

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS OF CHARLES H. LAWALL, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION 1918-1919

The honor and the responsibility which have come to me through the election to your presidency are intensified upon this occasion by a realization that we are meeting for the fifth time in the history of the American Pharmaceutical Association in the foremost city of the greatest country in the world.

Time, the nimble tyrant of the ages, whose footsteps we measure by the system which originated in the fertile brain of some forgotten Egyptian philosopher, has wrought many changes. Nearly three generations have passed since the American Pharmaceutical Association had its initial meeting in 1852. During this period, and especially within the memory of the present generation, transformations have taken place or are now occurring which are almost revolutionary in their effect upon the practice of pharmacy.

Standards which served to guide our predecessors are frequently found to be obsolete. The radical changes in the practice of medicine, the marvelous developments of chemistry, the irresistible extension of commercialism have combined to effect alterations undreamed of by those who laid the foundation of this organization. Even the landmarks have sufficed scientific facts and events of the year, or discuss such scientific questions as may to him seem suitable to the occasion."



CHARLES H. LAWALL

ferred metamorphoses so that there exists a gap between the past and the present which can be bridged only by those familiar with the intervening history, and even such would fear to prophesy as to what the future will bring forth.

In Article IX of the By-laws of this Association, referring to the duties of the President, it is stated that:

"He shall present at each annual meeting an address embodying general

Not for many years has an address, such as is contemplated in the paragraph quoted, been delivered, nor do I intend presenting one of that kind now. I quote the article to show how far afield we have traveled even from our own rules and to emphasize the necessity for our committee on by-laws to pay greater attention to details of this kind in making the changes which are from time to time found necessary.

For many years it has been the custom in most national and state associations for the presiding officer to present a survey of the entire field of activities which have a bearing upon the welfare of the body, and in the light of his experience and observations to make recommendations and suggestions for the development and progress of the association. This does not necessarily imply that an

illusion of infallibility accompanies the elevation to the honor, although this is unfortunately sometimes true. It does mean that for the period of his office, the president should, if he realizes his opportunities and responsibilities, spend such time in studying his field of work and conferring wherever possible with those who are more experienced and wiser in the affairs of the association than he, so that, in the language of science, he may act as a crystallizing nucleus, around which may develop the geometric form of the perfect twin crystal of efficiency and progress.

The solution in which this change must be imagined to take place is the membership of the association. In following the simile still further it will be realized that this solution is not always homogeneous and transparent. As there are sometimes colloids present which prevent crystallization in a real solution, so there are present in the membership factors which prevent the realization of our aims.

A perfect membership in any organization (although I have never known of an instance where the ideal was realized) is a membership composed exclusively of workers. Most organizations, and ours is no exception to the rule, are composed of two classes of members, *i. e.*, a small proportion who work all the time and a very large proportion who do little or nothing, even when asked to help, but whose strong suit is criticism of the way in which things are done. Each of these classes makes the other possible, for the workers have so much to do that it is a wonder more mistakes are not made.

The majority of the members in any organization are those who contribute dues, receive the publications and for exercise spend their time wandering in the labyrinth of dissatisfaction, all oblivious of the exit which is found through the gate of service. There is no simple remedy for this defect, of which I am aware, although I believe much progress could be made if more young men could be induced to take an active part in association work and if some of the older members would be content to serve in advisory capacities.

One of the greatest faults in most association work lies in the perpetuating of committees of almost the same personnel year after year. It is true that where a committee does its work well it would seem like injustice or lack of appreciation to make radical changes, but if the larger meaning of progress is once appreciated it will be found to include not only the accomplishments themselves but also the instruments by which they were brought about. In the immortal words of a well-known American "There is glory enough for all." Why should we not therefore share it?

In this connection, I would again direct attention to the fact, emphasized by former presidents, that we have so many committees that when the time comes for the president to make his appointments, and he begins to study the situation, he is likely to fear that the membership list will be exhausted before all of his committees are filled.

