

- Walker's Tonic—Dreyfuss, Weil & Co., Paducah, Ky.
 Warner's Stomach Bitters—Warner, Friday & Co., Sioux City, Iowa.
 Webb's A No. 1 Tonic—Webb's Co-Operative Co., Sacramento, Cal.
 Westphalia Stomach Bitters—E. R. Behlers, St. Louis, Mo.
 White Cross Bitters—V. Gautier, New York City.
 White's Dyspepsia Remedy—W. L. White & Co., Louisville, Ky.
 *Will Do—The Will Do Co., Detroit, Mich.
 Williams's Kidney Relief—Parker, Blake & Co., New Orleans, La.
 *Wine of Chenstohow—Skarzynski & Co., Buffalo, N. Y.
 *Wine of Pomelo, with Beef and Iron—Irondequoit Wine Co., Rochester, N. Y.
 Woodbury Brand Bitters—Steinhart Bros. & Co., New York City.
 Zeman's Medicinal Bitter Wine—B. Zeman, Chicago, Ill.
 Zien Stomach Bitters—Zien Bros., Milwaukee, Wis.
 Zig-Zag—Walker's Tonic Co., Paducah, Ky.
- ROYAL E. CABELL, Commissioner.

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LEGISLATIVE BODIES WHICH WILL HOLD SESSIONS IN 1913.

- Sixty-second United States Congress, Dec. 2, 1912, to March 4, 1913.
 Sixty-third United States Congress, March 4, 1913.
- Arkansas, Jan. 13 1913; 60 days session.
 California, Jan. 1, 1913; no limit.
 Colorado, Jan. 1, 1913; no limit.
 Connecticut, Jan. 8, 1913; no limit.
 Delaware, Jan. 7, 1913; 60 days session.
 Florida, April 2, 1913; 60 days session.
 Georgia, June 25, 1913; 50 days session.
 Hawaii, Feb. 13, 1913; 90 days session.
 Idaho, Jan. 6, 1913; 60 days session.
 Illinois, Jan. 4, 1913; no limit.
 Indiana, Jan. 5, 1913; 60 days session.
 Iowa, Jan. 13, 1913; no limit.
 Kansas, Jan. 14, 1913; 50 days session.
 Maine, Jan. 1, 1913; no limit.
 Massachusetts, Jan. 3, 1913; no limit.
 Michigan, Jan. 2, 1913; no limit.
 Minnesota, Jan. 3, 1913; 90 days session.
 Missouri, Jan. 8, 1913; 70 days session.
 Montana, Jan. 6, 1913; 60 days session.
 Nebraska, Jan. 7, 1913; 60 days session.
 Nevada, Jan. 20, 1913; 60 days session.
 New Hampshire, Jan. 1, 1913; no limit.
 New Jersey, Jan. 7, 1913; no limit.
 New York, Jan. 1, 1913; no limit.
 North Carolina, Jan. 9, 1913; 60 days session.
 North Dakota, Jan. 7, 1913; 60 days session.
 Ohio, Jan. 6, 1913; no limit.
 Oklahoma, Jan. 3, 1913; 60 days session.

- Oregon, Jan. 8, 1913; 40 days session.
 Pennsylvania, Jan. 17, 1913; no limit.
 Porto Rico, Jan. 6, 1913; 60 days session.
 Rhode Island, