

EDITORIAL

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IF NOT FEDERATION, WHY NOT CLOSER COÖPERATION?

AT the recent Rochester meeting of the National Association of Retail Drug-gists, the Executive Committee reported on the subject of "Federated Pharmacy," as follows:

"At the convention last year we went into the question of Federated Pharmacy at considerable length and told you something about the proposition. It is too large a subject to take up and discuss in an executive committee report for the reason that it has a bearing upon every phase of work now carried on by the various drug trade organizations. Your Executive Committee has given a lot of thought to the proposition as presented by the American Pharmaceutical Association, for whom we have the highest respect, but we could not see our way clear to approve of their proposition. The more we studied it, the more it seemed to us that we would be working at a decided disadvantage if we accepted the proposition as laid down by their committee. Their idea is a splendid one but we fail to see how it can ever work out to advantage, particularly along the lines as suggested.

We believe that in the National Drug Trade Conference we now have the nucleus of an organization *which can do everything that the proposed Federation of Pharmacy had in mind to do* (italics mine, J. W. E.), but perhaps in a little different way. For the reasons above given, your committee decided to disapprove of the American Pharmaceutical Association's plan of federation."

The Executive Committee states in its report, also, that:

"It might appear from a careful reading of this and some other reports which will be presented to you that we are not particularly interested in the professional side of our business. That is a very mistaken idea. We are to-day, and always have been, intensely interested in the professional as well as the commercial side of our business. There are other pharmaceutical associations, however, that give a great deal of time and thought to the discussion of the purely professional and scientific side of pharmacy, and we think you all agree that they are doing a splendid work in that direction. As we have many matters of importance to consider, we have left that sort of discussion to them."

The report was referred to the Committee on Resolutions of the N. A. R. D. and later the following resolution was adopted by the Convention:

"Resolved, That it is the sentiment of this convention that methods should be adopted to insure the closer coöperation of the two parent national organizations of retail pharmacists and that a committee be appointed by the N. A. R. D. with instructions to coöperate with a similar committee of the A. Ph. A. in order to devise the best ways and means toward the accomplishment of this end."

In other words, the N. A. R. D. recognizes that there are two divisions of pharmaceutical practice, each with special interests—professional or scientific pharmacy, and commercial pharmacy; and while it is interested in both, it specializes in commercial pharmacy. On the other hand, the American Pharmaceutical Association, while interested in both divisions, specializes in professional or scientific pharmacy. What, then, could be more natural than that the two national organizations should join hands, as proposed by the N. A. R. D., in an endeavor to secure closer coöperation in both divisions, to the end that American Pharmacy may be bettered both scientifically and commercially?

If the American Pharmaceutical Association cannot realize its vision of a federated pharmacy, let us have, by all means, the closest possible coöperation, and not only between the A. Ph. A. and the N. A. R. D., but also, with the State Associations and with the national wholesale and manufacturing organizations, each caring for its own particular interests, in its own way, but each acting in harmony with the other bodies by means of conference committees; and who can tell but that such an arrangement may result in as great, if not greater, benefit to American Pharmacy, as a whole, as would result from one federated body?

The National Drug Trade Conference is a conference of coöperative committees of national pharmaceutical organizations to consider "drug trade" interests of national and general importance, including legislation. Its objects are expressed in its Code of Rules and Regulations adopted January 15, 1913 (J. A. PH. A., 1913, 238), as follows:

"The objects of the Conference shall be to consider and report to the respective organizations represented therein upon matters of legislation, or upon any other matters of national and general importance to the drug trade."

It will be noted that the Conference exists to consider "drug trade" interests. It does not exist apparently for any other purpose. Its title, the National Drug Trade Conference, signifies this, also. *And being a trade body, it cannot represent professional or scientific interests, which are represented by other organizations.*

But why not apply the principle of national coöperation, not only along trade and legislative lines, as represented by the National Drug Trade Conference, but also, between the national pharmaceutical organizations along professional and scientific lines, by having coöperative committees from each organization, *and by making the American Pharmaceutical Association the clearing house for action on professional and scientific pharmaceutical questions?* The chief function of all the national pharmaceutical bodies, except the American Pharmaceutical Association, the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, is along trade lines; and these trade bodies are very deeply concerned in the growth and development of the sciences and art of pharmacy, in fact, the trade-success of their members depends upon it.

The N. A. R. D. points the way. But, let us have coöperative committees of *all* the national pharmaceutical bodies to confer on professional and scientific questions and use the parent body of all the national bodies—the American Pharmaceutical Association, which preëminently represents the professional and scientific interests of American Pharmacy—to put into effect the results of such coöperation.

If this be done, the benefits that will accrue to American Pharmacy, as a whole, will be simply incalculable.

On the one hand, we would have the trade interests of American Pharmacy promoted by the National Drug Trade Conference, as now, and on the other hand, we would have the professional and scientific interests of American Pharmacy promoted by conference committees of all the national pharmaceutical bodies working through the American Pharmaceutical Association as a clearing house.

