

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STATUS OF PHARMACISTS IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE.*

Your Committee has been in constant touch with the Surgeon-General's Office and with the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery of the Navy and also with the U. S. Public Health Service. Indeed, since arrival at this meeting your Committee has been accorded the courtesy of interviews with the Hon. Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy, Major General Merritte W. Ireland, Surgeon-General of the Army, Admiral Washington, Chief of the Bureau of Navigation, and Admiral Braisted, Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery of the Navy. The present status of legislation may be summarized as follows:

The bill providing for the reorganization of the Army has incorporated in it a section providing for the establishment of a medical administrative corps composed of non-medical men with rank ranging from private to major. Commissions are to be issued in this corps only after three years' service as an enlisted man, one and a half years' service shall be as non-commissioned. This is the form in which the measure was passed by the Senate. The original measure provided for a five-year term of enlistment as a preliminary to the issuance of a commission and in this form it was passed by the House. Later, Surgeon-General Ireland requested that the preliminary service in the ranks be reduced to three years, and this was done in the Senate Bill, and it is hoped that in the joint conference bill the shorter term recommended by the Surgeon-General will be adopted.

It is understood, however, that the Surgeon-General will be given authority to recognize technical training covering the duties of the officer as a part of his preliminary service, even though that technical training may not have been received in the service.

The measure also provides for special training schools somewhat along the lines which have been carried on by the Navy for the training of the personnel of the Naval Hospital Corps.

The measure also provides for the establishment of a reserve corps in which men will be given commissions in accordance with their technical qualifications and standing, and in which it is hoped to enroll a number of specialists covering pharmacy and other technical fields of service who will be required in the administrative corps. Men of the highest attainment will be invited to join this reserve corps and in organizing the administrative corps; we are informed that it is intended to request men who have seen active service to apply for active duty for a few months, or for so long a time as they can spare, in order to be of aid to the Surgeon-General in the organization of this administrative corps.

Surgeon-General Ireland expressed himself as having been highly pleased with the work done by the pharmacists who occupied responsible positions during the war in the Division of Supply and Distribution, and it is to be hoped that some of the leaders among these men who made such a good record for pharmacy may be induced to apply for active duty and assist in the organization of the administrative corps.

The Darrow Bill has been referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs and it remains to be seen whether this measure will be reported favorably. The bill has been amended in several particulars and, as it now stands, provides for a continuation of the commissioned rank given to senior pharmacists in the Navy during the war for a term of two years. The proposal to establish a separate commissioned corps of pharmacists has met with objection in some quarters, and it seemed improbable that this step would be taken at this time, but the proposal to continue the present officers of their advanced rank seems not to meet with opposition, and we have every hope that it will be favorably reported.

In neither the Army nor the Navy have we prospects of obtaining exactly what we desire nor quite all that we would like to have for pharmacists in the service, but the concessions made put the pharmacists in a wholly new light and show that the services rendered by the educated pharmacists during the war have made an impression upon the Naval and Military authorities.

So many and such varied factors are involved in introducing a change of procedure in such matters that your Committee is of the opinion that we may esteem ourselves fortunate to

* In the absence of Chairman E. Fullerton Cook, presented by Caswell A. Mayo to General Session, A. Ph. A., City of Washington meeting, 1920, and accepted.

have won the degree of recognition which the authorities now accord and which is reflected in the form of the bills now before Congress.

Prophecy as to what will happen to a measure in the hands of a Congressional joint committee is idle and useless. What the outcome will be no man can know, for at the last minute some radical change may be made as a result of a compromise. In fact nearly all legislation is in the nature of a compromise. We can only say, that we hope that the measure will be enacted somewhat along the lines set forth above and that we have good grounds for this hope. Certainly there has been a marked change in the attitude of the Surgeon-General of the Army toward the pharmacists since the time when delegations of pharmacists from this Association were told that "the Army had no need for pharmacists."

Your Committee is convinced that everything has been done that can be done to accelerate the passage of the measure, and that it would be unwise to endeavor to bring any pressure to bear on Congress in this matter.

The pharmacists in the U. S. Public Health Service have not fared so well as those of the Army and Navy during the war, for they should, at least have had temporary advancement of rank. But the pharmacists of the U. S. Public Health Service are still in the same status that they occupied before the war, though they have been performing active and important duties.

CASWELL A. MAYO,
 GEORGE M. BERINGER,
 WM. B. DAY,
 F. G. EBERLE,
 E. FULLERTON COOK, Chairman,
Committee.



The late Prof. Henry Trimble, comfortably seated in an oak, New Orleans meeting of American Pharmaceutical Association, in 1891. The photograph was taken by Prof. A. B. Stevens, then Vice-President of the A. Ph. A. and presented to the Section on Historical Pharmacy by S. L. Hilton.

NOMINEES FOR OFFICERS OF AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION FOR 1921-1922.

Secretary William B. Day will soon mail out the ballots for the election of A. Ph. A. officers for 1921-1922. The nominees are:

For President, Henry Kraemer, Michigan; C. W. Johnson, Washington State, S. L. Hilton, District of Columbia.

For First Vice-President, Frank Schachleiter, Arkansas; Charles Caspari, Missouri; Wilber J. Teeters, Iowa.

For Second Vice-President, C. E. Anding, Mississippi; D. F. Jones, South Dakota; W. J. Cox, Tennessee.

For Third Vice-President, Hugo Schaefer, New York; W. H. Zeigler, South Carolina, R. W. Terry, Ohio.

For Members of the Council, Henry M. Whelpley, Missouri; George M. Beringer, New Jersey; J. G. Godding, Massachusetts; C. B. Jordan, Indiana; Edward Spease, Ohio; C. H. Packard, Massachusetts; Willis G. Gregory, New York; C. E. Mollett, Montana; Mathias No 1, Kansas. Three to be elected.