

Proceedings of the Local Branches

PHILADELPHIA BRANCH.

(Scientific Section.)

The Scientific Section was convened on Tuesday evening, December 5, for the consideration of the subject, "The Physical Constants of the U. S. P."

Dr. George H. Meeker of the Medico-Chirurgical College delivered the principal paper and gave numerous suggestions as regards the proper choice of constants and the proper constants for the next revision, and recommended that the standards as formulated by the United States Bureau of Standards and the Smithsonian Institution should be as largely as possible adopted. This paper contained so much of valuable suggestions that it is difficult to abstract efficiently, and as a result our readers are referred to the full text of the paper which will be published shortly.

The subject was further discussed by Dr. J. G. Hildebrand of the University of Pennsylvania and Mr. W. T. Toplis. A number of very excellent suggestions and practical considerations of the question were given by both speakers. Dr. Hildebrand spoke especially of temperature in the proper determination of most physical constants and called attention to the difficulty of obtaining and the especial need of accurate temperature determinations. He also said that the boiling point was a far less accurate constant than the freezing point in the determination of the purity of materials. He also described certain apparatus and gave a discussion of specific gravity determination which afforded a very interesting discussion.

Mr. Toplis compared the accuracy of a carpenter in measuring a piece of wood, a skilled steel worker in measuring a piece of steel, and an astronomer in making his measurements, with the pharmacist, the usual analytic chemist, and the physico-chemical investigator respectively, and stated that the accuracy which each of these conditions showed, proved it to be largely a matter of opinion, and that the approximate accuracy of the carpenter was as valuable to him as the extreme accuracy of the astronomer or physico-chemical theorist was to him. He

therefore concluded that the accuracy of the constants in the Pharmacopœia should be graded in accordance with the desires of those who were to make the greatest use of them.

The subject was fully discussed by nearly all present.

The meeting was well attended and the interest taken in the discussion of the papers read was most excellent. The meeting throughout proved a most valuable, instructive and interesting evening.

The continuation of the evening's discussion, after the adjournment of the Scientific Section, was also very spirited, and the subject of discussion, The Additions and Deletions for the next U. S. P. was discussed, and in connection therewith, the physical constants were still further discussed.

As a summary of the discussion it may be stated that the standards of the Pharmacopœia may best be controlled by publishing definite and accurate methods by which the constants should be determined and then permitting a reasonable variation in the limits set for these constants. That accurate methods of determination, rather than narrowly defined standards, therefore seem to be the best plan. That the constants which are of distinctive importance on account of the use to which the substance is to be put should be most emphasized and that other constants of minor importance may be more or less ignored.

C. H. KIMBERLY,
Secretary.

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PITTSBURGH BRANCH OF THE A. PH. A.

A the December meeting, held on the 14th, of the Pittsburgh Branch A. Ph. A. an unusually attractive program was presented, and the discussions were animated and full of good meat.

The topic, "Microscopical Examination of Powdered Drugs," which was handled by Dr. L. K. Darbaker was of absorbing interest, and proved one of the most instructive features presented before the branch during the closing year. Dr. Darbaker used the blackboard freely in illustrating his subject, and in addition to freehand sketches exhibited numerous lantern slide specimens. The speaker evidenced entire familiarity with his subject and seemed as much at home with, and to understand the characteristics of seeds,

leaves, barks and roots of medicinal plants just as a father does his children.

The methods followed by experts in determining the identity of unknown samples of powdered plant drugs was shown, as was also the manner of procedure followed in ascertaining what portion of the plant was present whether leaf, seed, bark, root or wood, then how to recognize the family to which it belongs and finally how to reach the individual identity of the plant from which the sample under investigation is taken.

Dr. A. F. Judd read an editorial from the pen of Dr. J. H. Beal, with comments thereon, upon the subject "The Local Branches," and urged that the methods recommended by Dr. Beal for increasing interest in and attendance upon the meetings of this branch be adopted.

"The main thing is to bring together and harmonize all the association activities of pharmacists, and while it would be advantageous, of course, that as many as possible should be members of the A. Ph. A., such a joint membership is by no means essential or successful cooperative work" formed the burden of Dr. Beal's editorial utterances. Dr. Judd said another important suggestion that should be acted upon is to keep in touch with the local newspapers by sending them announcements of the meetings and reports of the papers read. In his argument favoring this phase of activity Dr. Beal says: "If the followers of some fake 'pathy' or the wild-eyed believers in some new medical ism, hold a convention, the papers are filled with their doings. Why should the fakes and the frauds have all the publicity, while legitimate pharmacy remains unknown and unappreciated?"

Following the above presentation of what ought to be done Dr. F. J. Blumenschein was named as a publicity agent with instructions to cultivate the press, and B. E. Pritchard assigned the duty of arranging for joint meetings with the local Druggists' Association.

Upon suggestion from the president the proposed new formulas for incorporation into the National Formulary were read by title only and referred to the committee appointed at last meeting to investigate and report upon at next meeting.

Dr. Blumenschein took up the subject of "Deletions and Additions in the Pharmacopœia," and gave expression to some radical

personal opinions concerning the wisdom of some of the proposals. This precipitated a free-for-all discussion during which a wide variety of ideas with reference to the contents of the published lists were brought out, participated in by Drs. Koch, Judd, Emanuel and Darbaker. The secretary read from the minutes of a meeting of the city of Washington Branch opinions concerning the work that is being done from Dr. Wiley Prof. Remington, Dr. Murray Galt Motter, Dr. that is being done from Dr. Wiley, Prof. Stanislaus, all of whom had participated in a discussion similar to that now being held. Dr. Koch closed the discussion by insisting that "regardless of other men's opinions the members of the Pittsburgh Branch should make their ideas known to the Revision Committee, doing our duty as we see it, whether acceptable to the committee or not."

As the hour reached by this time was 11:30, and as President Campbell, who comes down from Greensburg especially to attend these meetings, was holding his watch in hand in manifest anxiety for fear he would not make his home-returning train, it was wisely concluded to adjourn at this point.

B. E. PRITCHARD, *Secretary*.



NEW ENGLAND BRANCH.

The annual meeting and dinner of the New England Branch was held at Hotel Plaza, Boston, Wednesday evening, December 13. President James F. Fineran presided.

Dinner was served at 6 o'clock, after which the members listened to some very interesting speaking.

The first speaker was Dr. B. H. Smith, Chief of U. S. Food and Drug Inspection Laboratory at Boston. He spoke on the Food and Drugs Act, the causes for its passage and the practical application of its provisions. He explained the difficulties of making decisions and reviewed a number of recent court rulings which affected his department.

The next speaker was Prof. Charles F. Nixon, a member of the U. S. P. Revision Committee, who took up the proposed pharmacopœial additions and deletions. Mr. Nixon also described the methods by which satisfactory formulas and processes were obtained.

Mr. William H. Glover followed with remarks about certain changes proposed for the National Formulary, starting considerable discussion about Liquid Petrox for which a

new formula had been suggested. The consensus of opinion seemed to be that Liquid Petrox was very satisfactory at present.

The election of officers for 1912 resulted as follows: President, Charles F. Nixon, Leominster, Mass.; Vice President, Albert W. Meserve, Kenebunk, Maine; Secretary-Treasurer, R. Albro Newton, Southborough, Mass.; Chairman Committee on Professional Relations, Frank F. Ernst, Jamaica Plain, Mass.; Chairman Committee on Membership, William H. Glover, Lawrence, Mass.

R. ALBRO NEWTON, *Secretary*.

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CITY OF WASHINGTON BRANCH.

The City of Washington Branch of the A. Ph. A. met in regular session at the National College of Pharmacy, December 20, 1911. In the unavoidable absence of the President, Vice-Presidents and Secretary, Dr. Henry E. Kalusowski was called to the chair and Dr. M. G. Motter acted as Secretary.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been extensively printed in the drug journals, their reading was, on motion, dispensed with.

The first business of the evening was the report of the Committee on Nominations, which was as follows:

Your Committee on Nominations begs to submit the following recommendations:

1. That the representative of the Branch on the Council of the A. Ph. A. serve also as Secretary of the Branch. This, for the reason that such practice seems to be growing among other branches; the advantages are sufficiently obvious.

2. For officers and committeemen for the ensuing year: President, Lewis Flemer; First Vice-President, Lyman F. Kebler; Second Vice-President, Henry E. Kalusowski; Secretary and Council Member, Samuel L. Hilton; Treasurer, Wymond H. Bradbury; Committee on Membership, Herbert C. Easterday; Committee on Legislation, Willard S. Richardson; Committee on Medical Relations, Frank C. Henry; Committee on Scientific Communications, Rodney H. True; Committee on Publicity, Martin I. Wilbert.

