

**MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH  
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
ALABAMA PHARMACEUTICAL  
ASSOCIATION, PP. 5-69**

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Minutes of the eleventh Annual meeting of the Alabama Pharmaceutical Association, pp. 5-69  
by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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# MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING,

— OF THE —

## Alabama Pharmaceutical Association.

FIRST SESSION.

MOBILE, May 10th, 1892.

The Alabama Pharmaceutical Association met in the Hall of the Mobile County Medical Society at 3:30 p. m.

President J. D. Humphrey called the meeting to order, and introduced his Honor, J. C. Rich, Mayor of the City, who in the following excellent speech, welcomed the Association to the hospitalities of Mobile :

*Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Pharmaceutical Association, of Alabama:—*

Mobile is peculiarly honored to-day, in having two of the State's most prominent organizations assemble in her borders. I had the pleasure at an earlier hour of to-day of extending the hospitality of the people to the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows. The greeting I now tender to you is equally cordial and sincere. I congratulate you upon eleven years of progress and success. The good work you are doing is one in the success of which every citizen of the State is interested. You are public servants in the highest and best sense of that term. Your profession is a necessity to every class of people, for at some time, we must all go to the pharmacist for assistance. This being true, we are interested in what you are and what you know. The character and attainments of the men who aspire to follow your high and useful calling cannot be too jealously guarded or too closely scrutinized. Unless proper means are adopted to prevent

such an occurrence, the highest callings and professions will degenerate into mere trades and occupations, in which the men of learning and accomplishments will be put on a level with the adventurer. It is due to your endeavors that this can not be the case in Alabama. There is to-day a feeling of security among the people and a sense of reliance upon those who follow your profession that is highly gratifying to the people and most creditable to you. The laws recently adopted in Alabama for the promotion of a higher degree of efficiency in pharmacy have been prolific of great public good. We have in Alabama a body of chemists, whose character, position and eminence reflect great credit upon the State. We of Mobile are proud of those members of your Association who have their homes in this City. They are brave, true men. They have never forgotten the obligations assumed when they entered upon the delicate and dangerous duties that are part and parcel of their daily lives. They have stayed through times of great trial and affliction, and not one of them has ever deserted his post, as we battled with that dread enemy, epidemic and disease. The fact that you come by the invitation, and as the guests of these good and true men, makes your welcome sure. We trust that your stay may be pleasant and that this meeting may result in greatly promoting the welfare of your Association. You are heartily welcome.

Mr. W. F. Dent on behalf of the Association responded in a nice little speech.

The roll was now called, when about fifty responded—there was also a sprinkle of ladies.

The President then delivered his address as follows:

*Ladies and Gentlemen:—*

Another year has passed since we last met in Huntsville; another year, with its toils and trials, with its hopes and its fears, with its joys and its sorrows, has rolled on and has been numbered with the past. The revolving wheels of time have brought us to the close of another year in the life and history of the Pharmaceutical Association of the State of Alabama, and the time for the annual address of its President is upon us. I would gladly relieve you of this infliction were it left to my wishes, but from time immemorial, from the very inauguration of societies until the present day, it has been the custom for the presiding officer to make some kind of a report at the regular annual meetings, and besides, the very laws that govern us require such a pro-

cedure, and it is well that it is so, for we can review the past, note the errors committed, profit by our experiences and thereby strengthen our plans and purposes for the future.

It is customary and expected that a short history and true status of this Association be given in the annual address of its President. I am not one of those who nursed this Association in its infancy, who labored hard and fought against mighty odds for existence, for it was only a few years ago that I became eligible for membership—but from what I can gather from these noble men who stood by her in times of adversity, who contributed their time, talents and money. They tell me that we have cause to be proud on this occasion. Year after year, comparatively but a handful of earnest workers have met together to keep and do the business of this Association. How different to-day—what a grand spectacle before me on this occasion!

Here, in the extreme southern portion of the State, in this beautiful City by the sea, a City noted all over the broad land for its culture, its hospitality and its beautiful women, here we have gathered from all sections of the State and we have come through no idle curiosity, but I trust with a determination and firm resolve to add our mite and to do our whole duty in the upbuilding of our profession. How well each one of us shall act his part will in a great measure depend the success, the prosperity and usefulness of this organization.