The growth of membership in our Association during the past year has been phenomenal. It is very gratifying and has been accomplished mostly by personal work rather than by correspondence. Many of the colleges are to be commended for persuading the members of the graduating classes to join the Association. As has been well said by a former president of this organization,

"The key to success lies in the extension of membership," and our greatest hope for the future lies in the number of young men whom we can induce first to join and then furnish with convincing reasons why they should retain their membership, partly by giving them responsibilities and opportunities of service. The benefits of belonging to our Association must be made so apparent that those who are on the outside will want to come in and those who are on the inside will want to stay in.

The local branches are in fairly good condition, the most discouraging feature seeming to be the small attendance at meetings except when some unusual program is offered. One of the most encouraging phases of the year's work is the establishment of a local branch at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., embracing the pharmacists of the surrounding territory known as the Wyoming Valley. Every pharmacist in this territory has been enrolled and they have succeeded in improving general conditions, shortening the drug store hours so that they extend from 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. during the winter months and in other ways illustrating the advantages of organization and coöperation. This should be an inspiration for pharmacists in many other localities throughout the country.

I feel that we are derelict in our obligations to the past, our duties to the present and our responsibilities toward the future in not paying proper attention to the importance of our code of ethics. The soul or essence of a professional organization is its code of ethics. That of the A. Ph. A. is not given sufficient publicity. It has never, to my knowledge, been revised and brought up to date and it is so long since it has been printed and circulated that nobody remembers when that last happened.

**Recommendation No. 1, regarding code of ethics.** I recommend that the Committee on revision of constitution and by-laws be authorized and directed to immediately revise the code of ethics and submit the revised form to the Council for approval and adoption and that this revised code of ethics be then printed on or distributed with each membership application blank as constant evidence of our professional ideals.

There is no question as to the value of our organization to the majority of the members who belong to it. There is no doubt, either, as to the great increase in the overhead costs to the Association and if things continue in the same proportion we shall soon have a deficit in the treasury. As we have long given more than value for the money expended for membership dues and as our publications are undoubtedly worth more than we have been charging for them, I believe that instead of pricing the Year Book and Journal at \$4.00 per annum each and charging annual dues of \$5.00 (including both publications) the value of these two publications should be placed at \$5.00 each when subscribed to separately and the annual dues (including both publications) should be \$7.50.

**Recommendation No. 2. Referendum on raising dues.** I therefore recommend that a referendum vote on this matter be taken at the time of sending out the ballots for the annual election and if seventy-five percent of the members voting express themselves in favor of raising the dues as proposed, that the dues be so raised at the beginning of the next fiscal year.

The House of Delegates in its reconstructed form should add strength to our organization. It is too early to say just what its value will be as it will depend

largely upon the personnel of its officers and the degree of coördination exhibited between it and the main body.

**Recommendation  
No. 3. House of  
Delegates.**

I believe that much benefit would be derived by changing the by-laws so that the Chairman or presiding officer of the House of Delegates shall be the First Vice-President of the Association, and the officers of the House shall be members of the Council and that the first general session of the Association and the first session of the House of Delegates be made a joint or coincident session at the future annual meetings. I recommend that these changes be made in our by-laws and procedure.

The monthly journal of the Association has more than fulfilled the expectations of those who were responsible for its inauguration seven years ago. I wish to express my personal appreciation of the way in which it has been handled during the past year so as to keep the expenses down to a minimum and at the same time maintain its high standard as a representative publication of American Pharmacy. The Association is fortunate indeed in having as its editor one who, with singleness of purpose and unselfish motives, devotes his every effort to the upbuilding of this our most important asset.

The Year Book, that monumental record of our professional achievements, has also made great progress under its present editorship and it is a pleasure to report that the coming year will probably see the publication of the extra volume which will bring it up to date. If our Association had done nothing else but transmit to posterity the publications which have been issued under its authority, its existence would have been fully justified, for they alone constitute a library which if properly arranged and intelligently used is indispensable to the right practice of pharmacy both scientific and practical.