If the plan of a federated pharmacy, as originally proposed, is inherently better than the plan of closer coöperation between individual organizations acting through the National Drug Trade Conference and the American Pharmaceutical Association, nothing will disclose this fact more quickly than coöperation along the lines suggested, and if this is not the case, then there is no necessity for a federated pharmacy as such.

J. W. ENGLAND.

AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL AND MEDICAL RESEARCH.

OUR attention has been called to a statement in one of our pharmaceutical journals, as follows:

“Where are the leaders who are doing research work in the pharmaceutical field? Good papers dealing with the scientific side of pharmacy are becoming rare. That there are a vast number of problems of importance and value on the pharmaceutical field goes without saying. Where are the students and the facilities?”

In answer Dr. Edward Kremers sent two monographs:

A CENTURY OF THE UNITED STATES PHARMACOPOEIA, 1820-1920. I. The Galenical Oleoresins. By ANDREW G. DU MEZ. Thesis submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin. 8 vo., 288 pages. University of Wisconsin.

PIGMENTS OF FLOWERING PLANTS. By NELLIE A. WAKEMAN. Thesis submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin. 8 vo., 146 pages. Published by the University.

The number of pages in the monographs accounts for their not being published in full in the pharmaceutical journals. Much research work is done in the laboratories of pharmaceutical and chemical manufacturers; in part, reports are made in publications devoted to pharmacy, chemistry, medicine, botany, etc. A reference to a few of the previous issues of the Journal A. Ph. A. also will speak for research work in pharmacy and this number of the Journal has a series of reports on Digitalis. In our opinion research work in pharmacy by American pharmacists has not been neglected and there is a widening field of medical science before us.

By the recent gift of \$10,000,000 from John D. Rockefeller, to be added to his endowment of the Rockefeller Institute, additional research in biology, chemistry, physics and medicine will be carried forward. It is significant that Dr. Alexis Carrell has decided to stay in this country and will not return to France permanently. The funds for endowment made by Carnegie, Rockefeller and others will make the United States a mecca for foreigners who desire to continue their studies under proper laboratory conditions. Europe will not attract the numbers of American students as in the past.

When the special research provided for is correlated with medical education in general it can be discerned that the future for American medicine is roseate; higher technical education and scientific research in America are coming to their own and give the United States a supreme position. Pharmaceutical research has not been neglected but it needs financial encouragement. E. G. E.

THESE ARE PARLOUS TIMES.

SINCE the signing of the armistice a year ago uncalled-for strikes, rioting, mob violence, and every kind and manner of radical upheavals have occurred. There has been evident a spirit of unrest, a mad scramble for shorter hours and more pay. Never have operatives produced so little and asked so much. Such turmoil and confusion may be necessary to bring about a better understanding; our duty as citizens is clearly set forth by the Golden Rule.

Every right carries obligations, and no one can sidestep these who avails himself of his right; rights are limited by obligations, the rights of one class are qualified by the rights of another. There are groups who think they have the power to get what they want regardless of the rights of anyone else; they plot to use the power ruthlessly and with no regard for the rights of others. Extension of this power destroys government and leaves citizens at the mercy of those who wield it. It is developed because the majority of citizens are unmindful of their duties.

One of the results is that foodstuffs and manufactured goods are under the control of a few whose power is constantly increasing and operates to wrong innocent parties and bring loss and hurt to them. If there is one thing that should be seared upon the minds of people it is that we are our brother's keeper; if there is an obligation or duty greater than another, it is recognition of the rights of others.

More attention must be given to our duties. Our neglectfulness is shown in many ways; suffice it to point out two very familiar delinquencies—seeking to avoid jury service and indifference relative to suffrage. Last month, responsive to a summons from a Court of Common Pleas, only twelve out of sixty were willing to serve; the average election returns speak for the other defect. The administration of justice will lose that democratic character which has rescued it from abuses that were provoking revolution if the state of affairs relative to jury service

grows much worse. And if our disregard of the privileges of citizenship grows we can only hope to be controlled by those who are unmindful of the rights of others.

Much was expected from the International Industrial Conference; there is disappointment instead. The whole business would be a harmless farce if it were not for the bad temper and antagonism created, which will not be confined to those who were assembled. The ridiculous rules of the conference and the impractical method of going about its work were sufficient to thwart the energies and break down the patience of the serious-minded delegates. The segregation of the delegates into "employer," "labor" and "public" groups, and the prevention of any action except by group tended to promote class feeling, prejudice and stubbornness and to prevent the formation of any common feeling for the common good of those represented.

Coördination and coöperation, so essential in a reconstruction period, are not being effectively and efficiently made use of in industries, government or associations. The application of right principles is essential to effect right relations.

Attempts are being made to mold men and women by legislation, and frame laws in accordance with the viewpoints of the designers, ignoring those whose business is to be regulated. Personal or party advertisement is sometimes the motive for legislation, and the applaud of the galleries is an influential factor. Pharmacists, more than others, have been afflicted with legislation, because of the variety of stock carried by them and the restrictive legislation affecting medicines. And now the strike-mania has developed among the employees in drug stores; the control of drug stores and pharmacies will be lost to the owners if they yield to organizations that can direct their employees. Let us reason with one another and develop a morale which signifies belief in one another. E. G. E.
