

## ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE WOMEN'S SECTION.

*Madam Vice President, Women of the American Pharmaceutical Association,  
Honored Guests, Nashville Friends:*

In the joy of fellowship of this gathering I esteem it a great pleasure and my delightful duty to bring you greetings. It is my distinguished privilege to bring you greetings from the cloud-capped mountains, sunny hillsides, busy marts of New England, from where old ocean laves our shores, from the "Athens of the East" to the "Athens of the South," to the land of the "magnolia and mocking bird." We bring you greetings from all over the United States.

The position to which I am called was unsought. I came to it with fear and trembling, yet sensible of the high honor conferred and am deeply grateful.



MRS. JOHN G. GODDING, Boston,  
President Women's Section.

In the march of events is heard the marshalling of new forces that are to lead all causes, nations and peoples to ultimate victory. Is not that as true in our pharmaceutical world? In advancing the interests of this profession the men of the American Pharmaceutical Association recognize the place women are attaining, their wonderful growth in whatever direction they turn their forces and accord them their rightful position.

The American Pharmaceutical Association is classified, as you know, by sections, and it is not strange that to its list should be added a Women's Section, which "was a piece of the constructive work" of the sixtieth annual meeting held at Denver, Col., 1912. Just now the upward and onward movement of womankind has taken a more coherent form than ever before.

In the preparation for our first annual meeting of the Women's Section we fully realized that only a small part of the preliminary work could be done before the Nashville meeting, yet we most earnestly desired that this first meeting should emphasize the reason of our being and justify in some measure the expectations

of the American Pharmaceutical Association, which so generously voted us a part of their organization. In this work I have been ably sustained by our Secretary, Miss Bagley, who despite many onerous duties has given generously of her time and strength.

I have tried to come before you with careful consideration of the needs and future policy of this Section. I quote from one high in authority regarding this Section. "In providing for this Section it was the desire of the Council to leave the working out of the plan to the women themselves. It was believed that the creation of a section of this kind would give more formal recognition to the ladies who so regularly attend the convention and are so loyal to the American Pharmaceutical Association principles. It is also the opinion that a section of this kind can accomplish more for the women than the independent organizations which have been attempted from time to time, because the Section will have behind it all the influence of the American Pharmaceutical Association and the prestige of its sixty years of history. It is also thought that such a section would afford an opportunity for emphasizing the fact that women have a definite place in pharmacy and are as much to be heard in pharmaceutical affairs as are the men, which has always been the attitude of the American Pharmaceutical Association."

*"Object of the Women's Section.* The object of this Section shall be to emphasize the right and capability of women to engage in pharmaceutical pursuits as a means of livelihood; to unite the women employed in pharmaceutical pursuits for mutual encouragement and assistance; to labor for the improvement of legislation regulating the registration as pharmacists of women employed in the practice of pharmacy in hospitals and other public institutions; to unite the women members of the American Pharmaceutical Association and the women of the families of the American Pharmaceutical Association in a section for social purposes; and to cooperate in the promotion of the general progress of pharmacy and of the American Pharmaceutical Association."

For many long years we have enjoyed attendance on the annual meetings of the American Pharmaceutical Association. What delightful memories we cherish; what enduring friendships we have made! We have basked in the sunshine of pleasure while the strong and earnest men have gathered in the sessions working for the purposes to which they have dedicated their lives. Now comes the call of duty and in response we lay at the feet of the American Pharmaceutical Association our cheerful fealty, our absolute loyalty.

*The Place of Women in Pharmacy.* That women are already attaining a strong position in pharmacy is evidenced by some interesting statistics gathered in reference to this subject. She may not have quite "arrived," as the French say, but she has made a good start along the way. Her position is assured by the fact that a fair number have entered the profession and are successful. The first woman graduate in the United States was in 1862 from the New York College of Pharmacy a half century ago. There are now approximately, 754 graduates in the United States, including a few in Canada, and 582 registered women. Many of the latter have college training. The second graduate was in 1877 from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, where women are admitted on the same conditions as men to the various courses of the school. There is an

increasing number of such students and pharmacy offers inducements to well educated, energetic women. The field for women in pharmacy is unlimited. In addition to the retail business there are many hospital positions and women are preferred in those institutions. They have specialized in bacteriology, in organic and analytical chemistry. There has been at least one microscopist identified with government work. Several have taken the degree of Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy, and find opportunities in state dairy and food departments.

