

effect, and the Committee will publish this date as far ahead as circumstances will permit."

These are the thirteen points which the Committee adopted in conference. We hope that thirteen will prove to be more lucky and effectual than would fourteen, but another will be added if it is needed.

W. L. SCOVILLE.

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### THE SPIRIT OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

**T**HE vital force behind any institution, or organization, such as the American Pharmaceutical Association, is the spirit of solidarity—a shoulder to shoulder standing together, backing up the institution in all lines of its endeavor. It is at least one of the important vital forces.

The main endeavor or purpose of the American Pharmaceutical Association, in the three score and ten years of its existence, has not required re-formulation or revision, being now, as always, broadly expressed, the advancement of pharmacy in all of its branches—scientific, educational and commercial. This aim has attracted and evoked the interest of the best talent of our profession, drawn to the organization eminent pharmacists, in great numbers, whose lofty aim has contributed much toward the progress to which pharmacy is now heir. These Nestors of pharmacy, whose names we hold sacred, served intelligently and effectively in shaping the policy and in uniting the hands of the toilers in the common purpose. To-day, in the year 1920, the policy and ideal of the membership, as a whole, is the same as that of 1852, namely, that of uplifting our chosen vocation. To this end we speak, act and serve together.

It is a matter of congratulation that in recent years the organization has grown rapidly. Council reports contain, at frequent intervals, a list of new names, showing a constant influx of new blood, which indicates a wholesome forward movement. The animation and enthusiasm of the vigorous red fluid is highly prized. It is important, however, that much of the new element shall be properly "converted," so to speak—converted into the ideal for which the Association has always stood. This is important not only for the good of the Association but also for the good of the initiated.

It is also gratifying that there is in the Association an ardent desire for what may be termed material progress resulting from, or brought about by, federation and coöperation with different branches of our vocation. The Association needs for this the innate zeal of the newer element. Once accomplished, the "solidarity and force" of the Association will certainly be more pronounced—on the material side, at least.

A word of caution, however, seems to be in place in this connection. A word of caution from the standpoint of a conservative—from one who is jealous about the so-called ethical side, or quality, of the Association, the most important quality—the "*spirit*" of the Association. A conservative will not lose sight of this. In the material progress which the Association is seeking we should conserve that element for which the Association has stood for almost three-quarters of a century. Ethical progress should keep pace with the material.

Just a final word, or suggestion, from the Conservative's standpoint: There seems to be a natural dislike, on the part of some initiates, to conservatism. No fault can be found with this temperament. But conservatism is often attacked in the wrong way—by attacking the conservative rather than the policy. Let us substitute a progressive policy for a conservative, if it is best so to do, but let it be done without attacking the individual who advocates the latter policy. Let the progressive pursue his campaign so as not to reflect upon the ability and the earnest devotion of the conservative. The latter policy has the complexion of personal attack, not intended, of course, but it is almost sure to lead to retrogression rather than progression.

Conservatism does not mean stagnation by any means. One of our famous statesmen has said: "More advancement is made along the line of conservative progress than by radical, half-baked ideas which sound well, but which only too often lead to disaster."

L. E. SAYRE.

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#### PERIODS IN THE GROWTH OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS.

National organizations reach a period in their growth when their leaders become deeply concerned over what steps should be taken to keep them efficient and of the maximum usefulness to all whom such organizations should serve.

When the membership of these organizations reaches into the thousands, scattered from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and from ocean to ocean, the problem of handling the business, enlisting the interest of many other thousands eligible for membership, and of greatly enlarging its general influence, becomes an acute one.

The writer believes that the American Pharmaceutical Association has now reached such a period in its growth. It is the one pharmaceutical clearing-house that America has.

Among those who have worked for a generation to make it efficient are several score of men of the very highest type—capable, straight, far-seeing, loyal; representative of the very best in American Pharmacy. They have given unstintingly of their time and labor to make the American Pharmaceutical Association the best organization possible. They have done a good work, and as a result we now have a nucleus capable of doing for American Pharmacy much the same kind of work that the American Medical Association has done for medicine.

In order to take advantage of this pressing opportunity—for it seems to me nothing less—those entrusted with the management of its affairs should begin promptly to plan for much bigger things. Possibilities of the American Pharmaceutical Association are far too big for its future development to be vested entirely in men whose chief work is something else than the business of the Association. I suppose no organization of any kind has more efficient officers; but, with one exception, all of them are men who have large professional or business obligations and simply cannot give the matters of the Association the time, thought, or constructive effort that is needed.

If this be a true statement of the facts, what are the next steps in the Association plans? How shall the magnificent work that has already been done be capitalized to the maximum for the future of American Pharmacy? The writer would like to see a full discussion of this matter through the Pharmaceutical