**Recommendation  
No. 4, regarding  
research.**

The scientific achievements, which have been so largely responsible for the success of the Allies in overwhelming the Teutonic aspirations toward world domination, have been primarily based upon research. Pharmacists have contributed their share in this respect although almost entirely without credit being given to the profession itself. It is our duty to continue our efforts along this most important line of progress irrespective of where the credit is placed. I therefore recommend that, notwithstanding the smallness of the fund now available, the Committee on Research be directed to take such necessary steps as will result in the accomplishment each year of some investigation which shall be published and for which credit shall be given to the American Pharmaceutical Association.

This committee should also offer to coöperate with other associations planning research work along cognate lines and should keep in constant touch with the portion of the field of scientific investigation which properly belongs to pharmacy, standing clear of any movements, however, which are not wholly based upon service to the profession as a whole or to the public, which is the ultimate beneficiary in any results of real and permanent value.

**Recommendation  
No. 5. Committee  
on Federation.**

Federation has been one of the most widely discussed topics of the year in meetings of the various pharmaceutical organizations. When the views of the proponents and opponents are critically studied it will be seen that it is the name rather than the idea which is the principal stumbling block. The com-

prehensive plan of federation which was promulgated by President Dohme does not seem probable of adoption as soon as was anticipated. The best way to accomplish a task of such magnitude is to first get together upon the points on which there is no disagreement. Your Committee on Federation, under the able leadership of Chairman Army, has taken for the initial subject "Coöperative Publicity in American Pharmacy." It is believed that there will not be a dissenting voice in the vote to inaugurate a working plan on this subject and it is felt that a beginning has at last been made in attacking this most difficult problem. I recommend that the Committee on Federation be continued as a working committee of the Association and that Chairman Army be continued as its head and that he be given authority to select his associates for the ensuing year.

The plan of offering a concession to State associations based upon a hundred percent membership affiliation does not seem to be practical, but there must be some plan based upon this thought which is capable of being developed and which will ultimately unite the memberships of the State Pharmaceutical associations with our own. When that has been accomplished, we shall have effected a federation which will have a tremendous influence in shaping the pharmaceutical progress of the future.

The National Drug Trade Conference continues to be worthy of our commendation and support. Limited as it is in its effectiveness by the fact that its members cannot act for their respective organizations quickly in cases of emergency, it nevertheless is a successful experiment of its kind and is one of the strongest evidences of the need of that real federation for which many of us hope and which all of us will undoubtedly see.

One of the memorable events of this year's meeting will be the presentation of the first Joseph P. Remington honor medal to be awarded. This medal, which is to be awarded annually to a prominent pharmacist for distinguished services performed during the preceding year, originated in and is presented by the New York Branch under conditions approved by the Council of the Association. A fact which will add distinction to this occasion is that the recipient is one of our own ex-presidents, whose services to Pharmacy have been noteworthy for many years past. Established in honor of one of America's greatest pharmacists, it is believed that in time the distinction which attaches to this honor will be as great as that of the Hanbury Medal of the British allied scientific bodies.

Our Association is fortunate in its close affiliation with the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. Both of these organizations are pioneers and leaders in their respective fields and the benefits which are derived by the coincidence of our meetings cannot be over-estimated. A correlation must necessarily exist between education, legislation and practice. No permanent or healthy improvement can be made except it is shared proportionately between these three elements of progress. Each must keep pace with the others. If one assumes a dominant attitude, it does so to its own prejudice and to the detriment of pharmacy. More is likely to be lost than gained through radical changes which set up antagonism and opposition that destroy where it is intended to create. Let us foster a spirit of coördination and coöperation. Let us try to be tolerant and wise and let us subordinate personal preferences and advantages for the larger and more generous

viewpoint which recognizes that pharmacy is not decadent and that its possibilities were never greater than at present.

By the time the four years have elapsed which will see all of the leading colleges with a full high school entrance requirement, I believe that many of the present evils and obstacles to professional progress will have disappeared by a natural and healthy process of elimination. One of the signs of the times in this respect is the number of States which are added each year to the list of those possessing graduation prerequisite laws.

**Recommendation  
No. 6. Hospital  
Pharmacists.**

One of the most important phases of pharmaceutical practice is that of hospital pharmacy. It would seem just as necessary to provide laws for the proper handling and dispensing of drugs in hospitals as for the practice of pharmacy to the public. Few states have laws or regulations affecting pharmacy as practiced in hospitals. I therefore recommend that the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy and the House of Delegates have this fact brought to their attention and that they be requested to take up this subject for discussion with the view of formulating regulations or enacting legislation covering the practice of pharmacy in hospitals in the various states.

The practice of pharmacy has, during recent years, come to be more and more hampered by governmental regulations. The modern pharmacist needs the frequent services of an expert accountant and a legal adviser to enable him to avoid the pitfalls of non-compliance with arbitrary technical and often unnecessary regulations and rulings imposed upon him by those who have little sympathy with and less knowledge of his professional responsibilities and difficulties than they should. Be it to the everlasting credit of pharmacy that it has frequently led and always acquiesced in reforms which are for the real and ultimate benefit of the public, even though financial loss is incurred thereby. The history of anti-narcotic legislation bears tribute to this fact and the more recent coöperation with the regulations of the Public Health Service regarding venereal diseases is an added proof of the readiness with which private gain is subordinated to the public welfare.

One of the tests of the profession is yet to come through the changes arising from prohibition legislation. In some quarters, a form of hysteria seems to have developed for fear pharmacists will be tempted to violate the prohibition laws. Probably some will, just as they always have in the past, but under the present rules it will always be with the connivance and collaboration of a physician, and why any more discredit should attach to pharmacy for the few who are unworthy of the calling than to medicine for the same reason is hard to understand. If added responsibilities should come to pharmacists, and they no doubt will through the issuance of rules and regulations in respect to both alcoholic liquors and narcotics (for both now seem to be on the same plane of discredit), they should be accepted as a tribute to the dignity and responsibility of the calling and as a recognition of the honesty and worthiness of the profession as a whole which is implied by such a trust.

Compulsory health insurance does not seem to be making the progress in this country that its sponsors hoped and its opponents feared. Theoretically it is admirable. Practically, it is a breeder of mendaciousness, malingering and mis-

representation. Before such laws are passed we should have a strengthening of our health, sanitation and housing laws and a proper enforcement thereof. Pharmacists should encourage legislation which tends to develop and maintain good health and should continue to oppose compulsory health insurance legislation which would not only increase tremendously our burden of taxation but which thus far has failed to accomplish its object in every country where it has been tried.

**Recommendation**  
**No. 7. U. S. P.**  
**delegates.**

The decennial United States Pharmacopoeial Convention will be held in May of next year in Washington. The American Pharmaceutical Association has both as an association and through its individual members been a prominent factor in pharmacopoeial revision in the past. In view of the importance of this organization being properly represented by delegates who will attend the Convention and who would be eminently suitable for service on the new Committee of Revision, I recommend that the incoming president be requested to appoint as delegates only those who fulfil these requirements and who are not appointed as delegates from any other organizations. It has sometimes happened that persons were appointed who also held credentials from other organizations while equally good men were debarred from service on the Revision Committee by not receiving any appointment at all.

The Fourth Edition of the National Formulary has continued to merit the approval of those who have taken advantage of the wealth of practical material which it contains. The Committee of our Association upon which is placed the responsibility of conducting the next revision should lose no time in getting to work in the near future so that the issuance of the N. F. V may be synchronized with that of the U. S. P. X.

Pharmaceutical service of a praiseworthy type has been rendered by thousands of members of our profession in the two years of the existence of our augmented military and naval forces. In the Navy, through the medium of the Naval Hospital Corps, opportunity was afforded for pharmacists to gain commissioned rank, which hundreds of them have done. In the Army, the policy has been consistently antagonistic to any recognition of pharmacy and the bill which was introduced to establish a pharmaceutical corps remained in committee. There seems to be no reason why pharmacists who are properly qualified should not be given commissions except the unwillingness on the part of the military authorities to make the necessary departmental changes. No one who is conversant with the true situation during the summer and autumn of 1918 gives credence to the statements that were published that it was because pharmacy was unworthy of recognition.

**Recommendation**  
**No. 8. Commissioned**  
**rank for Army**  
**Pharmacists.**

There is no doubt whatever that a pharmaceutical corps should, can and will be established. Whether it will be through the passage of a bill forcing it upon the Surgeon General's Department, or whether the proper and better way is to seek its establishment through coöperation of that Department by means of conferences and discussions, remains to be seen. It is probable that the latter plan will bring about the most satisfactory results and I recommend that the American Pharmaceutical Association again place itself on record as favoring the

recognition of properly qualified pharmacists by elevation to commissioned rank, in a corps or body affording an opportunity for distinctive service, and that the officers of the A. Ph. A. be directed to coöperate fully with all other organizations having the same object in view.

**Recommendation**  
**No. 9. Naval**  
**Pharmacists.**

I also recommend the endorsement of the Darrow Naval Bill providing for the improvement of the status of naval pharmacists.

**Recommendation**  
**No. 10. Nominations.**

One of the weakest points in our constructive work is our method of making nominations. I have studied carefully the systems in use in other similar organizations and have conducted much correspondence to ascertain how other plans work out in practice. No method of which I have learned seems to be free from imperfections. I am, therefore, not prepared to make any suggestion embodying a radical change. I do feel, however, that a more representative list of names might be obtained if the local branches were given an opportunity to voice their feelings in the matter. I therefore recommend that the secretary of this organization be instructed to send a communication in February or March of each year to the Secretary of each local branch asking for a list of not more than five names of members who are worthy of honor and distinction at the hands of the parent Association by being nominated for office. These names, after being received by the General Secretary, should be compiled alphabetically and the list mimeographed so that each member of the General Nomination Committee may be furnished with a copy at the initial meeting of that body. Such a list will serve as a valuable guide for the final selection of nominees whose names are to be recommended to the Association for ballot.

**Recommendation**  
**No. 11. Nominations.**

I also recommend that on this informative list and also on the final balloting slip of nominees, the occupation of the nominee be given as well as his place of residence. In this way the members may be enabled to make a more intelligent selection than by the procedure in use at present, in which it is assumed that this knowledge is possessed by those voting.

In an organization which has evolved under the peculiar difficulties which have attended the growth of the American Pharmaceutical Association there is to be expected an unwieldiness in certain directions and a failure to properly coördinate to the best interests of the work. This has partly been brought about by the growth of the Council from a small, compact governing body to a large body in which there seems to be a great deal of lost motion, probably due to the necessity of conducting all business by correspondence. When only a small group of persons is involved, correspondence is not such a bad method of getting results, although it is much less satisfactory than personal meetings. As the number increases, however, the efficiency decreases in inverse ratio.

**Recommendation**  
**No. 12. Executive**  
**Committee of**  
**Council.**

I therefore recommend that there be constituted an executive committee of the Council consisting of not more than ten members (including the elective officers of the Association) which shall be elected by the Council by ballot at its first session and to which shall be referred such matters as the Council may determine in the interests of expediency and efficiency.



**Recommendation  
No. 13. Forgotten  
recommendations.**

I also recommend that the first duty of the incoming Council shall be to refer to this Executive Committee the presidential addresses for the past ten years with directions to take such steps as will result in the carrying out of many recommendations which have been approved and then entirely disregarded or forgotten. This shall not apply, however, to such recommendations as are no longer pertinent or of present importance and value.

I feel that this is one of the most important suggestions that I have to make, for as I have studied the presidential addresses of past years and seen the ready acquiescence with which the Association endorsed recommendations involving much careful study and thought, and the almost equal ease with which these same important actions seem to be forgotten, I have been surprised at the large number of matters of importance that seemingly have been neglected. I therefore propose this, not so much in the interest of my own recommendations as for the sake of the good material that has been lying dormant and for the sake of the future.

Death has laid his heavy hand upon our membership list during the past year as usual. There is little that we can do or say that can add to the lustre of the names of those who were eminent, and we know that for the rest they know not nor care what we may do, having solved all mysteries and attained all knowledge.

