

EDITORIAL

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IN SERVICE.

THE deaths, within a few weeks, of the secretaries of the pharmaceutical associations of two adjoining states is an unusual and disturbing occurrence. The deaths of Secretary Churchill of the Vermont Association and Secretary Guerin of the Massachusetts Association are of national as well as local importance and regret to Pharmacy, since they mark the passing of two able officials who have served their associations not only efficiently but also for such a length of time as to be connecting links between the past and the present.

These two gentlemen were pharmacists with high ideals and practical viewpoints, who put into every-day application the principles for which they stood, who commanded the respect and support to a remarkable extent of their fellow-pharmacists, and who combine to an unusual degree, the optimism and progressiveness of youth with the sound conservatism of age and experience. They were able to and did exert a great influence upon the development of pharmacy of their respective states and indirectly of the country at large.

Some day a pharmaceutical historian will record the unselfish and effective services which the state pharmaceutical association secretaries have rendered to their profession, to their fellow-pharmacists and to the public. It is not a position of glory but rather of exacting requirement and hard work. The very length of service of the devoted men who have, in the great majority of cases, been *called* to these positions since the state associations have been in existence, bears ample witness to the fact that they have rendered acceptable service and won the approval and affection of those for whom they have worked.

Secretary Churchill and Secretary Guerin have won a place among the most distinguished of the state association secretaries by the quality as well as length of their service and they will be sorely missed.

THE ARCHITECT OF THE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING.

THE selection of Mr. John Russell Pope, of New York City, to design and supervise the construction of the Headquarters Building, as announced elsewhere in this issue, is an assurance that the progress so far made in the enterprise justifies the taking of this important step and that a building will be erected which will be a credit to the profession of pharmacy and to the really wonderful location in which it is to be situated.

Mr. Pope is one of the outstanding architects of this country and his work bears witness to the fact that he has the rare gift of combining beauty of design with usefulness. The Headquarters Building should be both monumental and serviceable.

The Commission of Fine Arts report that more than a million persons visit the Lincoln Memorial annually and no estimate can be made of the number that are not recorded. The Arlington Memorial Bridge over the Potomac will be the gateway to and from the South and Southwest. The location of the Headquarters

Building will of necessity bring it to the attention of this constantly increasing number of visitors from every section of the country and many of them from foreign lands. How important it is, then, that the Building should impress them with the importance of Pharmacy and of the value of the service which it renders in connection with the public health.

At the same time, the institution must render the service which can be rightfully expected from it by the thousands of pharmacists of the country and especially by those who contributed to it and thereby made it possible. It must become to the greatest possible extent, a "service station," as it has been expressed; for the Headquarters Building will provide, for the first time in the history of American Pharmacy, the opportunity and equipment for real coöperative efforts in education, in legislation, in research, in commerce and in publicity.

The correspondence with Mr. Pope and the preliminary designs which he has prepared demonstrate that he fully appreciates both of these needs and that they can be worked out satisfactorily.

American Pharmacy is just now facing some adjustments which are challenging to its future progress. It is indeed encouraging that such satisfactory progress can be reported in the Headquarters Building project, that such a valuable site is ours, that we have the sympathetic and helpful interest of the Commission of Fine Arts and the Parks and Planning Commission, and that we are to have the assistance and guidance of such an architect as Mr. Pope in translating our dreams into a reality.

COÖPERATIVE SERVICE.

RECENTLY, a speaker stated, in substance, that "team work" instills a spirit of emulation, eliminates sloth and imposes an accountability which is essential to every type of human endeavor; provided, that applicability and practicability receive due consideration. We quote a petition from Dr. Frank Crane "The Prayer of the Physician," which may easily be paraphrased for the pharmacist: "Give me a due and decent self-esteem, that I may regard no man's occupation higher than mine, envying not the king upon his throne so long as I am prime minister to the suffering."

Not very long ago *Ilygeia* carried the following message to the public, which embodies the spirit of "team work." It is told in words the layman can understand and instills in him confidence in the physician and pharmacist.

"I UNDERSTAND HOW SERIOUS IT IS."

"There is serious sickness at home, and you hurry with the prescription the Doctor has given you to your local prescription pharmacy. The Pharmacist immediately senses the seriousness of the case from the medicine the Doctor has ordered. Every minute that treatment is delayed counts against the patient.

"A fraction of a grain of some powerful medicament enters into the prescription—perhaps a rare drug or a new remedy. Yes, the Pharmacist assures himself, he has every ingredient—he must be prepared for emergencies. Coolly, deftly, accurately, he compounds the prescription, and carefully checks his work.

"As you hurry from the pharmacy with the medicine, does it occur to you that your prescription pharmacy is entitled to a generous measure of support from the people of the neighborhood? There isn't enough prescription business in most communities to support an exclusively prescription drug store. Therefore the druggist must sell many sundries—he must be a mer-

chant, too. Only by doing this can he make a living, and maintain his pharmacy, in equipment and efficiency, so that it may best serve the needs of the community and its physicians when serious sickness comes."

APPLICABLE KNOWLEDGE.

Underlying professional attainments there must be adequate education. The pharmacist needs not only experience but a knowledge which enables him to understand what he sees and does. At the formal opening of Johns Hopkins (1876) Thomas H. Huxley delivered an address on "University Education." We are taking the liberty of quoting the following which applies to medical and pharmaceutical education:

"... Again, *Materia Medica*, so far as it is a knowledge of drugs, is the business of the druggist. In all other callings the necessity of the division of labor is fully recognized, and it is absurd to require of the medical man that he should avail himself of the special knowledge of those whose business it is to deal in the drugs which he uses. . . ."

