

Papers Presented to Local Branches

A HOME FOR THE A. PH. A.*

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In the November number of the Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association (Vol. 1, p. 1189), Editor Beal, with his usual skill crystallized what has been during the past fifteen years scarcely more than an intangible hope; the desire for a building which will be for American Pharmacy, what the Chemists Club Building in our own New York is to American Chemistry; what the Hofmann Haus in Berlin is to German Chemistry; what the headquarters of the Pharmaceutical Society in Bloomsbury Square are to the English pharmacist.

Such should be the proposed home of the American Pharmaceutical Association and such a home will be erected, if we American pharmacists once realize what such a centre would mean to each of us.

One of the greatest detriments to present-day pharmaceutical progress is the lack of pride of craft on the part of the pharmacists themselves. In this respect we modern pharmacists are far behind our predecessors of one or two centuries ago, when membership in the Apothecaries Guild was considered a precious possession of those engaged in the art of mixing drugs. In this respect we are still farther behind the modern physician who is not merely proud of his profession, but who is willing to express his pride in the tangible form of handsome buildings as organization headquarters. There is scarcely a city of any size in this country which does not possess a building owned and supported by the physicians of that place, containing a well-equipped library and suitable rooms for meetings; this, of course, in addition to the local medical colleges.

The desirability of the two types of buildings becomes apparent without giving the matter much thought. The college building proclaims to the public that the active representatives of a profession have enough faith in their calling to recommend it to the coming generation of students; the association building is a public affirmation of the fact that the members of the profession have sufficient enthusiasm over their calling to be willing to contribute funds for the betterment of their craft and indirectly for the uplift of themselves.

Under the present conditions in pharmacy, the college—at least in large cities—stands for both purposes. It is an institution representing the sacrifices of those active in the calling for the sake of those who are to follow; it also is, or should be the rallying point for the pharmaceutical activities of the community which it serves and this is assuredly the case with the institution at which we are now gathered and with our sister college in Kings county. The very building points out to the passer-by that pharmacy is a power since its followers are will-

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ing to transmute some of the profits of their calling into the stones of a building; that pharmacy has a purpose, since the members of the craft stand ready to make sacrifices of time in aid of its institutions.

For over a decade, thinkers in our calling have been asking themselves whether the time was not ripe for a monument to American Pharmacy, other than the school of pharmacy and it is not strange that holders of this idea have been largely those deeply interested in the college, laymen as well as teachers, for it is almost a dictum that the ones who preach the doctrine "charity begins at home" are less apt to help the home folks than those who are also willing to work for the world field.

One of the first thoughts in this direction was expressed at the Baltimore meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association of 1898 (Proceedings 46, 225) when Leo Eliel in his report as chairman of the A. Ph. A. Pharmacopoeial Committee spoke of the need of a research laboratory for pharmacopoeial work and again in 1903 when Professor Kremers in his report as chairman of the Committee on Historical Pharmacy (Proceedings 51, 541) urged the establishment of a national pharmaceutical museum.

During 1901, Professor Kraemer inaugurated in the American Journal of Pharmacy a discussion of a memorial to Professor Procter, and several of those contributing to the discussion urged a Procter memorial laboratory. And now Dr. Beal gives the subject a new and practical turn by suggesting that all these several ideas be condensed into an A. Ph. A. home.

In viewing the situation, the first question suggesting itself is the scope of the building and fortunately we have three models, which can be studied before the A. Ph. A. Home is consummated. The first is the headquarters of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, which I am not competent to discuss, since it has never been my privilege to visit it. This however, as I understand, is based on the college idea with the organization idea more or less in the background. The second is the Chemists Club of our own city, where the social idea is preponderant, but which possesses library and meeting place facilities that would be difficult to better. The third is the Hofmann Haus of Berlin (A. J. P., 83, 1901, 349) where the organization idea was the first thought; where the primal aim was the providing of offices and permanent meeting place for the German Chemical Society. This building also possesses splendid library and laboratory facilities for research workers, but gives little attention to the social side. This third idea, should, I think, be the aim of the A. Ph. A. home. It should provide room for the following:

1st. *For officers of the Association and of its Journal.* This is a foregone conclusion.

2nd. *For a permanent exhibit of historic pharmacy.* Those of us who saw the magnificent exhibit gotten up during the semi-centennial meeting of 1902, know the interest that exhibit created not only among the drug trade, but also among the general public; while the exhibit of ancient pharmacy at the Germanic Museum at Nuremberg is one of the most popular parts of that world-famed collection of medieval relics.

3rd. *For a pharmaceutical library.* One is almost tempted to express the hope

that the famous Lloyd library and the A. Ph. A. home will some day be under the same roof.

