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

the case with the report on admissions and deletions. A preliminary list was sent out for which it was believed a majority of the sub-committee would certainly vote for admission, leaving debatable subjects for later consideration. This enabled the chairman of the Executive Committee to begin the work and give a number of subjects to each sub-committee for a start. From time to time the chairman of the sub-committee on Scope reported lists of other subjects which had obtained a majority of votes for admission and at the last meeting of this Association in Boston, the tentative list was submitted, and, with very few exceptions, has received the general approval of those interested in the Pharmacopoeia. Some of the physicians on the General Committee have vigorously objected to the admission of some of the drugs and preparations found in this list, for it must be understood that a small but active number of physicians believe that only a very limited number of drugs and preparations should be admitted to the Pharmacoepoia. A larger number of the members of the committee desired the admission of drugs and preparations that are used to a large extent in any section of the country.

In the writer's opinion, entirely too much stress has been laid upon this part of the work. Physicians will continue to prescribe unofficial substances as they always have; some even pride themselves upon the fact that they have no use for the Pharmacopoeia and that they do not use such common things as do the general run of practitioners. But the committee have not accepted the view of a skeleton Pharmacopoeia, nor have they approved of a padded one.

While upon this subject, it should be stated that the list has not yet been closed and it is proposed to make a few more additions and deletions.

Patented Products, Synthetics, Etc.

The subject of admitting controlled products, patented, copyrighted, or otherwise monopolized, has been made a subject of debate. This question has always proved a stumbling-block in previous revisions and the question is more important today because of the immense number of such products now in general use. Manufacturers and their agents have been very active in insisting upon their legal rights in protecting their property. Physicians have been luke-warm and the majority insist on prescribing anything which they believe will aid their patients to recover health.

The great difficulty is the practical one of introducing into the Pharmacopoeia any substance over which there can be no control of identity and purity. The Pharmacopoeia might introduce a controlled product under its name or a new name, but of what use would be the official tests? The manufacturer could at will alter his product in some way, by changing its color or in some other unimportant particular. The National and State Food and Drug Acts would, of course, recognize the official preparation, but it could not be had in the market and it would be taking up valuable space. The manufacturers almost to a unit declare that they do not care whether the Pharmacopoeia admits their products or not. Naturally they do not care to have any authorized supervision over their property and so long as their sales are not interfered with, they do not want to be hampered in any way.

Our courts have recognized proprietary rights in medicines and the introduction of controlled products would amount to an advertisement showing that such and such a product had found favor in the sight of the Committee of Revision. The complications would be endless. There would probably be two kinds of the same preparation on the market—the manufacturers' and the official. A physician prescribing such a preparation might have the manufacturers' product in mind; the pharmacist might have in stock only the official.

In cases where the patent has run out on certain largely used synthetics, for instance, Phenacetin, the difficulty has been met by introducing the substance under a different name, but many of the largely used synthetics are sold under patents which are still alive. It would seem that the only solution would be to have an agreement with the manufacturer, firm or corporation controlling the product, but this would be of doubtful utility and would only obtain in a very few cases. The manufacturer would not care to imperil any of his right to exclusive manufacture. Where a patent will run out within a year or a comparatively short time, he might be willing, for the sake of the advertisement and to increase his sales somewhat, particularly in view of a competing preparation which was supplanting the older product.

Nomenclature.

The subject of Nomenclature has been settled by the Executive Committee on the following basis:

"That changes in the titles of articles at present official be made only for the purpose of insuring greater accuracy, brevity or safety in dispensing, and that in the case of newly admitted articles titles be chosen which are in harmony with general usage and convenient for prescribing, the scientific name being given at least as a synonym in the case of chemicals of a definite composition.

"That in stating the strength of acids in the U. S. P. they be stated in such terms as Hydrogen Chloride, HCl, 'absolute hydrochloric acid'; Hydrogen Phosphate, H_3PO_4 'absolute orthophosphoric acid'; Hydrogen Acetate, CH_3COOH, 'absolute acetic acid', etc."

It is not likely that there will be any serious objection to continuing the present style of Latinization so that it would affect the labels at present in use throughout the country. The experience of 1906 and 1907 of manufacturers, wholesale druggists, retail druggists, and physicians when the Food and Drugs Act went into effect is one long to be remembered. Many thousands of dollars worth of labels had to be destroyed and the labor, confusion, and loss of money was very great. But it was worth the trouble and the label today has vastly more significance than ever before.

Synonyms.

The subject of synonyms has correspondingly increased in importance. Some druggists seek to evade the official requirements by avoiding an official name and use a name which will permit the sale of the substance without incurring much risk. It is difficult to see how the Pharmacopoeia can cover the field thoroughly because, like when exterminating rats, if one hole is stopped another is sure to be

opened in a new place. There is no question, however, that the list of synonyms in the Pharmacopoeia will have to be increased.