We have left behind us our homes and loved ones and have come together to transact the business of this Association, and I trust we will lay aside for these few days our business cares and give attention to the interests that have brought us together. Let us not come with bickerings and petty jealousies, but let us meet together as brothers and work in harmony for the best interests of our profession; never before have we been able to grasp one another's hands in heartier mutual congratulations or in a more earnest resolve to stand firm on the solid foundations upon which our Association is built.

Gentlemen of the Alabama Pharmaceutical Association, we can justly claim that the cause of true pharmacy in this State has been greatly advanced under the auspices of this Association. It was by virtue of its influence that we have a pharmacy law to-day and whatever effort has lain in its power for the betterment of the condition of the pharmacists of the State, has been promptly, earnestly and faithfully put forth.

No profession offers such opportunities for nefarious

practices as that of the druggist, and thanks be to God that we have a law that will in a measure at least put a stop to man devoid of principle from seeking the field of the druggist of this State; but our law is not complete. It only applies to cities of 900 inhabitants and over. This is unjust to the inhabitants of smaller towns. If the pharmacy law of this State was *intended* to *protect* the inhabitants of the cities, let us as representatives of a profession second to none in ability, importance and respectability, use our best efforts to have the strong arm of the law thrown around all alike. If it is right to protect the one, it is right to protect the other, therefore, I would

*Recommend*, That the legislative committee be instructed to memorialize the next legislature to so amend the law that the rural districts will have the same protection that our cities now enjoy.

It is to be regretted that there is such a state of apathy on the part of so many druggists of the State. There are more than three hundred and fifty druggists within the borders of Alabama, and to every one so far as I could obtain the address, I sent a circular letter requesting his attendance at this meeting. Of this number only one hundred and sixty are members of the Association. What better evidence of its far-reaching influence and the inherent value of our Association than its successful effort in securing the passage of the present pharmacy law. It is not for the want of evidence of the usefulness of this Association or the great benefits to be derived by attendance upon its meetings! We must put our shoulder to the wheel and do our whole duty ourselves and by our own example wake up these brothers who have been asleep these long years. It is a matter of great surprise and regret that there is a druggist in this fair State who fails to appreciate the importance of our Association or that any one can be found so selfish as to participate in the benefits resulting from an Association without being willing to share its expenses, its labors and its responsibilities.

While the advancement that we have made in membership and attendance at the annual meetings and interest manifested by the members is much to be proud of, yet it is not what it should be, and I believe that if we make our annual meetings more interesting and instructive in the way of voluntary papers and short discussions on subjects likely to be of interest to the *average* druggist we will accomplish the desired result. The Committee on Queries acted wisely in electing members to prepare papers and to discuss the same, and I must thank them for the interest they have



manifested from the very beginning—but no committee can cover the whole ground. Some member may be gifted with his pen, who may fail to be appointed by the committee, might feel a delicacy in preparing a paper under the present order of things, therefore I

*Recommend* That a day on session be set apart for voluntary papers and short discussions on any subject of interest to the pharmacist, known as the "Omnibus Discussion." I believe these short discussions, on questions and their answers will do a great deal towards infusing new life in the older and in creating a live interest among the younger members of this Association.

It may not be out of place just at this time to acknowledge my great appreciation of the kind treatment I have received at the hands of all the committees, officers and members of the Association with whom I have come in contact. While I have done what I could, the Association is indebted for the great success of this meeting more than to any other, to that indefatigable worker, our able secretary.

During the past year your President received an invitation to attend the meeting of the Wholesalers, Retailers and Manufacturers, which meeting was held in Louisville, Ky., last fall. I was unable to attend nor could I procure a substitute to represent me, but on behalf of this Association I acknowledged the courtesy and expressed my regrets. The great question of "Cutting on Patents" and its remedy was the main topic before that meeting.

The plans formulated by the American Pharmaceutical Association at New Orleans, and ratified by nearly every State Association were agreed upon with perhaps a few slight changes, and I believe it now rests with us as retail druggists whether this plan as now adopted shall be enforced. I shall not consume your time to define my position on this great question; it is well known to every druggist of the State how I stand. While there is no cutting so far as I know within the confines of our State, yet our brothers in other States are sorely afflicted and the cry of help is heard from afar. Will you remain passive and silent and by your indifference say you care not for protection? I hope not. Therefore, I

*Recommend* That this Association speak out in no uncertain language, expressing its approval and hearty endorsement of the plan now adopted.