**Recommendation  
No. 14. Honoring  
of members who have  
died during the year.** That we may show ourselves not unmindful of their loss, I recommend that a suitable time be set aside by the General Secretary at one of the future sessions of this meeting at which an opportunity may be afforded to either speak of the departed or pay them the equally eloquent tribute of devout silence as their names are read.

I should be unmindful of my obligations did I not take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the permanent officers of the Association, and to the section officers, for the helpfulness which each has shown to make this year's work a success. As I relinquish the gavel, the emblem of my office, I shall do so with the feeling that perhaps I have benefited more than has the Association. The year's service has brought to me many new friends, it has renewed my faith in pharmacy and my appreciation of the fact that this ancient and honorable organization is one which has helped to keep alive the spark of scientific interest which in time will kindle the torch to light the path of future generations of pharmacists toward the land of professionalism, whither we are all journeying. And if any bedlamite or evil disposed person shall ask us mockingly as we journey on our way "What is it that ye seek?" let us answer in all sincerity "We seek truth."

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

*To the Members of the American Pharmaceutical Association:*

The Committee on the President's Address has given careful consideration to the excellent recommendations contained in it. We believe that President LaWall and the Association are to be congratulated on the sane, constructive character of the address and the sound common sense shown in the recommendations. The Committee does not differ from the President on any of the principles involved in the recommendations, and its work has been almost entirely aimed at perfecting the suggestions made.

(The recommendations were considered seriatim by the Association, and the action thereon, for convenience and information, is inserted in brackets in the report.—EDITOR.)

Recommendation No. 1 is recommended for adoption, it being understood that the proposed revised code shall be finally approved by the Association.

(Approved.)

Recommendation No. 2 is recommended for adoption, it being understood that the proposed referendum shall be conducted in compliance with the provisions of the Association for amending the By-Laws.

(This recommendation was approved by the Association. In a later action by the Association, with the approval of the President and the Committee, this subject was referred to the Executive Committee of the Council.)

Relative to Recommendation No. 3, the Committee has decided that it is too soon to again change the organization of the House of Delegates and its procedure, and that some of the proposed changes would not be practicable; therefore the recommendation is not recommended for adoption.

(The Association approved the action of the Committee.)

Recommendation No. 4 is recommended for adoption.

(Approved.)

Recommendation No. 5 is recommended for adoption.

(The recommendation, owing to the action by the Committee on Federation,\* was withdrawn by President LaWall.)

Recommendations 6, 7, 8 and 9 are recommended for adoption.

(Approved.)

The Committee agrees with the President that the present method of making nominations is far from perfect, but does not agree that the slight modification proposed will effect any great improvement; therefore Recommendation No. 10 is not recommended for adoption.

(The Association voted to refer the question to a special committee of three to investigate our method of nominating and voting and report a plan whereby the system may be improved. This committee is to be appointed by the incoming President.)

That part of Recommendation No. 11 which would require that the vocation of the nominees shall appear with their names and addresses on the ballots and in electing officers is recommended for adoption.

(The Association approved the report of the Committee.)

Recommendation No. 12 is recommended for adoption, with the change that the proposed Executive Committee of the Council shall include the President of the Association and the Chairman of the Council, instead of the elective officers of the Association.

(The report of the Committee was approved.)

Recommendations 13 and 14 are recommended for adoption.

(Approved.)

Signed, T. J. BRADLEY, Chairman,  
G. M. BERINGER,  
L. C. HOPP,  
R. S. LEHMAN,  
R. A. LYMAN,

Committee.

(The report of the Committee, as amended, was then adopted as a whole.)

#### AWARD OF THE JOSEPH P. REMINGTON HONOR MEDAL.

President Charles H. LaWall, in reconvening the First General Session of the Sixty-seventh Annual Meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association, Tuesday evening, August 26, 1919, said:

"We are assembled for a purpose in which we are all glad to participate, the occasion of the first presentation of the Joseph P. Remington Honor Medal,

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\* These transactions, whereby a Pharmaceutical Publicity Committee is to be created, will be reported in a succeeding issue of the JOURNAL.