

EDITORIAL

THE UNITED STATES PHARMACOPOEIAL REVISION.

ONE HUNDRED years of history, tradition and experience serve as a background for the new United States Pharmacopoeia, and establish a standard and precedent for the recently-elected Committee. That some of this experience was not obsolete, but capable of teaching valuable lessons, was evidenced by the comparative ease with which the new Committee of Revision entered upon its duties and the unprecedented accomplishments resulting from the sessions held in Washington immediately after the close of the Convention.

In these sessions, after the election of the Chairman, which is a by-law requirement, and heretofore the chief purpose of the first session, it was found possible to secure from each member an expression of preference for sub-committee activity, to appoint the fifteen sub-committees and to secure their election by the General Committee.

During a recess of the main Committee the sub-committees met, selected their Chairmen and discussed methods of work. These fifteen Chairmen thus became automatically the nominees for election to the Executive Committee, and upon appointment by the Chairman were elected by the General Committee.

The organization being thus perfected, the "business methods" under which the work of the last revision was conducted were placed before the Committee and adopted with slight modifications, and then the Secretary of the Board of Trustees had the opportunity to explain the rules of finance.

An opportunity was then given for an extended discussion of the important question of admission and deletions and tentative decisions were reached which should place this vital subject upon a correct and scientific basis. The Subcommittee on Scope also held a session and agreed upon over two hundred titles for admission, upon which there were no dissenting votes, and there is, therefore, an extensive list of titles ready for immediate consideration by the Sub-committees.

The recommendation presented to the Convention that personal conferences between Executive Committee members or Sub-committee members be authorized, whenever it was found that such a conference would materially clarify the situation or shorten the revision, met with the approval of the Board of Trustees and Revision Committee, and makes a notable advance in revision methods. In fact, the value of personal conferences in the U. S. P. revision was demonstrated by these first sessions of the Committee, since they permit a thorough discussion, prompt decisions and, above all, give that opportunity for personal contact and

acquaintanceship which lessens many future misunderstandings. The selection of a Committee which will work in harmony and for a Pharmacopoeia of distinction, with this propitious beginning, promises well for a thorough and prompt revision.

E. FULLERTON COOK.

LOYALTY AND IDEALS FUNDAMENTAL ESSENTIALS FOR GROWTH AND STRENGTH OF ASSOCIATIONS.

L OYALTY to pharmacy and to associations of pharmacists makes for their success and secures the respect of those served. Departure from loyalty signifies lack of coöperation and coördination and lays the organization open to attack and weakens the bonds which link the members of an association, and the aptitude develops for questioning, in a superficial way, the motives of confreres. The ministry of service united in a common cause is influential for good and comes from the coöperation of individuals. The service of pharmacy must prove valuable to the public and essential to the welfare and health of the community.

Charles G. Merrell, in his comment on the organization plan now before the American Pharmaceutical Association, applies the thought in this way: "No organization, or business, will be of real value to the community interests that it is intended to serve unless there be born into it ideals and purposes that are not only beneficial to the drug trade but to our national life as well." He reflects further, that "in the last analysis every business, or profession, survives just to the extent that it renders service to the community, and is rewarded according to the ultimate value of that service provided only, and here is where the need has existed for organization—that the community is made aware by publicity of that value."

A doctor, writing on medical organizations, counsels that: "It is not money; it is not political preferment; it is not financially-prompted group organization; it is not absorption by the state that will save us to ourselves; it is the preferential honor we show to each other, our loyalty to our ideals; and our heart-prompted service to the people. These things must be bred in the individual doctor and inculcated in the profession at large."

E. G. E.

ASSOCIATION PROGRAMS OF BUSINESS AND ENTERTAINMENTS.

T HERE are always two viewpoints of a question, and so relative to Association programs. Entertainments, no doubt, sometimes interfere with the work of associations, but the members reserve the annual meetings for an outing. Attendance at a national convention means long travel for most members, and an opportunity of seeing other sections of the country. The situation is somewhat different in State meetings.

