

EDITORIAL

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THE SERVICE OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE foundation for successful organization is service. In proportion to the service it renders to its members—service which they desire and appreciate—will any organization prosper. Efforts to enlarge the membership of an organization, no matter how well planned and vigorously carried on, must fail unless the service given by the organization appeals to its members as being worth while.

The American Pharmaceutical Association in common with other organizations has been criticized at various times as falling short of its possibilities in the service it afforded to its members and to pharmacy. Such criticisms when constructive are helpful, nor has the Association failed to accept and profit by them. A glance over its history bears out this statement. Organized seventy years ago primarily for the purpose of securing the adoption of uniform standards for imported drugs, its scope was quickly extended to include other objects in which pharmacists were interested, particularly along educational and scientific lines. In 1873 was published its first REPORT on the Progress of Pharmacy, a service that has been continued yearly ever since, and which has resulted in the preparation of a series of the most complete pharmaceutical abstracts published in the English language.

In 1887 the Association had developed to such an extent that it was decided to divide its program into a number of sections, and thus sprang into being the Sections on Commercial Interests, Scientific Papers, Pharmaceutical Education and Pharmaceutical Legislation (the last two being united later as the Section on Education and Legislation). In 1900 the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing was created; in 1904 the Section on Historical Pharmacy was added, and in 1912 the Women's Section made its appearance.

Meanwhile, the business of the Association, which at first was handled by the general sessions, had later, in 1880, been placed in the hands of a Council, consisting of the general officers, the section chairmen, and nine elected members, to which was later added a representative of each of the local branches. In 1919 an Executive Committee of the Council was created.

The Local Branches inaugurated in 1905, and added to from time to time, have afforded a means of organization for the members into local groups and have proved a considerable source of strength.

The activities of the Association found expression in the publication of its PROCEEDINGS, beginning with 1852, and succeeded by the YEAR BOOK in 1912, and its BULLETIN beginning with 1906 and developed into its monthly JOURNAL (1912). Every member is now kept in touch with its activities through the JOURNAL and the YEAR BOOK, which together include about 2,000 pages devoted to pharmaceutical progress.

One of the greatest of the Association's accomplishments for pharmacy was the publication of the National Formulary (first edition 1888, revisions in 1896, 1906 and 1916) and its adoption by Congress as a legal standard. Nearly thirty-five thousand copies of the fourth edition of the National Formulary have been sold. The fifth edition is now in the making, and the Association is devoting much time and energy to its preparation, as witnessed by the recent meeting of the National

Formulary Committee in Atlantic City. The early appearance of this edition of the book is eagerly looked forward to by pharmacists throughout the land. The projected publication of a formulary of non-official preparations, upon which much work has already been done, bids fair to be of great practical value to pharmacists.

During the course of its long existence the Association has constantly afforded a forum for all pharmaceutical interests. Its membership includes retail pharmacists, hospital pharmacists, manufacturers, wholesale druggists, analytical chemists, pharmaceutical editors, college professors—in short, persons interested in pharmacy from any standpoint. With an organization so heterogeneous, the association must acknowledge certain limitations. Each group will have special interests which, from their very nature, demand attention beyond that which the Association can well provide. Thus, from the parent stock have originated, from time to time, offshoots devoted to the interests of these special groups. Some of these branches have remained in affiliation, while others have broken away completely but maintain friendly relations with the mother organization. Efforts by the Association to unite more closely these special interests have achieved the formation of the National Drug Trade Conference in which are represented the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, the American Association of Pharmaceutical Chemists, the American Drug Manufacturers' Association, the National Wholesale Druggists' Association, the National Association of Retail Druggists, the Proprietary Association of America, the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. The National Drug Trade Conference, though still in its infancy, has abundantly justified its existence and has accomplished much for pharmacy. Likewise the House of Delegates is the result of efforts to affiliate in some measure the State pharmaceutical associations, practically all of which owe their original formation to the stimulus given by the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

A closer union of the various pharmaceutical bodies has been earnestly advocated, but apparently is not feasible. But among the good results of these endeavors for greater unity is the recent formation of the Coöperative Publicity Committee in which the larger organizations have representatives, and which holds promise of great usefulness.

The Commission on Proprietary Medicines, though its work has not been widely exploited, has really accomplished more toward bringing some sense of order and decency into the patent medicine business than anything that has been done heretofore. The Proprietary Association has adopted the principles laid down by the Commission almost *in toto* and is requiring its members either to conform to these principles or to withdraw from membership. The same principles have been adopted by the Associated Advertising Clubs of America as the rules by which patent medicine advertising is to be judged, and are being very generally followed by the publications which acknowledge the authority of that association. A comparison of the advertising pages of an average publication of the present day with the pages of the same publication of some years ago will show that there has been a wholesome and marked improvement.

