

WOMEN'S SECTION OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF THE SESSIONS HELD IN CHICAGO, AUGUST 14, 1918.

First Session.

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the Women's Section of the American Pharmaceutical Association was called to order in the French Room of the Congress Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, Wednesday, August 14, at 9.30 A.M., by the President, Miss Zada M. Cooper. The Invocation was offered by Mr. Charles Avery.

Mrs. Forbrich, of the Local Committee, extended a hearty welcome, stating that the members had, during the past several months, perfected plans for the entertainment of their guests, and hoped for an enjoyable week; that the program provided for entertainments and sight-seeing, and the members of the Local Committee would do everything possible to make the occasion a most enjoyable one for guests and hosts.

Miss Zada Cooper expressed the appreciation of those present in a few well chosen remarks, assuring the people of Chicago that all the interest manifested by them was reciprocated, and that all members of the Section greatly enjoyed the privilege of the few days' stay in their midst. She thanked the hosts through the representative of the Local Committee, Mrs. Forbrich, for the delightful entertainment, which she knew would be enjoyed by the visiting members.

Miss Anna G. Bagley assumed the Chair while the President delivered her address.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The Constitution of this Section enumerates five things in the article which states its object. This is what it says: "The object of this Section shall be to emphasize the right and capability of women to engage in pharmaceutical pursuits as a means of livelihood, to unite the women employed in pharmaceutical pursuits for mutual encouragement and assistance, to labor for the improvement of legislation regulating the registration as pharmacists of women employed in the practice of pharmacy in hospitals and other public institutions, to unite the women members of the A. Ph. A. in a Section for social purposes, and to coöperate in the promotion of the general progress of pharmacy and of the American Pharmaceutical Association."

These are all worthy objects. None should be lost sight of at any time, but perhaps at no time will they claim our attention equally. The first, "to emphasize the right and capability of women to engage in pharmaceutical pursuits as a means of livelihood" can be forgotten for the present, at least. Prejudice dies hard, but I believe there is little doubt at the present time of either the right or the capability of women to be in pharmacy. We do not need to emphasize this particular object, but the fourth one demands all the attention that this one does not need. It is, "to coöperate in the promotion of the general progress of pharmacy." Perhaps I may be reading an unusual meaning into the word progress, something not found in the dictionaries. Call it general welfare of pharmacy, if you prefer, it may not be promoting scientific progress, but that is not the only sort of progress and this surely will make for economic advancement. To come to the point, I would undertake to induce more young women to go into pharmacy.

Just now it is a patriotic duty for women to take up the study of pharmacy. There isn't anything spectacular about a pharmacist's work, but it is just as essential to the conduct of the war as that of the physician or the dentist. Without the necessary medicinal supplies the physician would be unable to do much that he is now doing. Incidentally, we know that the quality of service in the Army and Navy is not what it should be because of the lack of a pharmaceutical corps, but that is not the question that we are considering. In spite of the injustice being done to the soldier and the sailor, we know that pharmacists are having a large part in the manufacturing of medicines and chemicals, if they are not in dispensing, which will help materially to bring the war to a successful completion.

It is not the right and capability of women to engage in pharmaceutical pursuits that we need to emphasize; it is an absolute necessity from two standpoints, that of the profession and for the sake of womanhood itself. The profession must be kept up. The druggist must have help and young men are not available. He must be induced to lend his effort toward interesting young women to take up the study. Heretofore he has been on the lookout for bright young men who might be interested to become apprentices. Now he must transfer a part of that interest to young women.

Perhaps it may seem to you that women do not care about becoming pharmacists. You know that pharmacy has been open to women of America for many years and yet not many have gone into it. Why haven't they? The reasons, perhaps, are many and various, depending on the locality. In some localities, there has been that despicable business, a saloon in the guise of a drug store. No self-respecting young woman wants to become a bar maid, even if she had the chance. No druggist who has seen fit to conduct that kind of a business wants a woman around. Then very often the small-town druggist handles paints, oils and wall-paper, or employs only one individual who is able to handle these heavy commodities. However, there are two outstanding reasons, first, women have not been so much needed and, second, the women have not known about the opportunities in pharmacy. Not so *much* needed and yet they have been needed somewhat. Have we not been hearing about the shortage of drug clerks for some time? Women could have helped to reduce that shortage. Perhaps you may recall that the A. Ph. A. as long ago as 1906 called attention to this very thing. Listen to this resolution adopted at that time:

"Whereas, The general expression of satisfactory experience of members who have in their employ women pharmacists, is worthy of more than passing comment. Considering the present scarcity of assistant pharmacists and the meager prospect of any immediate improvement in this respect, we believe the ultimate solution of the problem lies in the encouragement of especially qualified young women to enter on the occupation of pharmacy. Therefore, be it *Resolved*, That wider publicity be given to the favorable reports obtained from sources where women pharmacists have been employed."

