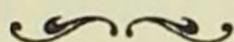


THE PALIMPSEST

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Man of Affairs

David E. Hadden was born in Kilrush, Ireland, on October 22, 1866. His father, Dr. George Hadden, was considered well-educated and no doubt contributed much to the early training of the boy. Certainly David acquired studious habits for he made rapid progress in school. By the time he was fourteen he had completed his education in Ireland.

In May, 1881, the Hadden family emigrated to America and settled at LeMars in Plymouth County, where Dr. Hadden practiced his profession. Reared in the home of a physician, David developed a natural interest in medicine, and eventually chose pharmacy as his vocation. About the time he was twenty-one he moved to Alta, in Buena Vista County, where he made his home the rest of his life. On April 4, 1888, he began working in C. E. Cameron's drug store. Five years later, he became a partner in this firm which operated under the name of C. E. Cameron and Com-

pany. Upon the death of Mr. Cameron in 1939, he became the sole proprietor of the business. These two men, working together, supplied the pharmaceutical needs of their community for more than half a century.

In his chosen field David Hadden was a thorough student. When he was examined by the Iowa State Pharmacy Commissioners he passed with the highest grade ever awarded up to that time. That he was fond of his vocation was evidenced by the fact that he not only took great interest in his local business, but likewise in the general welfare of pharmacy. Being of a scholarly disposition, he always kept up-to-date and was considered to be a leader in his field.

As the years passed, he became more and more active in the affairs of the Iowa Pharmaceutical Association and as a result was appointed as a Democratic member to fill a vacancy on the State Pharmacy Commission by Governor B. F. Carroll in the spring of 1909. It is characteristic of the man that he did not seek the office, but rather had the honor thrust upon him.

The appointment of David Hadden to the Commission was generally acclaimed and subsequent events justified the wisdom of his selection. He was reappointed by Carroll in 1911, and by succeeding Governors in 1914 and 1917. At various

times he served as chairman of the Commission for that position rotated among the three members. During the eleven years of his incumbency the Commission played an active rôle in raising the standards of the profession and advocating constructive legislation.

One of the principal accomplishments during this period was the enactment of more adequate statutes regulating the sale of narcotics and other habit-forming drugs. Previously, only meager records of such sales by druggists were required, and even these rules were not always rigidly enforced, so that the traffic in narcotics became almost an open business.