*The Duty of Women Pharmacists to Become Members of the American Pharmaceutical Association.* To the women pharmacists I make my plea that they become members of this time-honored Association now closing its sixty-first year. Its ideals are of the highest and best; its goal, the placing of pharmacy in its true and rightful position. Never swerving, quietly, unobtrusively, steadily, this Association has labored unceasingly for the good of pharmacy and the pharmacist. There has been service in the highest and best sense, disregarding all that pertained to the charlatan and fakir, and thus enduring foundations were laid.

Quoting from a letter received from a lady who has long been a regular member of the American Pharmaceutical Association:

"Women pharmacists should by all means, be active members of the American Pharmaceutical Association and the state associations. I believe one of the reasons why women have not made as much progress as they ought to have made since the first woman entered the profession is that they have taken very little interest in pharmaceutical affairs outside of their own little circles and very few of them have become a part of the organized body of pharmacists. They are entitled to all the privileges accorded to men and I believe would be welcomed by the Associations, and I am sure they would have received much more recognition than they have had they been alive to their opportunities in this respect.

"I have regularly attended both my state and National Associations since 1907, and in all those years the women pharmacists who have attended the sessions of either of these bodies could be counted on less than the fingers of one hand. Only a very few ever attended the American Pharmaceutical Association meetings, and I have been alone in my attendance at my state meetings, with one or two exceptions at different times.

"I think every sensible woman who has taken up the profession of pharmacy will agree with me in saying that women do not want to be favored, or have allowances made them just because they are women. They should stand on their own merits as pharmacists, as men do, and if they fail to make good it will be better for pharmacy in general if they are eliminated. If the same percentage of the whole number of women pharmacists as that of the number of men would attend and take an active part in the deliberations of the American Pharmaceutical Association, they would exert a very perceptible influence in pharmaceutical affairs."

*The Mission of the Women's Section.* Opportunity, the golden word that bounds the whole of life, the opportunity of service to the vital interests and problems of the world's work, should make us consider and realize the great part we as women are taking in the progress of the day. So much of "Women's Work" has been taken out of the home; the factories have supplanted the spinning wheel of our grandmothers; our garments and food supplies are manufactured outside the home. All these with the higher and broader education for women are causing men to see this changing position and gallantly call her to take her place beside them in the world's work.

Cooperation is making woman broader in her sympathies as well as her understanding. A million federated women in the United States are making the world know of their activities in every field. Is not the time ripe for the work of a Woman's Section, giving the American Pharmaceutical Association the opportunity to avow openly its long standing position toward women in pharmacy, and demonstrate that there are many avenues awaiting women in pharmacy? "To break down useless barriers and bring us to the golden age when men and women shall walk equally together."

To give inspiration and encouragement to women capable of entering this profession; to do all in our power to change the attitude of the public towards women desiring the vocation of pharmacy; to prove there is no calling better fitted for women, this is the mission of the Women's Section.

The best way to meet prejudice is not by argument or entreaty or reproach, but after the manner recited in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's poem on Prejudice:

"I took my hat, I took my coat,  
I set my burden fair  
And I walked directly through it  
As if it wasn't there."

The Section may become a mighty factor in the betterment of pharmacy: an army of builders alert, ready, systematic and scientific, with this as our motto: "From each as she has power to give, to each as she has need."

In interesting young women to become pharmacists, a broad field lies before us. Many women are in every way adapted for pharmacy. In our experience it is only a girl of superior intellect, very much in earnest who will attempt this line; she is of the highest type.

Among the activities in which both professional and non-professional women can work together effectually, is the subject of shorter hours, which is claiming the attention of pharmacists throughout the country. This should be regulated by the pharmacist taking the initiative. Let us women be in the vanguard of progressive thought and ideas.

Matthew Arnold has said: "If the time ever comes when women shall come together simply and purely for the benefit of mankind, it will be a power such as the world has never dreamed."