Now I know we have a feeling that resolutions do not get anywhere, that they do not accomplish anything, and I am not prepared to say that this one did bring results, but it was an expression, an honest expression, I think we may believe, of the state of affairs then existing, and that is my only reason for quoting it here.

The second reason for women not going into pharmacy heretofore in larger numbers was that they did not know of the opportunities. Let me tell you why. Unless a girl belonged to the family of a druggist or a doctor, or unless her family was on terms of intimate friendship with the druggist's family, it never occurred to her that she could be a druggist. I know this to be true from my connection with a college of pharmacy. With every incoming class one is interested to find out how they happened to come. An understanding of the motive which brings an individual to college is necessary to the teacher who would meet his students as distinct personalities. That phase of the question is irrelevant in this connection, however. The college as an institution wants to know why they have come. Private institutions that advertise are interested because it is a simple business proposition to know what sort of advertising pays. State institutions that do no advertising, in the strictest sense, are no less interested because they want to know what sort of publicity is valuable. Quite generally it is found that students have become interested through acquaintance with former students. The alumni of any college are its best friends and, if dissatisfied, its worst enemies. They recognize the debt they owe their alma mater or just from love of it they direct others to it. That explains why young people go to a particular institution, but why do they study pharmacy at all? That is only a step further. Almost always some druggist has interested them in one way or another. Sometimes the connection is hardly tangible, but it is there nevertheless. This is true of the girls as well as the boys. Some relative or friend was a druggist, or a doctor, and told them of the possibilities in pharmacy. Druggists have not talked to girls more extensively on the subject because they have not needed their help so seriously, and there has been no one else to tell them.

I suppose it is mostly during their last year in high school that they begin to think about what they are going to do—what college they will choose. If they talk with anyone besides their parents it will be with their teachers. Naturally they are likely to hear a good deal about

teaching. A successful teacher has love for her work and the natural sequence is a desire to interest others in it. If students are not definitely advised to teach they often enter the vocation because they lack knowledge of other suitable occupations. Women have been engaged in teaching for a long time and opposition to them as teachers ceased long ago. I am convinced that hundreds of young women just gravitate into this profession, some of them, by nature absolutely unsuited for it. That is why so many never get above mediocrity. I do not mean to say that all young women would make good pharmacists any more than all can become good teachers. But they should know about the opportunities in pharmacy. They seldom, if ever, see college of pharmacy advertisements for such advertising matter appears mostly in drug journals. Announcements of colleges are sent freely to high school principals but few young people, who have not yet attended college, find those publications intelligible. Besides, an interest in any profession must be aroused before the prospective student will pay much attention to a college catalogue. It simmers down to the fact that there is little publicity concerning pharmacy except that directed by pharmacists to pharmacists.

How then are young women to learn about it? Though not an avowed object of this Section, can we do any greater work in these days than to undertake to tell young women about pharmacy and perhaps urge druggists to try to get them into the profession? If we can do these two things it seems to me we shall be accomplishing something worth while. I said it was a necessity for women to rise to the situation. Women must help win the war. We are non-combatants and we must remain so, but that does not relieve us of responsibility. Unless we step in to fill whatever post is left vacant by the men who have gone to the front we show ourselves, not the weaker sex but worse than that, weaklings. That is one thing the American woman is not. We, who have had so much more liberty and opportunity than some of our sisters across the water, would resent any insinuation that we shall not rise to meet any situation, but resentment is unavailing if it does not stir us to action.