Respectfully submitted,
MURRAY GALT MOTTER,
Chairman.

M. G. Motter moved that the report be adopted and the acting Secretary directed to cast the ballot of the Branch for the officers and committeemen named.

S. L. Hilton expressed his appreciation of

the honor of serving as Secretary of the Branch, but explained that in view of other pressing duties he would be obliged to decline the nomination; he therefore mover, as an amendment, to substitute the name of Henry B. Floyd, Professor of Commercial Pharmacy in the National College of Pharmacy, for his own. Seconded by Wymond H. Bradbury. After some discussion, the amendment was put and carried; the report, as amended, was adopted, the acting Secretary cast the ballot as directed and the Chair announced the officers elect.

The paper of the evening, by Prof. W. A. Puckner, of Chicago, on "The Physician and the Pharmacist," was read by the acting Secretary.

The ensuing discussion was limited largely to the possibilities of developing in connection with the retail drug business, such laboratory work as is necessary for making the several official preparations.

H. E. Kalusowski expressed the belief that many fluidextracts can be prepared far more satisfactorily and efficiently in a small way by the pharmacist than in a large way, where often unidentified drugs in bulk are turned over to an incompetent, underpaid and inexperienced boy. The choice of alcohol is important and the details of the method of preparing the extract require skill and experience.

W. H. Bradbury does not believe that the retail druggist will return to the making of fluidextracts; on the contrary, he is getting farther and farther away from it, and the young graduate, though better educated and trained at the outset, is not inclined to take up such work.

S. L. Hilton thinks that the retail *pharmacist* is getting back to making a large number of preparations for himself, though the commercial druggist may not. There are obviously two classes of men in the business, the scientific and the commercial.

Worth Hale thought the physician would go a long way to patronize a pharmacist of this type. He has found that the preparations on the market vary widely, regardless of the reputation of the manufacturer. His own ergot preparations, for instance, have been found to be distinctly stronger than the market product, though some of the latter came direct from the manufacturer. With reference to digitalis, the crude

drug certainly does not vary as much as do the finished products.

H. E. Kalusowski offered as an explanation of the present day conditions the suggestion that the manufacturer has hypnotized the retailer into the belief that he can do the work on a large scale cheaper as well as better.

S. L. Hilton cited a recent calculation as to the cost of certain tablets, which have been cut and re-cut; after allowing the usual percentages for cost of materials, labor, sales, etc., the manufacturer still has a profit of 90 per cent. The retailer, with a small tablet machine, can easily turn the trick himself. He has found that he can make certain fluidextracts at a cost considerably lower than the prices offered by the large manufacturers.

W. S. Richardson quoted the man who said he could sell witch hazel at *any* price, so long as he had a spigot and a barrel in his back room; and W. O. Emery told of a junk dealer who bought empty arrack barrels, filled them with cologne spirit, and then sold the contents as arrack.

The members present then discussed the third instalment of proposed new formulas for the N. F. Several of the members expressed the belief that some at least of these new additions would serve no good purpose other than to fill a somewhat vociferous demand from a very limited section.

Discussing the formula for Honey of Rose with Borax, H. E. Kalusowski expressed himself as pleased at seeing this old preparation rejuvenated. He could not recall ever having seen a formal pharmaceutical process suggested for it.

The discussion recurred to the question of patents and attention was called to the fact that coincident with the increase in their manufacture there has been a decrease in the advertising, or perhaps methods and localities have changed. Mr. Bradbury remarked that many of the patents undoubtedly had some virtue and that this fact was practically admitted by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry, which had admitted many of them to its quasi-scientific list.

There being no further business, the Branch, on motion, adjourned at 10:20.

MURRAY GALT MOTTER,
Acting Secretary.

DENVER BRANCH.

Members of the Denver Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association gathered at the Traffic Club at 6:30 p. m. Tuesday evening, December 19th, as guests of the Davis-Bridaham Drug Co., who entertained the members at dinner.

