

EDITORIAL

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TEAM WORK NECESSARY BETWEEN DRUG TRADE AND REVENUE OFFICIALS.

THE year 1920 brings greater opportunity and more responsibility to the drug trade than ever before. National prohibition first of all gives the trade an opportunity to eliminate that part of it which has always been a burden. One drug store in a community operating as a speak-easy injures the standing of a hundred reputable pharmacists. The Federal prohibition act prohibits the beverage use of intoxicating liquors and sale of all alcoholic preparations that are fit for use as beverages. In addition, if an alcoholic preparation is not fit for use as a beverage, and it is sold under conditions where the pharmacist should know that the purchaser is securing it for beverage purposes, he is violating the law. In addition a prohibitive tax is placed upon the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in violation of the Federal prohibition code. This act may appear burdensome to some, but it will be a God-send to the trade, instead of a burden, if the trade meets the new situation in the right spirit. The "so-called" drug store which is used as a booze-joint must go. The best of the trade will welcome its departure. The large part of the trade which has always obeyed the law will be the beneficiary. If the law is obeyed the drug trade will enjoy the confidence of the people to a far greater extent under the new rule than heretofore.

The action of the retail drug trade, in advising its members not to take out Federal liquor tax or liquor permit to handle alcoholic liquors, has given the public a new vision of the trade and of those who are trying to control its policy. Federal officers and State officers, I am sure, will deal fairly with the trade and endeavor to enforce the law so as not to work any hardship except where there is necessity for it. Team work between the best part of the drug trade and public officials will bring good results financially, and it will result in the drug trade enjoying the confidence of the people which it deserves.

WAYNE B. WHEELER.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PRESENT DRUG MARKET CONDITIONS.

WHEN the armistice was signed the drug stocks of this country were at a very low ebb, and it was thought advisable by the drug houses to further reduce this stock in anticipation of an early decline in the prevailing high prices. With a very few exceptions, contrary to expectations, the market continued to advance. Practically the entire world is still looking to the United States for

most of its supplies. Not only in volume but in sales the year 1919 will record the largest figures by 25 percent over any previous citation.

Many incongruities appear in the drug market. Camphor, menthol and oil of peppermint, from Japan, sold at less in the United States than at producing points. Though most of the citric acid is imported, the cost of it is lower here than in Italy. Dalmatia, in the Fiume territory, has put insect powder at \$1.00 a pound nearly off the price lists. Impoverished Italy made licorice root disappear from the market, as also other of her exports.

Transportation and economic disturbances of the Orient have caused rises in the cost of gum acacia, gamboge and tragacanth, while fortunes have been made on shellac for prompt delivery. Unrest has advanced the price of cantharides, ergot, lycopodium and other Russian world supplies beyond precedented figures.

Saccharin is now largely produced in this country, and is to some extent replacing sugar in the manufacture of products wherein the question of food value does not enter. When the Government released a number of millions of gallons of castor oil its price was lowered, but it is now again advancing. Santonine at \$100.00 per pound is ten times its normal price.

The regulations of the Government for the sale of ethyl alcohol are nearly prohibitory. The cost of alcohol by the barrel ranges about \$7.00 per gallon. Denatured alcohol has advanced with the progress of the winter season, during which large quantities of it are used for automobiles. Methyl alcohol is about double the price of denatured alcohol and still the output hardly keeps pace with the demand.

Bituminous coal shortage has limited the production of many chemicals, thereby adding to the existing normal deficiencies; phenol is too low and an advance in price is anticipated. The exportation of benzoic, boric and oxalic acids and formaldehyde portends further scarcity and consequently higher prices.

Potash salts, including the crude, bicarbonate, bromide and chlorate, are reversing their travels and the demands from abroad have induced higher figures, while the cost of permanganate, like other disinfectants, is far above the pre-war price. Many chemicals are, at times, unobtainable; the American chemical manufacturers are utterly unable to keep up with the demands for some of them, and, as a result, manufacturers requiring them have had almost unsurmountable difficulties, heightened by a shortage of containers and advances in all supplies and labor costs.

No immediate relief in the drug market is looked for; the higher overhead charges and labor costs have added to the troubles involved in obtaining supplies. The significance of the drug market is that American drug culture should be promoted along progressive but rational lines; the manufacture of American

chemicals and pharmaceuticals should be further developed and encouraged and American markets largely extended. Work and production are essentials to the prosperity of a country regardless of how rich and bountiful its natural resources may be.

C. P. VAN SCHAACK.

HOW CAN THE JOURNAL BETTER SERVE YOU?

THE American Pharmaceutical Association exists to promote the science and art of pharmacy and the interests of the general public in relation thereto; and it does this in various ways—by stimulating research, by diffusing knowledge, by fostering education, by upholding the dignity and importance of pharmacy, by observing the standards for official drugs and by establishing standards for unofficial drugs, by aiding in the regulation of the use of habit-forming drugs and in the protection of the public health, by maintaining respect for ethical standards and by promoting coöperation between physicians and pharmacists—all to the end that the growth and development of pharmacy may be promoted in every proper way, for the good of mankind.