If every druggist's wife from Maine to California would take it upon herself to tell a few girls, whom she knows, about pharmacy, its opportunities and its needs, no other propaganda would be necessary. However, not every druggist's wife is within hearing of my voice and, even if they were, I am not so conceited as to believe that I could convince them of the wisdom of such effort. Still I am ambitious. I want this Section to undertake to reach some portion of the young women of the country. I believe we need no additional machinery. Our officers and committees could take care of it. If we are interested and enthusiastic no obstacle would be unsurmountable, unless it might be the financing of such a project.

Our Press chairman, Miss Bagley, believes that we might reach many girls directly through the magazines published by most high schools. If it were possible to do this, short readable articles, setting forth the opportunities for women in the profession, would make available some information and set some girls to thinking. I have long been of the opinion that we must reach the girls directly. No matter how much literature we may send to school principals, if it reaches the girls at all it fails of its direct appeal. If only we can get them thinking that there are possibilities outside of teaching and secretarial work, they can find out from some college in their own state the particulars about what entrance into the profession involves. They all know some druggist to whom they can go for information, if not advice.

Then, I would have our Outlook Committee enter upon a similar campaign from a different angle. If this committee could reach club women through the state federations, some mothers might be interested in hearing about congenial work for their daughters. Not being familiar with the machinery of these organizations, I am not sure what would be the best method of procedure, but our committee could decide that. There is also the general federation magazine which might accept matter for publication.

Then, our Secretary should reach still another group, the presidents of the Women's Auxiliaries of State Pharmaceutical Associations. This ought to be productive of much good because these women belong to the families of druggists and understand conditions. They should be urged to lend their personal efforts toward interesting young women in pharmacy. They can do this directly and through their husbands, but it is the direct personal effort that we wish especially to bring about. Where there is no auxiliary the association itself might be reached by asking the secretary to bring it to the attention of the association at a convention or, through the official publication of the association.

In every case the appeal should be brief and to the point. It ought to state that the Women's Section of the A. Ph. A. is backing the project. It ought to make plain the fact that this Section is made up largely of druggists' wives, that this is not the effort of women druggists. My reason for believing that emphasis must be placed upon this fact is because I find a number of men of the A. Ph. A. who believe that the Section attempts to segregate women pharmacists, not on the part of women pharmacists (which is exactly what we do not want, by the way) but by others. If A. Ph. A. members believe this, isn't it perfectly natural that people outside of the A. Ph. A. should draw that conclusion? In fact, I am not so sure but the very name itself has a decided tendency to make the uninformed interpret it that way.

Perhaps I may be allowed to digress a little to say, for the benefit of my sister pharmacists, that in the course of considerable correspondence on an entirely different matter, I have been very much gratified to have expressions that women pharmacists should have an active part in all the regular Section meetings of the Association and that they can be of real service there.

To return to what our communication should embody: It should set forth the fact that pharmacy offers many and varied opportunities to women, that the work is not limited to retail pharmacy, that manufacturing laboratories, analytical laboratories and hospital dispensaries are all open to them, and that the work is pleasant and productive of larger remuneration than most work requiring the same amount of preparation. It should tell them, too, that they can serve their country in no larger way. A great appeal is being made all over the country for women nurses, a noble work, but, though the glory of a pharmaceutical career has not played so conspicuous a role in poetry and fiction, though outwardly it may seem quite unromantic, it is none the less as necessary a part in the life and health of our men in the trenches and for our civilian population at home as the doctor's diagnosis of disease and prescription therefor, or the nurse's implicit following of directions. In fact it seems to me more fundamental. I would not depreciate the importance of the work of either surgeon or nurse; I have very great admiration for what they are accomplishing. Analyze the situation a little. How fruitless would all the efforts of doctor and nurse be in any acute disease if the wrong remedies were administered, how much could a surgeon accomplish without correctly made antiseptic solutions?

The letter or circular to state association auxiliaries should say less, perhaps, about the opportunities for women in pharmacy and more about women's possibilities for usefulness in the drug business, because the druggists' wives are not strangers to the advantages of pharmacy and will know how to interest girls, if they are convinced that women are able to meet the present emergency in any degree.

I have said much more about what I would have in this communication than is necessary to be included. To summarize: We should say enough to show that it is an agreeable field with abundant opportunity for advancement professionally and financially, enough to arouse young women to investigate the possibilities for themselves, enough to cause older women to exert themselves to bring it to the attention of the young people.

