

Of General Interest

INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL FEDERATION.

MEETING AT THE HAGUE.

A number of members of the International Pharmaceutical Federation assembled at The Hague on September 24 in order to take part in a series of meetings. The first meeting was held on September 24 at the Hotel Victoria, and among those who had been invited to meet the members were the representatives of the government, Prof. Dr. L. van Itallie, the mayor of The Hague, the chief inspector of public health (Dr. W. P. Ruijsch), the director of the international office (Dr. P. H. Eijkman), the secretary of the international office for medical congresses (Dr. van der Haer), the Board of the Dutch Pharmaceutical Society and The Hague Section of that body. In the absence of the President (Mr. H. L. Q. van Ledden Hulsebosch), the chair was taken by the Vice-President (Mr. R. Schoepp), who welcomed the visitors.

In a brief speech, the Mayor of The Hague said he highly appreciated the fact that The Hague had been chosen as the headquarters of the Federation. The French delegate, Mr. Mouliets, suitably replied on behalf of the foreign delegates. Subsequently a pleasant evening was spent, and on the following morning the guests made a trip to Leiden for the purpose of visiting the pharmaceutical institute of Prof. Dr. L. van Itallie, returning to The Hague at noon, when a special meeting took place.

There were present Prof. Dr. L. van Itallie, Leiden, delegate of the Dutch government; Mr. R. Schoepp, Maastricht, vice-president of the Organizing Committee; Mr. J. J. Hofman, The Hague, General Secretary; Dr. J. F. Suijver, Amsterdam, General Secretary of the Dutch Pharmaceutical Society; Mr. J. Damen, The Hague, Vice-President of The Hague Section of the Dutch Pharmaceutical Society; Mr. G. R. ten Burg, The Hague, Director of the Society of Pharmaceutical Officers of the Army and Navy; Mr. Oscar van Schoor, Antwerp, Secretary of

the Organizing Committee; Mr. V. Haazen, Antwerp, President of the Nationale Pharmaceutique; Dr. A. Schamelhout, General Secretary of the Tenth Congress of Pharmacy, at Brussels; Dr. A. Martin, Mons, Director of the Nationale Pharmaceutique; Mr. L. Mouliets, La Teste de Buch, delegate of the Association Générale des Syndicats Pharmaceutiques de France; Mr. Edmund White, London, Vice-President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain; Mr. H. J. Möller, Copenhagen, Vice-President of the Danmarks Apotheker förening; Prof. Dr. H. Thoms, Berlin, President of the Deutsche Pharmazeutische Gesellschaft and delegate of the Deutsche Apothekerverein and the Oesterreichische Pharmazeutische Gesellschaft; Mr. W. Hoffman, Aachen, Vice-President of the Verband Deutscher Apothcker—the latter being a guest.

The delegates were presented to his Excellency the Secretary for the Home Department, Mr. Th. Heemskerck, who attended the meeting. The following were unavoidably absent: The President, Mr. M. L. Q. van Ledden Hulsebosch; Dr. H. Selzmann, Berlin; Mr. F. Daminet, Brussels; Dr. H. Heger, Vienna; Mr. D. Blumenthal, St. Petersburg; Mr. A. Blomquist, Stockholm; Mr. Jules de Muzsa, Budapest; Mr. D. Nicolau, Bucharest; Mr. Macario Blas y Manada, Madrid; Mr. F. Ferrein, Moscow; Mr. L. G. Toraude, Asnières; Mr. A. Cuerel, Morges; Mr. O. de Koritsansky, Budapest.

A number of telegrams and letters of congratulation were received from several European countries.

The Vice-President (Mr. R. Schoepp, Maastricht) welcomed the delegates, and proposed that a telegram should be sent to her Majesty the Queen of Holland. The Home Secretary then addressed the meeting, expressing gratification that the Internationale Federation had been established in the Netherlands.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The General Secretary (Mr. J. J. Hofman, The Hague) then read a report relating to

the work which had been done preceding the meeting, which will in due course be published as a brochure. He mentioned that the Dutch government had given not only its financial support, but also had procured all the diplomatic information which was required for this brochure, which contains the rules and regulations of the Federation in French, German, English, Dutch, Hungarian, Italian, Spanish and Esperanto; the votes of the Congress at Brussels, a report of the meeting held in 1911, and would contain the votes of that meeting. It contained also, a list of pharmaceutical societies in different countries and a list of pharmaceutical periodicals published in those countries. The twenty national societies which were members of the Federation represent a number of 26,350 pharmacists. To secure the membership of small societies, it would be advisable to make the entrance to the Federation less difficult for these societies. Membership of the Federation for these societies, for editors of pharmaceutical journals, and other persons interested in the Federation was already possible by nomination as associates, of whom there were already twelve in the Federation. The Board of the Federation was already receiving regularly, in answer to a circular, forty-two periodicals from different countries and also different books and papers, reports of congresses, and the nucleus of an international library on pharmacy.