After enjoying the elaborate meal the meeting was called to order at 8:10 by Pres. Best.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The president stated that the nomination of officers for 1912 was in order, whereupon Mr. Ford moved that the present officers be renominated for another year. The motion was seconded and carried. A further motion that nominations be closed was also seconded and carried.

Mr. Martin was then called on to report what arrangement his committee had made with the city association regarding the entertainment of the A. Ph. A. next August.

Mr. Martin reported that the city association had appointed a committee of four, Healy, Clark, Wilson and McKenzie, who with the local secretary of the A. Ph. A. as chairman of this committee, was to have entire charge of affairs. This committee has power to appoint sub-committees as it may require.

It was moved and seconded that the conference committee's report be accepted and the committee discharged. Motion carried.

The Membership Committee reported five new members as follows: Messrs. John A. Baily, Edward Eberhardt, Wm. J. Wobido, L. A. Jeancon, and Edgar C. Healy. The report was accepted and the new members were welcomed by the president.

The chair then called on Mr. Martin, council member, to state if or not he had received any word from the council regarding the election of a local secretary to succeed Mr. Scholtz who resigned. Mr. Martin said that Mr. England had nominated Mr. C. M. Ford as local secretary which motion had been seconded by Mr. Beal and that the question had been put to the council for a vote. He had not heard further on the matter but thought Mr. Ford would be elected to fill the vacancy.

The secretary then read a message from Mr. A. W. Scott of Ft. Collins, which had been received by long distance phone. Mr. Scott expressed his regrets for being unable

to attend the Denver meeting and extended his best wishes for an enjoyable evening.

Mr. Nitardy stated that the By-Laws of the branch were not adequate and should be amended. He offered the following as a suitable set of by-laws.

By-Laws of the Denver Branch of the A. Ph. A.

ARTICLE I.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES.

1. Officers—The officers shall consist of a president, first and second vice-presidents, and a secretary-treasurer.

2. Executive Committee—The officers of the branch shall constitute the Executive Committee which may transact all business for the branch, unless otherwise provided for. Three shall be a quorum.

3. Standing Committees—Three standing committees shall be appointed by the president at the first meeting after election of officers each year as follows:

(a) Membership Committee—To consist of a chairman and secretary. Its duty shall be to carry on a vigorous campaign for new members; it may use such funds as the Executive Committee shall direct for this purpose and shall make an annual report at the January meeting of the branch.

(b) Program Committee—To consist of a chairman and two associate members. The committee shall, at its first meeting, elect one of its members as secretary. Its duty shall be to provide a suitable and interesting program for all regular branch meetings and shall send a notice of same to the president and secretary of the branch two weeks prior to each meeting.

(c) Committee on Education and Legislation—To consist of a committee of one. The committee may at any meeting make such reports or suggestions as may be desirable or opportune, and shall make an annual report at the January meeting of the branch.

4. Special Committees—The president may, at any time, appoint such special committees and define their duties as may be required for the proper execution of the work of the branch. Such committees shall continue to the end of the fiscal year unless otherwise specified.

ARTICLE II.

ELECTION AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

1. The officers shall be elected annually in January.

2. The officers elected shall assume their duties with the adjournment of the January meeting each year.

3. The president shall call all regular and special meetings and preside over same, and perform such other duties as defined in these by-laws.

4. The first vice-president shall assume the duties of the president in his absence.

The second vice-president shall assume the

duties of the first vice-president in his absence.

6. The secretary-treasurer shall send a notice of all Branch and Executive Committee meetings to the members of the branch or committee respectively; keep minutes of these meetings; carry on all correspondence for the branch; collect all dues and other moneys; pay out such moneys as authorized by the president or Executive Committee; keep an accurate record of all accounts; make an annual report at the January meeting of each year and perform such other duties as may be directed by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE III.

MEETINGS.

1. Regular meetings of the branch shall be held the evening of the third Tuesday of each month, except during the months of July, August and September. Special meetings may be called by the president at any time. Five members shall be a quorum.

ARTICLE IV.

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES.

1. Any member of the A. Ph. A. shall be eligible for membership in the Denver Branch.

2. The branch dues shall be \$1.00 per year, due in January for the ensuing year, or payable at the time of joining the branch.

ARTICLE V.

PUBLICITY.

1. Notice and proceedings of all branch meetings shall be sent to the Journal of the A. Ph. A., the Rocky Mountain Druggist, and such other pharmaceutical journals as the Executive Committee may direct.