As the prophets of old logically reasoned: If each builds before his own door, lo, a great wall of protection shall surround the city, so while our part may seem insignificant, it may be a link in a strong and saving chain. "Nothing in the world will come to us because we wish it; all success is a matter of evolution, worked out, not in an hour or a day, but in months and years characterized by toil and ruled by patience."

"I dreamed that stone by stone I reared a sacred fane, a temple, neither pagoda, mosque or church, but loftier, simpler; always open doored to every breath from heaven, and Truth, and Peace, and Love, and Justice came and dwelt therein."

Letting go the unworthy things that meet us, let us live in all true womanliness as to be an inspiration to those whose lives are touched by ours.

Because we realize that all the interests of pharmacy are ours, that *Service* is our watchword, let us all pull together enthusiastically in our efforts for the uplift of pharmacy. I call on you to do your best in this splendid work, to strive for the vision of the scholar, to look at the past with selective discrimination and towards the future with constructive imagination.

Profiting by and rejoicing in the part of women's organizations, let us cross the threshold of the future with confidence and self-control, firm in the hope that moved by the spirit of a broad altruism and unfailing loyalty, the usefulness of our Section has just begun.



MRS. JOHN C. WALLACE, New Castle, Pa.,  
First Vice-President Women's Section.



MRS. M. M. GRAY, Chicago, Ill.,  
Second Vice-President Women's Section.

"The atmosphere of the Republic is the air of the mountain top and the sunlight and the open fields; her emblem is the eagle and not the bat."

In conclusion I submit the following recommendations for your consideration:

1. That an Outlook Committee be appointed whose duty it shall be to investigate and report on new work for women pharmacists.
2. That one of the duties of the Membership Committee shall be to solicit members for the American Pharmaceutical Association.
3. That one of the duties of the Program Committee shall be to earnestly solicit papers for the annual meeting.
4. That the non-professional women take an active part in the writing of these papers.
5. That a page in the A. Ph. A. JOURNAL be regularly set aside for the Women's Section.

6. That a committee be appointed to act in conjunction with the President in compiling her annual report.

7. That all women pharmacists be recommended to join the American Pharmaceutical Association and attend its annual conventions.

8. That Standing Committees hold office until their successors are elected.

9. That the women's associations in different localities hold one joint meeting annually with the A. Ph. A. Local Branch.

10. That we take an active interest in the project for a permanent building for the American Pharmaceutical Association.

11. That when such a building is realized that the Women's Section have a Bureau of Information in the same.

12. That there be created an endowment for the Women's Section.

13. That we work to interest young women to take up the study of pharmacy and endeavor to find opportunities for young women studying pharmacy to procure practical experience.

14. That a Press Committee be appointed to report the activities of the Section to the Pharmaceutical Press.

ADELAIDE M. GODDING, President.

A paper contributed by Miss Mary L. Creighton, Scio, Ohio, was read by Mrs. C. D. Sullivan, of Nashville, as the author was unable to attend the convention.

#### WOMEN'S WORK IN THE A. PH. A.

---

MARY L. CREIGHTON, PH. C., SCIO, OHIO.

---

The different periods which mark the world's progress have been given various names in history. The present, pharmaceutically speaking, seems to be the age of organization and of opportunities for women.

The Sixtieth Annual Convention of the A. Ph. A. is memorable in the pharmaceutical calendar because of the placing of the Women's Section on the Official Roster, where it is to be thoroughly representative of women in pharmacy, whether the individual connection therewith be active or otherwise. Its officers have heard the challenge,—

“Are you in earnest? Seize this very minute:  
What you can do, or think you can, begin it;  
Boldness has genius, power and magic in it,”

and have gone enthusiastically to work to prove the right of this new Section to its place of honor as the “keystone” of the arch which has been substantially builded in the past, and which needed this final touch to give it strength and artistic completeness.

Since the active promoters of the Association's interests have disarmed prejudice, and paved the way for the more rapid progress which this federation promises for the future of pharmacy in America, it is due them that we show our appreciation of this recognition; and it will doubtless be very gratifying to the large