After Mr. Haazen had expressed his thanks to the Provisional Committee for all the work that had been done, and had expressed the hope that the Federation would apply the motto of the Dutch Government, "Je maintiendrai," Mr. Schoepp opened the meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The Board was then elected as follows: President, Dr. L. van Itallie, Ph. D. (Professor in Pharmacy at the University of Leiden); Vice-Presidents, Dr. H. Martin (Paris), Mr. Edmund White (London), Fr. H. Salzmann (Berlin), Mr. V. Haazen (Antwerp); General Secretary, Mr. J. J. Hofman, The Hague; Assistant Secretaries, Dr. A. Schamelhout (Brussels), and H. J. Möller (Copenhagen). Mr. Schoepp having wished the new Board much success, Dr. L. van Itallie took the chair. The new President thanked the Provisional Committee for the manner in which it had achieved its

work, and especially the President and Secretary, Mr. M. L. Q. van Ledden Hulsebosch and Mr. J. J. Hofman, for their valuable preliminary work.

As the hour was advanced, the meeting adjourned till the following day, and the members were invited to a dinner in the Restaurant des Deux Villes, at which the Home Secretary (Mr. Heemskerck) was present. Many toasts were proposed and honored. Mr. Schoepp proposed a toast to "The Queen," who sent the next morning an acknowledgement to the Committee. The Minister congratulated the Committee on its success, and stated that the Dutch Government had nominated Mr. van Ledden Hulsebosch, President of the Provisional Committee, an officer of the Order of Oranje Nassau.

On Thursday morning, September 26, the meeting was resumed, and the proposals of the delegates of France, Denmark and Sweden were discussed.

THE QUESTION OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Mr. Moullets said he had originally opposed the admission of associates on the ground that he feared that the Federation would obtain an individualistic character in this way. He had since learned that the admission of these associates would not have such influence on the objects of the Federation, because the associates had no vote and would, therefore, agree to the admission of these associates, but proposed that before they were nominated by the Central Committee the advice should be asked of the members of the National Central Committees, and that they should not be admitted if those Committees opposed the admission.

Mr. Moullets then proceeded to explain the reason of the opposition of the Association Générale to the large contribution of societies numerically strong. The proposal of the Association was to reduce the contribution in the following manner: For societies with less than 500 members, 100 frs.; for societies with 500 to 1500 members, 200 frs.; for societies with 1500 to 3000 members, 300 frs.; for societies with 3000 to 5000 members, 400 frs.; for societies with more than 5000 members, 500 frs.; and to lower the number of delegates in proportion. He believed that the advantages to the larger societies would not be so much more in proportion to the smaller societies, and that

the Federation would not entail much more expense in respect of the larger societies than for the smaller ones. Moreover, these larger societies were put to a greater cost in paying for the traveling expenses of their delegates to meetings.

Mr. Edmund White, the delegate from Great Britain, supported Mr. Mouliets. On the other hand, the delegate from the German societies, Dr. Salzmann, as well as Prof. Thoms, expressed the opinion that for the larger societies it was easier to pay a contribution according to the number of their members than for the small societies, and, further, they feared that the influence of the larger societies would become subordinate to the influence of the small societies if their right to appoint delegates in the Central Committee was decreased. Mr. Mouliets proposed to reduce the contribution of the larger societies in 1913, and agreed that for the year 1912 the contribution as fixed by the Provisional Committee should be adopted. Mr. Martin said that it was advisable to have a budget of the expenses of the Federation, and it was proposed to treat this subject at the next meeting, and in the meantime to adopt the rates of contribution as fixed.

The delegates from Denmark and France proposed that a definition should be drawn up of the societies which could be admitted as ordinary members. They were of opinion that only the societies which represent the pharmaceutical profession in their country in the widest sense should be admitted as ordinary members.

Mr. Hoffman, the representative of the Verband Deutscher Apotheker, who attended the meeting as a guest, communicated that his society had as members 20 per cent. proprietors of pharmacies and 80 per cent. pharmacists, who exercised the profession as assistants, etc. All these members have passed their major examination; there was no difference in education and tuition, and in many things their aim was the same—namely, promotion of pharmacy. The Verband also wished to promote the prosperity of the Federation by becoming an ordinary member.

Prof. Thoms replied that he was also of the opinion that they must get a definition in the rules for admission of the national societies, and proposed that in the first place the advice of the national members of the

Central Committee decided as to the admission of a new national society. When there was a society which wished to be admitted to the Federation, if that society was in a country that was not yet represented on the Central Committee, the Board of the Federation had to obtain information about the object and other particulars of such society.