4th. *For research laboratories.* None of the organizations cited above—the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, the Chemists Club nor the German Chemical Society—have more legitimate need for research laboratories than has the American Pharmaceutical Association, if the research done therein is on the lines suggested by Dr. Beal; problems dealing with the revision of the National Formulary, the Druggists' Recipe Book, with the work of the Committee on Unofficial Standards and possibly with the revision of the Pharmacopœia. For even though the latter is independent of the A. Ph. A., much of the work of revision is done by active A. Ph. A. members and that part could well be performed in the suggested research laboratories.

Two features of the buildings proposed as models, which need not be emphasized in the A. Ph. A. home, are

1st. *Meeting rooms.* As the A. Ph. A. meets at different places, the national body has but little need for a gathering place in the A. Ph. A. home, but it might be possible that the local druggists would provide funds for that purpose in order that their organizations would have a meeting place.

2nd. *The social side* need not be considered, although it might prove a good investment to ultimately have some furnished rooms to rent those members of the Association going to headquarters for business or for research work.

Such are the outlines of what an A. Ph. A. home might mean to American pharmacy, and forthwith I think I hear a score of objections and difficulties. 1st. *Where are we going to get the money?* That is the first draw back to every great enterprise and it is to me scarcely short of miraculous how a meritorious object does eventually get the cash. The same query has been asked every time a new college building is broached; the same question was put, I am sure, when the Chemists Club building was suggested, but somehow the buildings get erected, if energetic men take hold of the work. One phase of the money getting seems essential and that is that the building must take the character of a memorial to our great departed pharmacists, and notably to William Procter. Let us therefore hope that some arrangement be made whereby the money so far collected for the Procter Memorial may eventually develop into a greater memorial in the form of an A. Ph. A. home.

2nd. *Where will the building be put up?* The geographical question is a serious one in this great country of ours, and is one which must be met in a broad spirit. Of course, we of New York, wish the building erected here, or at least on the Eastern seaboard, but the great West is yet to be heard from. But wherever it may be located, let us all—North, East, South and West—join to make the enterprise worthy of American pharmacy.

3rd. *Who will use the research laboratory?* As pointed out by Dr. Beal, a great need in the preparation of the National Formulary and of the Recipe Book is an impartial trying out of every formula proposed, or every change suggested. A prominent and forceful member of a revision committee can almost invariably persuade a majority of the committee to put his pet recipe into the work in question and as a result defective formulæ sometimes slip in. The Association

owes it to itself to prevent this, using some of the profits accruing from the book in question for employing a competent laboratory worker to try out the accepted recipe before it is definitely sponsored by the Association, and such a worker will need a laboratory. Then too, such a laboratory would prove a boon to the many earnest workers at smaller institutions which lack proper research and library facilities. This hindrance to their talents means a distinct loss to pharmaceutical progress and to such men the facilities of the proposed laboratory should be extended, of course, under proper restrictions.

And so let us all give the project of the A. Ph. A. our careful attention and after the plan has been worked out in sufficient detail to show its feasibility let us, each and every one, do our best to bring the idea into realization.

THE PROPOSED A. PH. A. HOME.*

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It is not necessary to study political economy nor social science in order to learn that the citizen who has a home is a more desirable part of the body politic than the one who is adrift in the world without fixed abode. The man who owns his home is better prepared for good citizenship than he who rents from a landlord.

I hold that in respect to usefulness the same conditions apply to organizations of the class to which belongs the A. Ph. A.

It is true that the society has lived and prospered and served the calling of pharmacy well for sixty-one years without occupying a real home, much less owning one. This is true because the membership has been such that difficulties and lack of facilities did not discourage the officers and committees in doing the best they could under the circumstances. The good work of the six decades has been accomplished in spite of the fact that the A. Ph. A. did not provide a parental roof for headquarters. What might have been done if a home had been established in 1852 and maintained up to date is a matter of legitimate and perhaps profitable speculation. But it is my purpose to concentrate your attention on the demands of the present and the possibilities of the future.

Pharmacy has passed through many changes since the A. Ph. A. was organized to "improve the quality of medicines in the market and encourage proper relations between pharmacists, physicians and the public; to regulate apprenticeship, suppress empiricism, create and maintain standards of authority in education, theory and practice of pharmacy and last but not least to afford the greatest protection to the public."

With conditions as they are today in pharmacy and medicine, the A. Ph. A. with its avowed purpose has new opportunities and must meet new demands and accept new duties.

The A. Ph. A. is the only organization in the world where any reputable person sufficiently interested in the welfare of pharmacy to ask admission and

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