

# EDITORIAL

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

*To the Members of the American Pharmaceutical Association, Greetings:*

**A**FTER four years of stress and turmoil, the peace for which the world has been longing is in sight at last and our eyes are filled with tears of rejoicing and our hearts with gladness of thanksgiving as a realization of our hopes seems imminent.

This is a time, not only for rejoicing and thanksgiving but a time for us all to pause and reflect and with new and heightened resolution, to press on toward the future. Whether our definitions and interpretations of Pharmacy are the same or not; whether orientation is necessary for some of us or whether we have our faces turned toward the highest goal, we should all be imbued with the spirit of broadmindedness and tolerance exemplified by the immortal phrase "In proportion as we love truth more and victory less, we should endeavor to place ourselves in such a position as will enable us to understand why our opponents think as they do."

All jealousy, pique and petty feelings of revenge should be relegated to the *Capharnaum* or lumber room of time and all should join in renewed endeavor to aid pharmacy in this period of evolutionary change through which it is now passing. When we look back over the roll of presidents of our Association who have passed on, some stand out with more distinctiveness than others. Like Abou ben Adhem, some have been distinguished by their love for their fellow men and the welfare of their chosen profession. Among these are the names of Procter, Parrish, Ebert, Diehl, Remington, Dohme, Prescott, Eliel, Searby, Oldberg and Holzhauer, quoting them in the chronological order in which they served. There are others, too, while never attaining to the presidency, left their impress upon their profession for all time to come—Maisch, Hallberg, Squibb, Rice and Caspari. Let us take counsel of the records and examples of these, our great predecessors.

The war has been won, but not without the aid of pharmacists, whose unrewarded services will constitute a mark of distinction in the future for those who gave so freely of their skill and knowledge to make the army fit and capable "to make the world safe for democracy."

Pharmacy, which has given generously both men and materials, will have fewer problems to solve in the reconstruction period than some of the other professions, for there is a place waiting for each one who returns, and though we have

failed in our efforts to obtain proper recognition of Pharmacy at this time, we have made progress, and the glory to pharmacists is all the greater for having served so nobly without recognition in rank.

Now the time has come to face the problems of the future. Let us do so with optimism, and faith in each other's motives. Let us encourage and approve movements leading toward coördination and coöperation and discourage the fortissimo rendition of the anvil chorus. Criticism is easy and is a tempting highway to fame. Pessimism is a potential poison to the "body pharmaceutic." Let us all strive during the coming year to make such noteworthy progress that eventually, instead of having to go out into the highways and byways to seek members, we can pick and choose from a waiting list.

We must not wait, however, for this condition to come to pass by some miraculous means. We each have our obligations to ourselves and our profession. To ourselves first, that we may develop worthy ideals and then be true to them; to our profession, that we may strive unselfishly and sincerely to so promote its progress that we shall attract to its ranks all those worthy of membership. Pharmacy is not decadent. Membership in the American Pharmaceutical Association is an honor which should be sought for. Let us "dream and not make dreams our master;" let us "think and not make thoughts our aim."

A new and glorious day is dawning for pharmacy, in which recognition of the worthy plans for federation, accomplishment of research, and many other dreams of the present will be translated into action and fruition. May our Association during the coming year go onward and upward to a realization of achievements worthy and lasting!

CHARLES H. LAWALL, *President.*

#### NINETEEN THOUGHTS FOR NINETEEN NINETEEN.

**N**ATIONS and industries are being brought together. The votaries of pharmacy, medicine and chemistry should work together: their interests are largely common interests, they are related—often the work of one branch is incomplete without the other—the fullest measure of prosperity is possible for each when all recognize their common interests for the welfare of those they serve.

The people have a right to demand a service from the united endeavor of pharmacy, medicine and chemistry. Professions and industries are useful to the world in proportion to the attainments of the votaries.

Diseases are man-made and the public should be impressed with this important fact. The purpose of industries and professions related to medicine is to advance social as well as material well-being; therefore, the community is entitled to consideration from this service, which is best promoted by coöperation.

Individuals are entitled to a safeguard of their health as much as of their property. Diseases are man-made, but they cannot always be avoided because of the ignorance or indifference of the disease germ producers and carriers. The community should have the counsel of those who lay claims to a knowledge of these subjects. Medicine, chemistry and pharmacy have joint responsibilities in this connection; coöperative work in research is incumbent upon the votaries.

“The war has demonstrated that through industrial coöperation great economies may be achieved, waste eliminated and efficiency increased.” Professions should capitalize on these lessons by adopting similar practices whereby related professions encourage reasonable coöperation. It is in the public interest, and special privileges are granted because of the valuable service rendered by the professions. An attitude which hinders in giving the best service is not just to the public.

“Men of business may not be regarded competent advisers in matters of diplomacy and statecraft as affecting reconstruction, but, as a corollary to this assumption, the diplomat or statesman may not be regarded as a wholly competent adviser in matters of economic reconstruction.” The deduction is that men of different professions may work together, but each class is best qualified to render service in the department for which the individuals have been trained by experience and education. It constitutes the best service for the public and therein is the duty.