As to the proposition of the delegate of Apothekare Societeten at Stockholm to call the general meetings of the Federation in the month of August, it was decided to accept as a general rule that the general meetings would be held in July, August, or September.

PLACE OF NEXT MEETING.

Dr. Schamelhout invited the Federation in the name of the Belgian societies to hold the next meeting at Ghent, and to organize this meeting so that it would be held immediately before or after the eleventh International Congress of Pharmacy, 1913, at The Hague-Scheveningen. It was decided that a date for the meeting at Ghent should be fixed.

Mr. Haazen and Mr. Mouliets proposed that admission of associates should be encouraged. The Société de Pharmacie d'Anvers and the Confederazione tra le Associazioni di Chimici Farmacisti d'Italia had already sought admission to the Federation as associates, and they hoped that this would soon be followed by other societies.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS AGENCY.

The General Secretary brought forward the suggestion to establish an international press agency. If the Federation nominated its corresponding members in the different countries, those members could send monthly reports of all facts relating to pharmacy to the Board, and then this collection of facts could be sent monthly from the office to the editors to consider what facts of international interest would be desired. The members of this international press office would be the editors of the papers who are associates, and who send their periodicals to the Board of the Federation. This proposal was supported by Prof. Thoms, and will be considered by the Board.

PHARMACEUTICAL NOMENCLATURE.

From Mr. Caswell A. Mayo was received a letter in which he brought to the notice of the Board the decisions of the Pharmaceutical Section of the Congress of Applied

Chemistry, and submitted the following resolution based thereon:

"WHEREAS, There is a notable lack of uniformity in the nomenclature adopted by the several Pharmacopocias throughout the world, and

"WHEREAS, The multiplication of extra Pharmacopocial titles of medicinal substances continues with increasing rapidity, and

"WHEREAS, Many of these titles simulate either in spelling or sound the titles of wholly dissimilar substances, and

"WHEREAS, Such similarity is a constant menace to the safety of the public, tending to cause errors in dispensing; therefore, be it

Resolved, By the International Pharmaceutical Federation, that steps should be taken to bring about the establishment of an International Committee on Pharmaceutical Nomenclature, with a view to the adoption of a uniform Pharmaceutical nomenclature throughout the world, and to prevent, as far as possible, the adoption of titles of similar sound or spelling for medicinal substances, whether of a proprietary character or not. And be it further

Resolved, That the President of the Federation appoint a committee of five members, whose duty it shall be to bring these regulations before the various national pharmaceutical organizations throughout the world and invite these bodies to appoint similar committees to confer with this committee with a view to elaborating plans for the creation of a permanent International Commission on Pharmaceutical Nomenclature."

This communication was referred to the General Committee.

After votes of thanks the meeting adjourned.

In the afternoon the members assembled at a farewell lunch in the Hotel Victoria.



THE U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

On August 14 President Taft set his signature to an act of Congress which changes the name of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service to the Public Health Service, and also defines and materially en-

larges the functions of the service. Substantial increases are likewise made in the salaries of the principal officers.

The act reads as follows:

"An Act to change the name of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service to the Public Health Service, to increase the pay of officers of said service, and for other purposes.

"That the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service of the United States shall hereafter be known and designated as the Public Health Service, and all laws pertaining to the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service of the United States shall hereafter apply to the Public Health Service, and all regulations now in force, made in accordance with law for the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service of the United States shall apply to and remain in force as regulations of and for the Public Health Service until changed or rescinded. The Public Health Service may study and investigate the diseases of man and conditions influencing the propagation and spread thereof, including sanitation and sewage and the pollution either directly or indirectly of the navigable streams and lakes of the United States, and it may from time to time issue information in the form of publications for the use of the public.

"Sec. 2. That beginning with the first day of October next after the passage of this act the salaries of the commissioned medical officers of the Public Health Service shall be at the following rates per annum: Surgeon general, six thousand dollars; assistant surgeon general, four thousand dollars; senior surgeon, of which there shall be ten in number, on active duty, three thousand five hundred dollars; surgeon, three thousand dollars; passed assistant surgeon, two thousand four hundred dollars; assistant surgeon, two thousand dollars; and the said officers, excepting the surgeon general, shall receive an additional compensation of ten per centum of the annual salary as above set forth for each five years' service, but not to exceed in all forty per centum; provided, that the total salary, including the longevity increase, shall not exceed the following rates: Assistant surgeon general, five thousand dollars; senior surgeon, four thousand five hundred dollars; surgeon, four thousand dollars; provided further, that there may be employed in the Public Health Service such help as may be provided for from time to time by Congress."