

Section on Pharmacopœias and Formularies

Papers Presented at the Sixtieth Annual Convention

PLEA FOR ANOTHER SECTION IN THE A. PH. A.*

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Members of this Association are attracted to its meetings by the greatest diversity of motives and interests. New members are drawn toward and into its ranks because of its wide range of usefulness. The groups of interests form a rather varied program covering, as they do, the commercial, legislative, educational, scientific, and manipulative phases in the vocation. Each and all of these interests grow in an atmosphere of sociability, hence the social phase of the organization is by no means the least important in its varied program. Another subdivision, it seems to the writer, would be decidedly advantageous.

If one looks over the printed records of the various sections he will find that there has been a mass of material scattered through them bearing upon the U. S. P. and N. F. It is the writer's opinion that this material is becoming more and more important and vital. Its production should not only be fostered but means should be devised to stimulate and to better systematize the work in this line. Just now, no other work in the association is quite so important. To promote the end suggested a special section on Drug and Formulary standards (or some other appropriate title) might well be created.

There would be invited to such a section an increasing number of contributors, and an increasing breadth of usefulness would follow. Indeed it is the writers's opinion that such a section would become one of the strongest and most useful in the organization. Its main object should be to work along constructive lines bearing upon the general interests of the two publications named, to promote the interest of these two standards in various directions.

How frequently the simile—the Medical Bible—is used to designate the Pharmacopœia? This simile is becoming more and more appropriate because of the fact that so few are familiar with its pages. It is surprising to those who realize the underlying principles of unification, which characterize the aim of the U. S. P. and N. F., in connection with remedial agents, that they do not have a greater reach of influence in the medical profession. The responsibility for the extension of such influence should be in this section taken, and, the work along this line, organized and systematized—its volunteer members would naturally form a group whose work would be continuous from year to year.

I was recently very much impressed with the lack of reach of this influence, when called upon to discuss with a hospital committee a proposed set of hospital

* This Section was subsequently created by Council Resolution.

formulæ. I was the only pharmacist in the company. I soon realized the prevailing lack of appreciation of the two works referred to. Not only was there a manifested vagueness as to the spirit of these commonly accepted standards but there was a prejudice showing itself in a kind of desire to get away from and to be independent of them—an inclination to form a set of combinations “of our own make” as it were. Fortunately, however, by a little persuasion this committee was brought around into a more favorable disposition—to accept these two works as the best standards for a working basis.

Members of a section such as is proposed, would naturally find abundant avenues, such as suggested to extend the reach of its influence. A systematic bureau of diplomacy and a continuous campaign of education such as a section as this would create, would reap an abundant harvest for the benefit of both professions, pharmacy and medicine.

PROGRESS OF THE REVISION OF THE UNITED STATES PHARMACOPOEIA.

JOSEPH REMINGTON, PH. M.

It will doubtless be of interest to the members of the American Pharmaceutical Association to be informed on the present state of the work of the Committee on Revision.

It will be remembered that an Executive Committee of fifteen, chosen by the votes of the General Committee of fifty-one, have immediate charge of the work of revision. The work was divided into fifteen parts and a member of the Executive Committee was chosen as the chairman of each sub-committee. The members of the sub-committee were selected for their special knowledge of the subjects treated by each sub-committee and several are members of several sub-committees. In each case the member was consulted before his appointment, as it was particularly desirable that each member should contribute his share of work to the general fund.

Like every constructive work of this character, which is voluntary, some members have borne a greater share of the work than others. Some are very willing to assume, at the outset, obligations which they cannot fulfill and events proved that the chairmen of the sub-committees have had to proceed without their help. This has thrown a large amount of work upon the chairmen who have had to send in their reports to the Executive Committee after the continuous urging of the general chairman to keep going.

Admissions and Deletions.

Experience has again demonstrated the value of the plan, which was first used in the last revision of the Pharmacopoeia, of culling out the subjects which require little or no revision and starting work upon them. This was particularly