

were the first metric ones that had ever been in such close proximity with this particular establishment.

More attention should also be given to the care and preservation of weights. Particularly such as are employed in prescription compounding should be the objects of special care. Such weights should be restandardized as occasion requires, or new ones, which are accurate, procured. I have note of an instance where a drachm weight was the equivalent of only 55.4 grains, and a scruple weight the equivalent of 18 grains. Other such instances are perhaps not at all uncommon.

The authorities all over the country seem to have awakened to the necessity of a more careful supervision and examination of weights and measures employed in ordinary commercial transactions. Here in New York, during the past winter, on occasion of a pure food and drug exposition, the Bureau of Weights and Measures exhibited a very large number of weights, measures and scales, which had been confiscated. In practically every instance gross fraud was being intentionally practiced, and much ingenuity was employed to make the fraudulent practices seem honest.

In conversation with one of the officers in charge of this exhibit, it developed that the pharmacist was about the only one who did not indulge in these fraudulent practices. He stated that he had examined the scales and balances employed in a number of pharmacies, and had found them all standard. In some cases he had discovered a slight deviation in weights, but in no single instance did any evidence of fraud appear. Prof. Johnson, a member of this committee, reports a similar condition for the West.

WAR AS A STIMULUS TO PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.

In the splendid address with which President Taft opened the International Congress of Hygiene and Demography, he made a very significant statement, which contains food for thought. It was this: The greatest impetus preventive medicine has ever received in this country, and perhaps in any country, came from the Spanish-American War. What we have learned concerning the causes of disease and its prevention, as a more or less direct result of that war, has revolutionized sanitary medicine. If we have gained nothing else, the knowledge thus obtained is well worth all that the war cost us.

This is a strong statement—but isn't it true? As a direct result of the Spanish War we have the development of the mosquito-theory of the transmission of yellow-fever; the eradication of yellow-fever from Cuba; the demonstration at Panama of the possibility of eradicating malaria in the tropics *and at home*; the practical solution of the problem of typhoid fever in military camps and the evolution of preventive vaccination against typhoid fever; and a modification of quarantine methods for plague, cholera, smallpox, and all the rest, with wonderful increase in efficiency.—*American Journal of Clinical Medicine*.