The JOURNAL of the Association is published only to promote the objects of the Association. As Dr. James Hartley Beal so well stated, editorially, in the first issue of the JOURNAL (January 1912), "The JOURNAL is not an object but an instrument. The American Pharmaceutical Association does not exist for the purpose of producing this publication, but the latter has been brought into existence to serve the necessities of the Association. The prime object of the JOURNAL is to furnish a more direct and speedy communication between the Association and its members than is possible through the columns of other pharmaceutical journals. The latter while they have been lavishly liberal in extending the use of their columns to the Association cannot, in the very nature of things, report its proceedings and the activities of its officers and committees with the fullness and detail necessary to the complete information of the members; while to withhold this information until the issue of the annual volume or Year Book, as has been done heretofore, is to withhold it until it possesses value for only one division of the Association, to wit, the Section on Historical Pharmacy. In fine, the JOURNAL will be satisfied to be, and remain, the official organ of the Association, and the first and last test that will be applied to any proposed policy or utterance will be its ability to serve the welfare of the Association and the cause for which it labors."

Eight years have flown by since the first number of the JOURNAL was issued, and it is but fair to say that the services of the JOURNAL have more than justified its establishment. During this period, the Association has made greater progress, as a real, constructive force in American Pharmacy, than ever before, and not the least important factor in such development has been the fact that the JOURNAL

has become the clearing-house of pharmaceutical opinion for every branch of pharmacy, not once a year, but every month in the year.

To-day the JOURNAL is the most important asset of the Association. It occupies a field that is peculiarly its own. It is the mouth-piece so to speak, of the members of the Association, reflecting *their* ideals, *their* aims, *their* work—in short, *it is a coöperative enterprise, and it is just what the members choose to make it.*

In the publication of the JOURNAL, several basic facts must be considered; first, the JOURNAL must serve a number of diversified interests, the membership of the Association embracing, as it does, all those who are directly or indirectly engaged in the practice of pharmacy, whether as retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers, chemists, teachers, publishers or food and drug officials. Naturally, each of these classes is primarily interested in its own field of work and secondarily in the other fields. Hence, it is necessary to “balance” the reading matter of the JOURNAL so as to properly appeal to all the interests represented. Second, every article submitted for publication in the JOURNAL must be made as brief as possible, not only because the briefer it is, the better it is, as a rule, but also for economic reasons. In these days of ultra-high living, printing costs are mounting by leaps and bounds—every page of the JOURNAL costs dollars.

The JOURNAL is not perfect and never can be; it is a human institution. It can be improved. It can grow and develop. It can be made more helpful and stimulate the attention, interest and desire of the membership to the end that more and more constructive work for pharmacy may be done. But how?

Are there any new service-features that can be advantageously added to the JOURNAL? Are there any unnecessary features that can be dispensed with? Shall the proceedings of meetings be published in full detail, or shall they be further condensed? Shall discussions be published? Shall a larger number of personal notes be given, and if so, within what limitations? How can the JOURNAL be made of greater service and value to its advertisers? The heartiest thanks of the American Pharmaceutical Association are due to the advertisers of the JOURNAL for the splendid support they have given the JOURNAL, and while we believe that a *quid pro quo* has been given by the JOURNAL to its advertisers, yet we believe also that closer and more mutually advantageous relations can and should be established between the advertisers and the membership. How?

It has been suggested that the JOURNAL give, each month, a review of the pharmaceutical literature of the world, or else establish a monthly pharmaceutical abstract journal based on such literature. After careful consideration of the suggestion from all angles, it is felt that the best and most economical procedure would be to give in the JOURNAL, each month, an index pharmaceuticus or bibliography of pharmaceutical research, and also to continue the publication of the Year Book with its “annual, systematic review, or digest of pharmaceutical progress in orderly,

logical sequence, fully and completely." By this means, the membership will receive, not only the annual volume, but also, each month, a list of the titles of all original articles in pharmaceutical literature of the previous month and can promptly refer to same; to the practical worker the manner of publication of such data will be immaterial so long as he can be kept in close touch with the latest developments of pharmaceutical progress, while the avoidance of the duplication of printed matter by the Association first, monthly in the JOURNAL, and second, annually in the Year Book, will be the part of economic wisdom.

It will be of interest to state that Prof. H. V. Army, Reporter on the Progress of Pharmacy, and Chairman of the Committee on Research, has most kindly consented to prepare for the JOURNAL, each month, an index pharmaceuticus or bibliography of pharmaceutical research, as announced elsewhere in this issue.

Many other service-features will doubtless suggest themselves to the readers of the JOURNAL, and on behalf of the Committee on Publication, the writer would state that the Committee will gladly welcome any and all suggestions offered for the betterment of the JOURNAL, and will give them due and careful consideration; but it should be stated that the Committee must be governed somewhat by the question of the increased cost that the adoption of a suggestion will entail and whether or not the increased cost can be offset by condensing or eliminating less important features. In other words, the resources of the Association are limited and must be conserved.

How can the JOURNAL better serve you?

J. W. ENGLAND.

"WOODINE" SUGGESTED AS NAME FOR METHYL ALCOHOL.

Commissioner of Internal Revenue Daniel C. Roper is considering a suggestion from manufacturing chemists that all manufacturers and dealers in wood alcohol be required to place on the containers thereof a distinctive label, and to destroy all labels and literature containing the word "alcohol." "Woodine, a poisonous compound," is suggested as a name for methyl alcohol.

ALCOHOL, ON HAND JANUARY 17 TO BE REPORTED.

Persons legally permitted to have in their possession intoxicating liquors on and after January 17 are required to report within ten days from that date to the collector of internal revenue for the district in which they live, or have their principal place of business, the kind of such liquor, it is announced by the Internal Revenue Bureau. Liquors requiring to be reported and not included in the inventory are subject to seizure. Liquors possessed in a private dwelling do not have to be reported; neither are distilled spirits in distillery bonded warehouses, general bonded warehouses, and special bonded warehouses, wines held in bonded wineries and in bonded store-rooms, and liquors in customs bonded warehouses. New alcohol regulations will be issued after January 17.