Physical Factors.

The question of stating Solubilities of substances in the Pharmacopoeia has occupied much attention. Of course it would be most desirable to give an exact figure for the solubility of a substance in water, boiling water, alcohol, diluted alcohol, glycerin, ether, choloroform, petroleum benzin, fixed oils, and other solvents. It would also be desirable to introduce a uniform method of taking solubilities. There are physical difficulties, however, which would lead to false figures and the methods of the physical laboratory, which are most accurate, would be entirely unsuited for the use of the pharmacist and physician. For a book like the Pharmacopoeia the latter rarely require a method which necessistates a thermostat or a continuous agitation apparatus or a method which requires a long time to determine the exact solubility. But the principal reason for making an exception and not inserting a uniform method for determining solubilities is that solubilities alone are inconclusive tests for identity or purity. They are useful physical factors within certain ranges, but in view of the abuses which might arise, particularly in legal contests, where solubilities are stated with decimal figures and because it would be possible to involve honest manufacturers, retail druggists, and others in needless criticism and often unjust accusation, it has been deemed best to state solubilities in rounded figures or by giving a range. It is not proposed to drop the use of figures in stating solubilities, but a statement will be inserted in the introductory notices of the Pharmacopoeia giving the reasons for not regarding solubilities as conclusive tests. This question is, however, open for further consideration.

Melting points, boiling points, and specific gravities do not fall within this category and uniform methods for obtaining these physical factors will doubtless be inserted.

Standard Temperature.

The Executive Committee and General Committee on Revision have voted to retain 25° C. (77° F.) as the standard temperature for specific gravities and other purposes. A table will likely be inserted in the appendix giving corresponding values at 15° C. and 20° C. for official specific gravities.

The work on the Inorganic and Organic Chemicals is nearly completed and this occupies the largest number of pages in the book.

Pharmacognosy and Botany is well advanced. The reports on Galenical Preparations are well in hand. There still remain the editing and the preparing of the final manuscript. This, of course, cannot be done until all of the reports have been passed upon. When this work is completed, printing will begin and publicity will be given to whatever changes have been made in tests and standards.

The following table shows the number of pages of official bulletins, letters and circulars issued by the various sub-committees and committees, the communications from firms, corporations, physicians, pharmacists, scientific bodies, and the

public generally, and the replies thereto are not included in the summary, although they constitute a large amount of correspondence.

SUB-COMMITTEE BULLETINS.

	Pages
No. 1—Scope	288
No. 2—Therapeutics, etc.	156
No. 3—Biological Products, etc.	80
No. 4—Botany and Pharmacognosy	252
No. 5—Inorganic Chemistry	430
No. 6—Organic Chemistry	797
No. 7—Proximate Assays	270
No. 8—Volatile Oils	89
No. 9—Fluid and Solid Extracts	218
No. 10—Waters and Spirits	175
No. 11—Syrups and Elixirs	253
No. 12—Cerates and Ointments	49
No. 13—Miscellaneous Galenicals	121
No. 14—Tables, Weights, etc.	75
No. 15—Nomenclature	...
Executive Committee Letters	1311
General Committee Circulars	596
Total	5165

The text has been reported to the Executive Committee for 500 articles to this date.

GETTING A PERSPECTIVE.

In the drawings and paintings of the Middle Ages the gallant knight on horseback was depicted as directly up against the castle beyond him, whose distance in the perspective was only indicated by the relative sizes of the castle and the knight. We have somewhat similar effects in Chinese decorations. This effect is due to the fact that the artists of the Middle Ages and of China did not understand the value of perspective, nor know how to produce it.

There are engaged in the retail drug business many druggists who, like the artists of the Middle Ages, have no knowledge of the value of perspective. For in business, as in art, the perspective is of the first importance. The average retail druggist is confined to his store for so many hours in the twenty-four, is so burdened with the infinity of detail which is involved in the transaction of his business in little things that he is apt to lose his perspective and fail to catch the public point of view when it comes to selling goods, whether by word of mouth, by written letters or by printed advertisements.

The druggist can help himself toward a proper perspective of his business by sane and helpful recreation, recreation which would take him away from his business among men of other interests and preferably out of doors that his body as well as his mind may be refreshed. We do not counsel any laxity in attention to business on the part of the retailer. At best it is an exacting vocation and pharmacy a jealous mistress, but the druggist who works hard at his calling for six days a week requires for his welfare and his best development, physical, mental and commercial, a seventh day free from the cares of trade and the annoyances of business, while once a year he should have at least a fortnight of change and rest. These vacations will by no means be time wholly lost, for they will aid the druggist to that proper perspective of his business and its relation to the public which is essential to the highest commercial development and will, moreover, prolong as well as increase his usefulness as a business man.—*Am. Druggist.*