ARTICLE VI.

AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS.

These By-Laws may only be amended when notice of the proposed change is given at the preceding meeting. A three-fourths vote shall be necessary.

It was moved that the reading of the proposed By-Laws be accepted as the notice for change of By-Laws as required. They will be acted on at the next meeting.

President Best then introduced Mr. George McDermand, chemist of the tar plant of the Denver Gas & Electric Co., who read a paper on the "Manufacture of Coal Tar and Coal Tar Products."

During the reading of the paper Mr. McDermand exhibited samples of the various products referred to and answered many questions on matters related to coal tar, which added much to the value of the interesting paper.

The president then called on Mr. Charles

M. Ford, who presented a paper on "Legalized Adulteration of Food and Drugs."

Mr. Ford's paper created quite a discussion on preservatives, especially Sodium Benzoate.

Mr. W. A. Hover then read some extracts from a proposed ruling of the Department of Agriculture on the restriction and regulation of the sale of narcotic drugs.

Expressions on the traffic were decidedly in favor of prohibiting the manufacture and sale of cocaine entirely on the ground that cocaine does and has done more harm than it can ever do good.

As it was about time for the owl car, the meeting adjourned after giving a rising vote of thanks to the Davis-Bridaham Co. Mr. McDermand and Mr. Ford.

F. W. NITARDY *Secretary.*

Changes of Address

All changes of address of members should be sent to the General Secretary promptly.

The Association will not be responsible for non-delivery of the Annual Volume or Year Book, or of the JOURNAL unless notice of change of address is received before shipment or mailing.

Both the old and the new address should be given, thus:

HENRY MILTON,
From 2342 Albion Place, St. Louis, Mo.
To 278 Dartmouth St., Boston, Mass.

Titles or degrees to be used in publications or in the official records should be given, and names should be *plainly* written, or type-written.

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CARL E. SMITH,
From 1320 Pine St., Philadelphia, Pa.
To 627 Spruce St., Philadelphia, Pa.

THOMAS E. BROWER, Sergt. 1st. Class. H. C.
From Fort Wingate, N. M.
To Fort Greble, R. I.

H. VON OEHSSEN, Sergt. 1st. Class. H. C.
From 2111, 18th St. N. W., Washington,
D. C.
To 721 13th St. N. W., Washington, D. C.

FAULTS OF TABLET MEDICATION.

"The much-used tablet, compressed or triturate, doubtless renders much medication valueless, and perhaps, fortunately, harmless. The speed of solution of most tablets on the market is problematical, hence if the action of a tablet is immediately desired it should be predissolved, or at least crushed by the teeth before swallowing, and then a good drink of water taken with it. It should not be forgotten that anything that may bite or irritate the membrane of the mouth will do the same to the mucous membrane of the stomach. Hence bromide tablets should never be taken undissolved. Potassium chlorate tablets dissolved in the mouth or swallowed are dangerous. Potassium chlorate solutions for the mouth and throat are valuable, but there is no justification for ever taking potassium chlorate into the stomach or into the system."—*J. A. M. A.*

REMOVING FASTENED STOPPERS.

Reagent bottles holding caustic alkalies, alkaline carbonates, etc., very frequently become fixed, and the usual method has been to tap the stopper with a wooden block or the application of heat to the neck, or a combination of both. Results are poor in certain cases and often culminate in the fracture of the neck. The inverse process may be used to advantage. In other words, freeze the stopper, thus causing a contraction of the stopper from the neck. The bottles which I used for experiment had failed to open under the heating and tapping, and were bad cases of fixed stoppers. The bottles held sodium carbonate that had formed sodium silicate, an excellent cement, and so were firmly fixed. They were inverted in a mixture of crushed ice and calcium chloride, taking care that the freezing solution did not touch the lips of the bottles. After standing twenty minutes, each stopper was removed without the slightest exertion. This is the neatest and safest way to remove stoppers from bromine bottles and other corrosive chemicals.—*Scientific American.*

SPECIAL ATTENTION

Drug stores (snaps) for sale and trade in 48 states. Drug stores handled. Drug jobs in 48 states. Medical practices furnished and handled. Physicians furnished. Established 1904. Strictly reliable. Gilt edge references. Let me know your wants.

F. V. KNIEST, R. P., Omaha, Nebr.