I realize that this program, which I am proposing, is one whose results we may never be able to measure. Even so, I think it is the thing for the Section to undertake. I am especially anxious to have you, who are not druggists, enter into it. We, who are druggists, are perhaps no more whole-heartedly interested in pharmacy and its progress, but it is in a different way than you are interested. It seems to me you can do no bigger thing for pharmacy just now than this. In other years, you can work along other lines: Shorter hours and Sunday closing, objectionable window displays or other advertising, patent medicine evils, and other unsolved problems. They are all worth your effort but they sink into insignificance now, in the face of the colossal task of winning this war. That interest must be paramount.

You have all done much: You have almost forgotten how wheat bread tastes, you have bought Liberty Bonds and War Savings Stamps and given to the Red Cross and the Y. M. C. A., you are all overworked with hours spent in making surgical dressings and all sorts of garments for soldiers, Belgian refugees and French orphans. If any waking moment is left the everlasting knitting is at hand, but all loyal women are doing all these things. You owe a duty to the profession of your husbands. Your very presence in this Section presupposes an acquiescence in its avowed object, "to cooperate in the promotion of the general progress of pharmacy."

I am reluctant to make even one specific recommendation when I look back and see how many excellent recommendations made by my predecessors in office have come to naught at

our hands—mine and yours. Yet I fear I must make a few, and trust that the committee acting upon them will not stop with approval. If my recommendations have any merit will you not adopt them and vote to have them carried out by our successors in office? If they are without merit, or you believe that for lack of finances or other reasons they can not be put into effect, I shall consider it good judgment to vote against them.

Therefore I recommend:

1. That our Press Committee be instructed to make an effort to get brief articles about the opportunities for women in pharmacy into high school magazines.
2. That our Outlook Committee be instructed to reach club women in whatever way seems most feasible with similar information.
3. That our Secretary be directed to communicate with the president of each Women's Auxiliary of the various State Pharmaceutical Associations, urging each woman to make an effort, in her own locality, to reach high school girls individually and through local women's clubs or local druggists' associations.

Mrs. Whelpley moved, seconded by Mrs. Christensen, that the President's address be referred to a committee. Motion carried.

Chairman, Miss Bagley, appointed as the Committee on Addresses, Mrs. H. M. Whelpley, Miss Clara Hulskamp and Mrs. M. M. Gray, to whom President Cooper's address was referred.

A paper was read by Miss Clara Hulskamp.

THE WOMAN PHARMACIST.

BY CLARA HULSKAMP.

At the present time, propoganda is being advanced as regards the filling of places occupied by men before the war. But, it is a fact, that the status of "The Woman Pharmacist" is already established. It is a matter of record that 35 years ago, in 1883, the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy graduated the first woman of that college, and, in the same year, a woman received the degree of Pharmaceutical Chemist at the University of Michigan. About the same time, a college was founded in Louisville, Ky., by Dr. J. P. Barnum, known as the "Louisville College of Pharmacy for Women." It has been said, it was the only college of its kind and it existed about nine years.

The colleges of pharmacy of the present day are co-educational and are urging the enrollment of women, as it is so poignantly felt that to "keep the home fires burning" it behooves the wives, daughters and sisters of pharmacists to awake to a specific interest in the profession; heretofore, it has been a matter of circumstances, individual desire or inclination.

Patience, neatness, aptitude, manipulative skill in dispensing drugs and chemicals, are some of the qualities of a first-class pharmacist. Are they not innate characteristics of women?

The requirements of a registered pharmacist are time of experience, education and state board examination; these requirements are well met by women as evidenced by the success in the past of the women applicants.

The field of endeavor in the profession of pharmacy may well be divided into two classes, the first being that to which time, energy and knowledge are devoted to pharmaceutical work alone, and the other includes business training in the mercantile world. Both fields claim successful women pharmacists.

To the embryonic woman pharmacist, let us pass along the word: "To succeed, you have to dream and dream true. Then you have to work faithfully, earnestly, steadily and agonizingly to make your dreams come true."

The Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. H. R. Kenaston, gave the annual report as follows:

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE WOMEN'S SECTION.

To the President and Members of the Women's Section of the American Pharmaceutical Association:

Since our Nation is engaged in war, the report of your Secretary must necessarily include a mention of the part the members of this organization should take in the great struggle. While we regret the necessity for war activities, so long as the husbands, sons and brothers are engaged