splendid preparatory training for the courses in pharmacy schools or, have little value. It is possible to standardize the first requirement but the latter presents a more difficult problem as the opportunities for training the prospective pharmacy students in drug stores differ as do the inclinations of those who are employed in them.

It is necessary for legal and other reasons to fix an age at which a person acquires certain rights not given to a minor, but this does not necessarily mean that a person of twenty-one years is better qualified for service in pharmacy than one a year younger. Experience and age have a relation to how the individual has employed his time and his ability and capacity for acquiring knowledge. The object is not to minimize the value of experience nor of age but to point out that these two requirements of the prerequisites for practicing pharmacy can be shaded in times like the present, provided, that the exigency for doing so exists and, more specifically, out of consideration for those who will enlist soon after graduation. There has been a depletion of pharmacists, and many others will answer the country's call; they ~~should~~ not be unnecessarily handicapped when they return