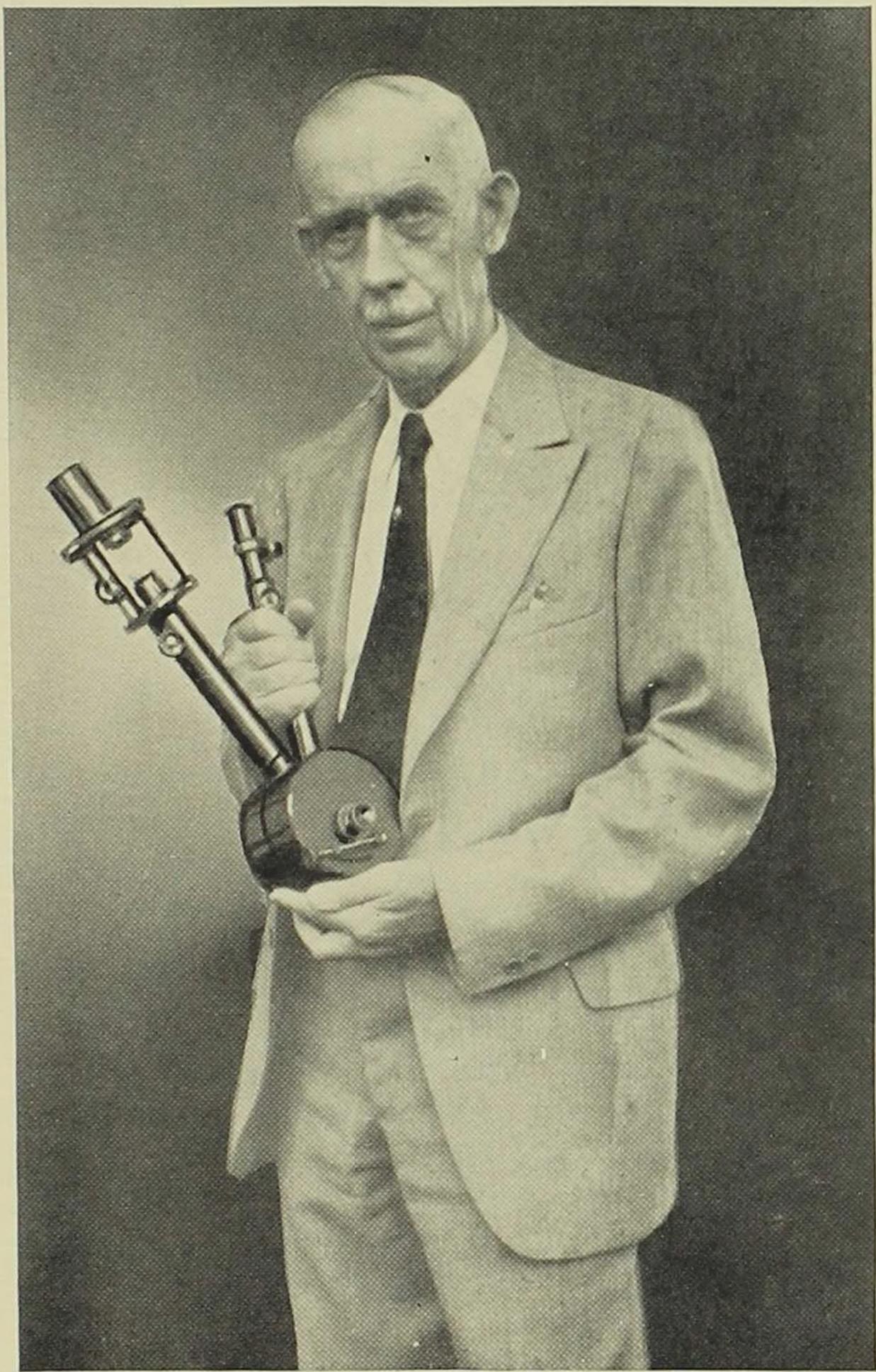
New standards and regulations were also set up governing the examination of those to be admitted to the practice of pharmacy and the plane of the drug business was thereby elevated. Professional qualifications and practices were adopted and enforced which were not only beneficial in many ways to the drug business, but which also promoted the general welfare.

The first comprehensive pure food and drug legislation was enacted in Iowa before Hadden became a member of the Pharmacy Commission, but he was active in promoting this reform and later participated officially in implementing the enforcement of the law. This required financial

support as well as the whole-hearted coöperation of the profession. Hadden and others worked tactfully and effectively to win support for these innovations in the interest of the public health.

Another delicate question pertained to the kinds of drugs which might properly be retailed by grocers. This involved many hearings and threats of litigation on the part of Iowa grocers, who naturally wished to protect their trade. In the commercial aspects of the problem the pharmacists were equally interested but their position also coincided with public security. Through the persistent efforts of the Pharmacy Commission the controversy was finally settled and citizens were protected against incompetent vendors.

Had David E. Hadden made no other contribution to the common welfare of the people of Iowa he would certainly have deserved more than passing note. Upon his retirement from the Iowa Pharmacy Commission in 1920, after a continuous service of eleven years, the Official Register of the Association contained the following tribute in the April issue: "No one man in Iowa has labored so faithfully in the performance of his duties, and has rendered such unselfish service for the benefit of pharmacy as has Mr. Hadden, during his term of office. It was largely through Mr. Hadden's efforts that the work of the pharmacy commission



DAVID E. HADDEN

was raised to a high standard, and Iowa druggists owe him a great debt of gratitude. Here's hoping that success will continue to crown his efforts in the private life to which he retired with no regrets and entitled to the feeling of satisfaction that comes with a service well rendered."