"All knowledge is good. It is impossible to say that any fragment of knowledge, however insignificant or remote from one's ordinary pursuits, may not some day be turned to account. But in medical education, above all things, it is to be recollected that, in order to know a little well, one must be content to be ignorant of a great deal."

ESSENTIALS OF A REGISTERED HOSPITAL.

THE issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* for March 30th is largely devoted to hospital service and is, therefore, of interest to pharmacists. The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION is affiliated with the American Conference on Hospital Service. The following is quoted from the *Jour. A. M. A.*:

"In its work with hospitals it is the desire of the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals to coöperate in every way possible for the improvement of hospital service, whereby sick or injured people may be provided with the best possible care. The Council does not claim to have, nor does it assume any legal authority over any hospital, but recognizes clearly that the officers in charge of such institutions have the unquestioned right to conduct the hospitals in any way they deem wise. If a hospital desires to have the Council's endorsement, however, and that is what the Council's approval actually means, it should not be unwilling to comply with the principles which the Council deems necessary for such endorsement. The following essentials, or principles have been prepared by the Council with the sole intention and desire of dealing with equal fairness to all institutions. A hospital seeking admission to the Register, therefore, should have the following qualifications:

"1. A staff made up of one or more properly qualified physicians who shall be graduates of reputable medical schools; and all physicians treating patients in the hospital must be so qualified.

"2. An able management which, depending on the size of the hospital may be in the hands of a competent physician, an able superintendent, or a board of trustees.

"3. A competent physician-pathologist, either on the staff or easily accessible, who

should examine and keep a careful record of tissues removed at all operations conducted in the hospital.

"4. Careful histories and records of all patients admitted to the hospital with which should be filed reports of any laboratory analyses, roentgen-ray findings or pathologic reports of any tissues examined.

"5. One or more competent nurses depending on the average number of its patients.

"6. Regular staff conferences, at least monthly and preferably weekly, in all hospitals having staffs of three or more physicians. At these staff conferences complicated cases in the hospital should be considered, as well as all deaths occurring in the hospital during the period intervening between meetings. If necropsies have been held on any of these patients, these especially should be given discussion in which antemortem and postmortem signs, symptoms and observations should be compared.

"7. Hospitals are institutions which should not be conducted for profit but for the purpose of securing better medical service for the community and they should always be conducted in accordance with the code of ethics of the American Medical Association."

It would seem that the pharmacist should have recognition in the qualifications mentioned above, in fact, the staff of every hospital should include a pharmacist, qualified by education and training.

A BROADER FIELD OF ACTIVITY IN THE AIMS AND PURPOSES OF A. PH. A. BRANCHES.

THE Northern Ohio Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION was reorganized in the fall of 1928 on an entirely new plan with the hope that it would become more successful than it has been in the past.

It had been reorganized a number of times and conducted upon the same plan as the other branches; it functioned for a time and then demised.

This time it was decided to try out a new plan that might add more interest and bring together those men in pharmacy particularly interested in its professional side. To that end a Constitution and By-Laws were adapted from those of the The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland. Under this Constitution a Council of sixteen members was chosen who meet monthly in the evening at 6 P.M. dinner. This meeting must and always has adjourned not later than 7:30 P.M. No less than thirteen members have been present at each Council meeting. All the business of the organization is conducted by the Council, and the membership at large elects the Council. Membership is selective; prospective members may apply. Their applications are referred to a membership committee who investigate the applicants and their stores and make recommendations to the Council. The Council elects or rejects the applicants; no one is urged to become a member, but anyone who meets the requirements of the A. PH. A. is eligible to apply for membership.

The Branch has met as a Council each month during the winter and has held one General Branch meeting open to all the druggists, physicians and research workers of the city, when the attendance was seventy-six. It is proposed to hold one more such meeting this month and, later, one for druggists only. The Council will have a dozen or more applications for membership to be acted upon at its next meeting.

The real purpose of the organization is to advance pharmacy and a definite plan is in mind to do so. This plan is one of quiet work, which is properly mapped out, to interest physicians in real pharmaceutical service and to prove to them

that it is really obtainable. The organization is doing nothing sporadic or spectacular but thus far its work has shown actual results. It is the desire of the Branch to publish just how it does it and what it accomplishes, as soon as it has more records of accomplishment behind it.

The Branch operates on the theory that no one wants to join anything he is urged to join, but all want to be in and help to success an organization that is succeeding and does not solicit membership. The Constitution and By-Laws are published in the Department for Local Branches of this issue of the JOURNAL and the Branch invites criticism and suggestions.

It is not beyond reason to predict that some day there may come such an increase in A. Ph. A. membership that only names submitted by the Branch will be taken into the A. Ph. A. from this district. What could build a better AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION? With a number of such branches in existence it would then be possible to provide for visits from the General Secretary and other officers that would be an aid and an inspiration to professional pharmacy.—
EDWARD SPEASE.

NOTE FROM THE A. PH. A. COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION.

T. J. BRADLEY, CHAIRMAN.

Since the list of reduced rates to the 1929 meeting of the ASSOCIATION at Rapid City, South Dakota, was published in the January number of the JOURNAL, the western railroads have announced summer excursion rates from California and other western states, at a substantial reduction from regular fares. We have been unable to secure the exact rates as yet, but members can find out what they are by inquiring at their railroad ticket offices.



Switchback on the Needles Road—Hairpin Turn, with cathedral spires in the background.