The Iowa Pharmaceutical Association, complying with the wishes expressed by the members, has concluded to devote less time to entertainments and more to business. By a practically unanimous vote the members of the same Association

have decided to refer all reports to an advisory board for action, leaving the program open for other business. This arrangement is in line with that of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

Section officers of the A. Ph. A., and members, are each year advised to have contributors present their papers in abstract, and this is one of the purposes of this comment. If these instructions are observed there will be a tendency to briefer reports and papers, thereby saving time and publication costs. However, this should not be carried to the extreme; mere records will not always take the place of more extended papers. Possibly more of the business of associations could be transacted by mail and thereby relieve the sessions of considerable work. Again there may be different viewpoints, but it remains a fact that business hurried through during the sessions does not invariably receive as careful consideration as by correspondence. These thoughts are merely suggestive. E. G. E.

CONDENSED REPORTS AND PAPERS.

NOT infrequently more time is required for condensing reports and papers than for the original preparation of them. The Association has no intention of eliminating essential matter from contributed articles; nor are reports expected which do not fully serve their important purposes as records for future references. More papers, not a lesser number, are solicited. They should be brief, but not to the extent that they are only understandable by the authors or those well informed on the subjects, and impossible of comprehension by the larger number who seek information and would obtain it from more explanatory data. In this spirit—that of helpfulness—contributors are requested to condense papers and reports, and this applies to those of the recent convention and future contributions.

In other publications such work is done by reviewers; we must largely speak in the singular; and, if others say this places an awful burden on them, our request should be willingly and cheerfully complied with. Contributions should be condensed without sacrificing their merits and purposes; with this in view an appeal is made to the authors that they contract their articles in every way possible—the messages should be clearly and tersely given. Only those familiar with the work of condensing and abstracting know of the time-consuming labor involved in boiling down the thousand or more pages of convention proceedings. The aim is to have these minutes in the two succeeding issues of the JOURNAL; cooperation will make this possible. E. G. E.

THE PHARMACY STUDENT AND HIS WORK.

THE quality of work in the laboratories of pharmacy schools and in a lesser degree that of candidates before boards of pharmacy is to some extent influenced by the results and the use made of their work. The report of a visitor to

the technical schools of a large city brought this to mind. A young man had spent time, energy and care in making an article of brass; he was asked what would be done with his handiwork when finished—"Remelted," he said, with an expression that plainly said, "What's the use?" A student of another school was constructing a stool. The visitor asked "I suppose when you finish this nice little bench it will be broken up?" "Not much," he said with an air of pride, "this is for my little sister up in the kindergarten to sit on." These are homely examples; each one has a lesson.

Interest must be enlisted to get the most out of students, an appeal must be made to their vision—their imagination. They should see the connection between their thoughts and the ultimate purposes of their application, and expenditure of their time and energy. There will be less slighting of work when they find a vision inciting interest which spurs to better and greater effort. It is not always possible to utilize material which finds application beyond the laboratory, but teachers can more frequently adapt the work of students so that they may realize a greater appreciation of its usefulness. There is need of greater vision and the responsibility of its awakening in the students is with the teachers. E. G. E.

IDEALS NEEDED IN BUSINESS.

Jeremy Bentham, one of the first and greatest writers on legal and political reforms, immortalized the famous sentence of Joseph Priestley: "The greatest happiness of the greatest number." The National Association of Credit Men expressed the thought in a letter, recently sent out to its members, in the following words: "The producer of commodities must not in these days take advantage of scarcity and a pressing need to impose the biggest profit that a given commodity will bear. The world is starving, not for material things but for spiritual impulses, and plain speaking about spiritual ideals is the most needed thing in the world to-day." The human element is recognized in the foregoing as an important factor in business, and is an encouraging sign of these times when selfishness so largely controls the actions of men.

THE U. S. SUPREME COURT DECISION.

Briefly, the U. S. Supreme Court has decided that there are no serious defects in the Prohibition Law; that Congress did take a legal two-thirds vote in proposing the amendment; that a State referendum on a National amendment is unconstitutional; that the amendment does not conflict with Article V of the Constitution; that the amendment is now as much a part of the Constitution as any other part, and deserves equal respect; that the phrase "concurrent power" cannot be construed as joint power, and that the states cannot claim a share in enforcement legislation; and that though there are limits beyond which Congress cannot go in enforcing the amendment those limits have not been exceeded in the Volstead Act.