The discoveries of Scheele not only made possible the chemical industries but also the successful treatment of the sick, diseased and wounded. Labarraque conveyed a suggestion to Carrel and Dakin. The horrible fate of the abandoned and helpless and wounded in No Man's Land would have been the lot of all the injured if it had not been for the foundations of the germ theory laid by Pasteur. There is opportunity and glory enough for all; the greatest service is given humanity by the working together of related industries and professions.

Underlying professional attainments there must be adequate education. The individual needs not only experience but a knowledge which enables him to understand what he sees and does. There is military rank and there are degrees of education and learning, and in both there are specialists; qualifications along certain lines do not essentially qualify individuals in those with which they are not familiar. Some of the medical and perhaps also some pharmacy schools have come to the conclusion that military training and professional education are not compatible.

There should be morale in professions and among professions. A definition given for the word is “belief in one another.” In that sense it means that the votaries of the same profession believe in each other, and to carry the thought further: those who are engaged in related professions believe that coöperatively

they can and will do better work. It was the force that put our boys over the top: they not only believed but they made good their belief. It carries the spirit of sacrifice and altruism; it evidences the willingness to give a lift; it means the gladness to be of service, rejoicing in the success and advancement of others. It is applied serviceable friendship of those coöperating, and for those served,—the public.

“Common danger, common toil and common suffering have developed the spirit of brotherhood as nothing else could do.” This engendered spirit presents the hope for the future development of our industries. It means also that the value of human life and health is above class distinction and material gain; it is the application of the Golden Rule in genuine service.

Every profession, industry and business has become established because the public has need for it; the votaries, if they render valuable service, are entitled to the opportunities for earning their living and under conditions which will not only make them desirable citizens but enable them to render service that warrants compensation and develops in them a higher appreciation of their vocation and of its greater possibilities.

Industry, efficiency and initiative should be encouraged and rewarded; indifference and hindrance to best service should be discountenanced. Individual and coöperative research is essential to development, and to withhold support or otherwise hinder with selfish motives or for selfish reasons is little less than disloyalty.

The public has a right to expect and investigate the coöperation of industries and professions, and to determine whether they are giving it the best service and protection possible. There is a widening field of medical science before us in which medicine, chemistry and the departments of special and direct concern to pharmacists should find much to do. Research and development are partners. The public is the beneficiary.

The most potent measure in bringing about an understanding of the mission of professions is reasonable, rational discussion, with the purpose of devising the best means for being of service to the public. The mote and the beam too often interfere with vision. The relation between the American Pharmaceutical Association and the American Medical Association should be such that members of the latter place utmost confidence in those of the former, and reversely. This creates public confidence in the individuals, in the practice of medicine and of pharmacy—it benefits the public.

The Government should assist the industries and business by counsel and co-operation; very commendable work has already been done and more is contemplated. There is also a duty to the professions, and pharmacy has not received deserved recognition. If pharmacy is an “essential service,” then the individuals should be placed in position to render the best possible service.

The application of right principles is essential to effect right relations: "the letter killeth and the spirit maketh alive." The attitude and spirit are all-important. Ruskin said: "In the world's affairs there is no design so great or good but it will take twenty wise men to help it forward a few inches; and a single fool can stop it."

The individual or the profession renders the greatest service that coöperates to give the largest number the greatest opportunity for development, contributing the best service to humanity and thereby adding to the wealth and health of civilization.

The American Pharmaceutical Association should be so generally and favorably known that it gives the members a standing in the community as peers of their profession. The same applies relatively to State associations. We judge others from our own viewpoints. Membership in an association should mark the member as one who is associated with the best men in his profession, engaged in efforts to raise the standard of his calling and make it more deserving of public confidence.

Association membership gives pharmacists a higher appreciation of their profession and also of those likewise engaged, and of those in related work—an inspiration to promote pharmacy and contend for its rightful recognition. We have both individual and collective responsibilities,—now as never before should the spirit of the Golden Rule be generally applied.

E. G. E.

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#### MEETING OF THE NATIONAL DRUG TRADE CONFERENCE.

The National Drug Trade Conference met in Baltimore, January 7. Among the actions taken by the Conference was the adoption of an amendment to such alcohol legislation as may be introduced into the various State Legislatures:

"Provided that nothing in this act shall prevent the manufacture and sale of such preparations as flavoring extracts, essences, tinctures, perfumes, or remedies containing drugs or medicines which do not contain more alcohol than is necessary for legitimate purposes of extraction, solution, or preservation, and which contain drugs in sufficient quantity to medicate such compounds and which are sold for legitimate and lawful purposes and not as beverages."

The aim of this amendment is to relieve the Drug Trade of the annoyances occasioned by the varying construction under prohibition laws with respect to alcoholic medicinal preparations by the addition of a uniform definition of intoxicating liquors.

The officers for the ensuing year are as follows: President, Dr. James H. Beal, Urbana, Ill.; vice-president, Samuel C. Henry, Philadelphia; secretary-treasurer, Charles M. Woodruff, Detroit, Mich. Executive committee: George W. Lattimer, Columbus, O.; James F. Finneran, Boston, Mass.; Dr. W. C. Abbott, Chicago; Harry E. Thompson, Washington; and H. Lionel Meredith, Hagerstown, Md.; the president and secretary-treasurer are *ex-officio* members.