Space permits only a brief mention of the other activities of the Association. A few of these efforts are: to secure uniformity in international pharmaceutical nomenclature; to improve the status of pharmacists in the government service; to prepare a model pharmacy law; to assist in obtaining prerequisite legislation; to look after the pharmaceutical interests of the world war veterans; to erect a suitable memorial to Wm. Procter, Jr., the Father of American Pharmacy; to bring about closer affiliation between pharmacists and physicians; to secure the adoption of the metric system of weights and measures; to reform patent and trade mark legislation; and to assist in the preparation of the United States Pharmacopoeia.

Outstanding facts concerning the American Pharmaceutical Association are: that it is the only organization which provides a place where all pharmaceutical interests may meet on equal terms and in which all who are interested in pharmacy from any standpoint may hold membership; it is the only national organization devoted to the professional and scientific phases of pharmacy; its publications are unrivalled in this field.

What shall be the next forward step? Along what lines shall the Association's progress lie? Shall its scope be enlarged to give greater attention to legislative and business affairs? Must the appeal be made to the pharmacist's financial rather than to his professional welfare? Shall the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION undertake to duplicate the work which other associations are doing? Shall the Association endeavor to affiliate other pharmaceutical bodies into an organization similar to the American Association for the Advancement of Science? These are questions which are in the minds of every thoughtful and loyal member of the Association. Upon their answers as expressed at the annual conventions and through the Council will depend the future of the Association.

WM. B. DAY.

THE NEW ORLEANS MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION—A VACATION OPPORTUNITY.

FEW will deny the value of annual association meetings, not only because of the opportunities afforded for exchanging experiences and comparing systems of business and professional conduct, but also for the contact with others, learning their viewpoints, and seeing the various sections of our country. The better acquaintance of many members with the industries and development of the United States, its resources and beauties, was gained in attending the annual conventions of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

None will deny the gain of general information by these travels, and that the store of knowledge is added to during the conventions. A full appreciation of the lasting friendships made at these meetings does not unfold until after several years of attendance. There must be business management and purpose in associations, but also the esprit de corps. The latter will not generate where there is lack of fellowship, when sincerity of purpose is questioned without just cause and selfish motives actuate individuals. Coöperation is an essential of association success.

Those who entered the drug business before the store of the present period had developed will remember the vacationless years and long hours that engaged the

apprentice and his preceptor. They were on the job from early morn until nearly midnight; a night or two off, and every other Sunday, and all or part of the holidays—Christmas, New Year's Day, the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving; the stores of the smaller towns and cities observed a few other days and events; still the word vacation is as old as the Latin language, and Cicero and Horace used it to express leisure or freedom from labor; Pompeii was their "Atlantic City," and some other place their "New Orleans." In earlier days in England the term "Vacation" was applied to the interval of court sessions, then to the months intervening between school or college terms, and then to the period of rest and recreation, during which time progressive professional and business men also attended conventions. A close relation obtains in the latter application—the strongest argument for vacations is that it pays to take them, and the demonstration of the economic value of the conservation of human energy has been the propaganda which promoted the convention idea, established the vacation custom, and the shorter hours of labor, all of which necessarily have their limitations, as well as benefits. Conventions of men engaged in the same line of work are necessary for its development—the business of recreation is combined with that of discussing and promoting trade and professional interests.

The twelve to sixteen hour drug store day has given way to one of fewer hours for employers and employees, and a sign, "Closed all day Sunday," hangs on the front door of many of the larger stores; one stating that these stores are represented at State and National Associations is equally advisable and commendatory; observation of the dictum serves the public interest.

Some persist in ignoring all associations, except to profit at the expense of others; some continue to work from early morning until late at night, and taboo vacations; later, their jangled nerves can't be retuned, and when they collapse there is no rebuilding them. The New Orleans meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association is a vacation opportunity for you.

E. G. E.

COÖPERATION IN AMERICAN PHARMACY THROUGH THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

BY JEANNOT HOSTMANN.*

In the May number of the JOURNAL (p. 327) Chairman Kelly of the House of Delegates has ably answered the oft-asked question "Why a House of Delegates?"

The present writer, in presenting some thoughts which he believes will help in making the House a real factor in American pharmacy, does so with the earnest request that every one interested in *organized pharmacy* and in all that the term implies will criticize the plan, either in person or in writing, before or at the New Orleans meeting where it will be discussed by the House.

The House of Delegates of the American Pharmaceutical Association was created by vote of the Association at the Denver meeting in 1912. The first meeting was held in Nashville in 1913. Originally its membership consisted of two del-

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