Like a polished jewel, David Hadden's life had many facets and each seemed equally brilliant. He lived intensely and his well-rounded life assumed ideal proportions on every side. For an avocation he chose the scholarly subjects of meteorology and astronomy. Indeed, it was in these fields that he made his greatest contributions. In his quest for knowledge he sought formal training. At the age of thirty-seven he attended Morningside College in Sioux City where he received the degree of Bachelor of Science in June, 1904. His major subject was listed as astronomy.

The study of the sun is of course an important phase of astronomy. Hadden's series of observations and studies of sunspots and solar weather were so thorough and systematic that he gained wide recognition as an authority. He influenced astronomical opinion in this field considerably. This was due not only to the high quality of his work, but also to the fact that he took pains to record and publish the results of his labors in accredited scientific journals.

His researches in terrestrial meteorology were likewise outstanding and his efforts along this line were held in highest esteem by the United States Weather Bureau in Washington. Few, if any, workers in this field kept continuous records of weather observations which equaled his. From them government meteorologists have been able to make significant deductions respecting climatological changes which are of vital importance to our future welfare.

As a public speaker, he was "popular and much sought after". His knowledge was accurate and broad. He often spoke to local clubs and frequently at Morningside College and before the Iowa Academy of Science, of which he was a faithful member. It may be said that many a young scientist was inspired to continue study by the enthusiasm which these talks engendered.

David Hadden published many articles on astronomical and kindred subjects in various scientific journals. In recognition of his accomplishments, he received many honors. He was made a fellow in the Royal Astronomical Society of Great Britain and also a member of the Belgian and American Astronomical societies.

While as a rule the meticulous duties of his business kept him close at home and his vacations were few, he did travel on occasion. Perhaps the

most notable as well as the most memorable trips were when he joined solar eclipse expeditions. In 1900, for example, he journeyed to Wadesboro, North Carolina, with a party of astronomers to observe the total eclipse of the sun which occurred on May 28th of that year. For any man so thoroughly interested in solar astronomy, this must, indeed, have been a glorious experience. One of his photographs of the solar corona was published in *Popular Astronomy*.

On the business side of the ledger, Mr. Hadden made many contributions to the welfare of his own community. In the first place, he carefully filled thousands of medical prescriptions and often gave advice to those who came to him with minor ailments not requiring the service of a physician. In such matters, he was always approached with confidence. Indicative of his public spirit were his efforts to obtain the establishment of the first telephone exchange in Alta, which, of course, was of great benefit to everyone.

"Dave" Hadden left his indelible impress upon the cultural life of his community in many ways. Serving on the county board of education, his wisdom and good business judgment were frequently used to keep the intricate wheels of education in balance and running smoothly. For ten years, he also served on the Alta school board, and fostered

various improvements. The Alta public library board likewise profited from his wide experience.

The church, as a community institution and as a place of worship, was very important in his life. Even as a lad in Ireland he seems to have been identified with the Protestant minority of that country, doubtless through his parents. Upon coming to this country, he made a place for himself in the Methodist Church in LeMars. When he removed to Alta, in 1887, he became a member of the Methodist Church there. For many years, he taught the young people's class in the church school and exercised a wholesome influence in the lives of many of his students. He served the church in other capacities, particularly as steward and for a long term as treasurer.

On September 5, 1888, after establishing himself in business, he married Miss Emeline Dier of LeMars. Mrs. Hadden preceded him in death in 1932. After an illness which began in July, David Hadden, then in his seventy-ninth year, died on September 20, 1943. Funeral services were held in the Methodist Church and he was buried in the local cemetery at Alta. No better tribute could be paid him than the fact that during the funeral all the business houses in town remained closed out of respect to his memory.

BEN HUR WILSON