

as an index of activity, the measurement appears to be one of ergotoxine + "tyramine" in the case of the Liquid Extract of the British Pharmacopoeia, Kehrer's method, again, if a cat's uterus be used, is apparently a measurement of "ergamine" content only; on the other hand, the isolated guinea-pig's uterus is exquisitely sensitive to ergotoxine as well as to ergamine." It will doubtless be possible by a combination of methods to work out a rational system of ergot standardization when it is once decided which of the principles are therapeutically desirable and in what relative proportions they should occur. What is needed above all for the settlement of this aspect of the ergot-problem is an accumulation of accurate clinical observation with the pure active principles. Meanwhile it may be said that results hitherto available appear to point to the superiority of a preparation containing the three chief active principles in appropriate proportions, as compared with any one of them separately. It should be further remembered that ergotoxine is the only one of them for which ergot is needed. The others are much more easily obtained by synthesis in the laboratory, and it may be assumed that the ideal preparation is one containing a definite quantity of pure ergotoxine from ergot, with the amines added in due amount. A preparation containing 1 mgm. of ergotoxine to 5 mgms. of "Tyramine" and 0.05 mgms. of "Ergamine" has given highly satisfactory results in practice. But pending more decisive clinical information it may be suggested that no one method of standardization can yet claim exclusive value or unquestioned superiority, whatever be its accuracy in determining the proportion of one or more of the active principles.

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#### THE A. PH. A. WOMEN'S SECTION.

At one time in the early history of the A. Ph. A., soon after the dawn of the organization, and long before the day of women's clubs, the members gravely discussed the question of women at annual meetings. It was at the time when Procter and Parrish watched the destinies of the Association. It was finally decided to make the conventions family outings and the practice has grown until now the women equal the men in number. The entertainment program is made up with a view of letting the men attend all the sessions of the Association, but giving the women attention while the men are at work. Somehow many of the members cannot withstand the temptation to leave business and scientific sessions behind and join the women. Perhaps more men would go if official positions did not prevent. It is now proposed to form an A. Ph. A. W. S. and keep the women busy while the men are at work. The council has given its sanction and President Day will name the temporary officers and committees. This organization may result in a program of entertainment so arranged that all will take part at the same time. Some have advocated a post convention entertainment with the president's reception Monday night as the only deflection during the week of meetings.—*Meyer Bros. Druggist.*