

WOMEN'S SECTION, AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

WOMAN IN HOSPITAL PHARMACY.*

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Some one has said that this is the woman's century. That is true; and as we are just in the hallway of the twentieth century, so are we now only on the outer edge of one of the greatest movements the world has ever seen,—the coming of woman into her own.

No one can deny that wherever women have entered they have not only in the majority of cases made a personal success, but have elevated the realm which their presence has graced, and have frequently been leaders whose guidance man is compelled to follow.

The name of woman has been written on the scroll of fame, side by side with her male prototype, in painting, sculpture, music, architecture, astronomy, chemistry, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, and every other calling.

The fact that they have succeeded, at least equally with the men, is indisputable. But let us not honor merely those who have obtained eminence, but also the plodders in the ranks, the great body of the ranks and files in these various callings.

The question which concerns us in this paper is woman's place in the profession of pharmacy, more intimately in institutional pharmacy. In every country and civilization, no matter how ancient, we find historical facts of medical schools, hospitals and pharmacies, many of them showing wonderful developments, most of them having employed women as physicians and pharmacists. We may mention the fully developed college of physicians in Egypt in the eleventh century B.C., which permitted women to practise there. Medical women were found even in the comparatively unknown kingdom of Siam. Here still exists the oldest hospital for women of which we have any knowledge. It is in Bangkok, the capital of Siam. Bancroft, in his "Native Races of the Pacific States of North America," affirms that in all the larger Mexican cities, hospitals were established by the government; endowed with ample revenue; attended by experienced physicians and nurses; that the Mexicans had studied and practised medicine from ancient times; that they possessed botanic gardens and suitable places and arrangements for dissection, and that women physicians were common among them.

The oldest hospital in the new world is the "Hospital Jesus Nazerina" in the city of Mexico. It was founded by Cortez in 1524 and is still conducted as a hospital, largely with an endowment left by the great conqueror in his will.

The oldest hospital in the world that is still conducted as a hospital is the famous "Hotel Dieu," said to have been built by Laudry, Bishop of Paris, about 660 A.D. Schelenz, in his "History of Pharmacy," in reference to Hotel Dieu, says: "Sisters occupied positions in the drug-room and sold remedies specially prepared in their hospital pharmacy, which was as well equipped as any pharmacy in Paris."

It is strange that the eminent position of women in medicine declined slowly

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after the twelfth century, and practically disappeared after the sixteenth century, to be almost forgotten until the nineteenth century. The new opportunity for women did not arise until the middle of the nineteenth century.

“It is the woman’s century. The cry goes forth,
With standard raised in bright, majestic pride
To womanhood, whose pure intrinsic worth
Is now revealed unto a waiting world.”

We deem it proper at this moment to pay tribute to the first registered woman pharmacist engaged in hospital pharmacy in our land, namely Dr. Susan Hayhurst. Dr. Hayhurst came of an old Quaker family and was born in 1820 in Attleboro, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. After graduation from the local Friends’ School, she went to Philadelphia, where for a time she taught school, later entering the Women’s Medical College, by which she was graduated in 1857. While attending physician at the Women’s Hospital, she became interested in pharmacy and decided to enter the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, graduating in 1883; she was the first woman to receive a degree from that institution. She served as pharmacist at the Women’s Hospital for thirty-three years. Being a born teacher, she utilized her knowledge and wide experience by employing young women as assistants who were unable to secure positions to gain practical experience in pharmacy. It is said that she gave instructions and aid to sixty-five young women. This shows that Dr. Hayhurst had the right spirit of coöperation with her sister workers of her profession. During the Civil War she was chairman of the Committee of Supplies of the Pennsylvania Relief Association. She was an enthusiastic floriculturist, a leading figure in the work for women’s welfare, and a member of the Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association. She died August 7, 1909—famous for her good works and loved and honored by all those who knew her. A fine oil portrait of her adorns the walls of the Museum of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, placed there through the efforts of the present pharmacist of the Women’s Hospital in Philadelphia.

There are about 7000 hospitals and similar institutions in the United States,—to our knowledge only a small percent of them employ pharmacists. How great the field for professional workers of our ranks!

Every open hospital of fifty beds will have sufficient prescription work to employ a progressive pharmacist, one who has the profession at heart and whose sympathy for mankind will further her interest in the advancement of her institution. The modern hospital offers the pharmacist every opportunity in “true” pharmacy, every convenience regarding facilities and necessary supplies for manufacturing and testing of pharmaceutical and clinical preparations will be granted. The hospital connected with a medical school offers great opportunities for those who are interested in scientific and research work.

We dare say, unless conditions are soon remedied in general pharmacy, hospital pharmacy will rank first in upholding the ethical side of our profession. The hospital, conducting a training school for nurses, in most cases offers the pharmacist the privilege of demonstrating her knowledge in materia medica, chemistry, etc., by instructing a class of nurses in said branches, and thus be the means of inspiring others for our noble profession.

As the work in the hospital may generally be arranged very systematically, the pharmacist may find ample time for study and reading the pharmaceutical literature, and every up-to-date hospital will be provided with a most interesting library which will be at her disposal. For recreation she may, if hospital grounds permit,

cultivate medicinal plants, such as are indigenous or may be naturalized in our country. This will benefit the teacher and pupil nurses of the *Materia Medica* class. To a great extent she may observe the Sabbath as a day of rest and will not be denied the privilege of following her religious inclinations. She may be a member of some organization of her chosen profession.

We are happy to know Providence put it into the hearts and minds of the organizers of the Women's Section of the American Pharmaceutical Association to grant us the privilege of becoming a factor in this great and noble organization, and bringing those active in institutional pharmacy in closer touch with each other.

In return we offer our service and interest to the progress and development of the organization in all its branches, to encourage women pharmacists to enter hospital pharmacy and join the eminent A.Ph.A.W.S. Loud may it sound the bugle call for more professional workers in our field. Hark! we hear it now—

Behold the dawn! The darkness flees!
 Bright rays of light are shimmering on flowers and trees.
 All gone the gloomy shadows, all full of life and light
 Is nature after passing through the mysteries of the night.
 But hark! dost hear the martial melody
 That, like the heedless breakers of the sea,
 Comes dashing toward us on the morning breeze?
 'Tis the Bugle Call! The Bugle Call!

What means this call, this call that thrills
 The very heart when deep the soul it fills?
 'Tis the call for action, no longer delay.
 Awake! awake! 'tis the dawning of day!
 Away with all hesitancy, doubts and fears
 That have kept our women pharmacists for years and years
 From coming into their own!
 Hear the Bugle Call! The Bugle Call!

Come forth, ye brave hearts and leave behind
 The counter, trifling things that all your aspirations bind.
 A college graduate, versed in Medico's lore,
 Has a higher calling than selling toilet articles by the score.
 Of more hospital pharmacists have we need
 Who can apply their knowledge in worthy deed,
 And reign supreme in the realm they love—
 Heed the Bugle Call! The Bugle Call!

What are the tasks that to us fall
 As hospital pharmacists if we heed the call?
 Besides the prescription work, there are nurses bright to teach.
 One can be a living example to those we hope to reach.
 There is laboratory study and research work to do.
 Be a member of the A. Ph. A. W. S.,—and an active member, too.
 Come, then, seek your place in hospital pharmacy, and
 Help raise its standard to the best in the land.
 Heed the Bugle Call! The Bugle Call!

(H. R.)

NOTE.—Miss Hannah Reiszwitz, who is connected with the social service work of Bethesda Hospital, should have credit for the poem.

B. O.