During the past year no subject has received more attention in the pharmaceutical journals, and I might say the secular press of the North, than that of "substitution"—not substituting one article for another in a physician's prescrip-

tion, but substituting an article of known value and composition and doubtful value.

In a speech before a National Educational Association, druggists of this whole country were assailed; they were called "thieves, robbers, liars and purveyors of worthless stuff." I know not, and care less, who this slanderer Richardson is, but from his unjust attack and sweeping remarks, believe him to be beneath the notice of the profession he assails, which boasts of as pure, noble, God-fearing and God-loving men as ever walked upon the face of the earth. I am one of those who believe it is no crime to put up my own preparations. I put them up and push them for all they are worth. But, if the time has come when a druggist cannot recommend and sell his own preparations and not be allowed the same privileges accorded to other lines of business, then I am ready to bid farewell to the profession I love so dearly and am ready to fall back to my first love and there eke out a living for my wife and little children trying to alleviate the pains and sufferings of our fellow-man. We are expected to sell to our friends and patrons preparations absolutely worthless, or those known to contain drugs in sufficient quantities to induce the formation of bad habits, simply because they are advertised in the newspapers; and if we have the honesty of purpose and boldness of heart to offer our friends a preparation of value, then we are called "thieves and robbers."

I declare to you that it is my honest conviction that if any man in any calling should be more honest and conscientious than any other; it should be the druggist; and I believe that if there is a sub-cellar in Hell where a crumb will fry quicker than anywhere else, that there will be the final home of the druggist who is untrue to the patron, who places his own life or that of his loved ones in his hands. Then gentlemen let us be honest men, true to our calling, true to our friends and true to ourselves, caring naught for the epithets of the manufacturers or their paid slanderer, but keeping in view the final account that we must render some day to a higher tribunal.

Since I have been a member of this Association I have noticed that the great bulk of the work is performed by only a few members. We have some members who attend these meetings regularly, who never have a word to say, but like a sponge, absorb all that is said, and some of these perhaps get sorely disappointed if everything don't go just as they think it should. This is all wrong. It is the intention of this Association to get the druggists of the State together and make each and every one feel that he has a right to

have something to say in the management of this Association or the discussions that may come up before it. At every meeting it must be that we have a number of new members, many of them young men who perhaps are timid and nervous about offering resolutions or making remarks. To these I wish to say that we want you to discard your timidity, want you to feel at home, feel that you have an equal right to this floor and when you have something to say, say it, for if you open not your mouths in meeting you have no right to complain if things don't go to suit you. Pardon the expression, but if you will "get a move on you" my word for it, you will not regret it. Don't wait for the committees to do everything, and whether you are assigned an important position or not, whatever you find to do, do it with a vim, put your heart in your work and success will crown your efforts. It will not be long young men before you will be called upon to fill the places of these older members, and we want you to be prepared to take charge at a moments warning.

We have with us to-day men who were present and assisted in the organization of this Association, eleven long years ago, and year after year they have attended its meetings and contributed whatever was in their power to further its interests. Time has dealt gently with them, but in the natural course of events they must some day bid farewell to the scenes of this life; ere long some of them may be called to the bright beyond, and there "to rest under the shade of the trees." Young men see to it that you are prepared to take the places of these noble men. Let your loyalty to the cause in which they have labored so long and well, give assurance that their early and faithful work shall not be in vain.

Go where you may or search where you will, whether in the Eutopian fields of the present or in the melancholy days of the past, you will find no calling with a more lofty purpose or benevolent ambition than the one whose representatives are now assembled in this hall. Time was when our calling was looked upon as a mere trade, but to-day it is considered and recognized as one of the leading professions, and second to no other in importance or usefulness.

God in his infinite wisdom furnished the ground, the seed, the rain and the warmth, but it was left for man to bring these elements together to accomplish anything and it was also left for man to dig down deep into the bowels of the earth for the coal from which he extracts those beautiful white crystals so familiar to you all and which have been such a blessing to mankind.