

SCIENCE

VOL. LXXII

FRIDAY, JULY 18, 1930

No. 1855

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SCIENCE: A Weekly Journal devoted to the Advancement of Science, edited by J. McKEEN CATTELL and published every Friday by

THE SCIENCE PRESS

New York City: Grand Central Terminal
Lancaster, Pa. Garrison, N. Y.
Annual Subscription, \$6.00 Single Copies, 15 Cts.

SCIENCE is the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Information regarding membership in the Association may be secured from the office of the permanent secretary, in the Smithsonian Institution Building, Washington, D. C.

PROMOTION OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY¹

By Professor REID HUNT

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

ONE of the duties of the president of this convention, as stated in the by-laws, is the presentation of an address "embodying such subjects as may seem to him suitable to the occasion."

Since many of those present are attending a meeting of the convention for the first time, it may be well to speak briefly of the purposes and history of this organization. It was founded in 1820 and has been in continuous existence ever since; the first sessions were held in the Senate Chamber of the Capitol. It is one of the oldest organizations in the United States, antedating by many years the American Medical Association, the American Pharmaceutical Association, the National Academy of Sciences, etc. It was founded by physicians; perhaps it would be more accurate to say that it was founded by a single physi-

cian, Lyman Spalding. Spalding was a man of rare vision; he was a pioneer in medical education and sanitation; he had an important part in the introduction of vaccination into the United States. His most important service, however, was the founding of the U. S. Pharmacopoeia, which is the oldest national pharmacopoeia of a modern type in the world. The U. S. P. was the first pharmacopoeia to adopt the recommendations of the Brussels Conference for the Unification of Potent Medicaments; it thus became the first national pharmacopoeia with an international character. It has also been translated into Chinese and Spanish; it is the official pharmacopoeia of Cuba.

This convention, which is incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia, is different from most associations; the members are not here for any personal gain; all their activities are in the interest of the health of the people of the United States.

¹ Presidential address delivered at the 1930 U. S. Pharmacopoeial Convention, on Tuesday, May 13, in Washington, D. C.

Science

72 (1855)

Science **72** (1855), x-76.

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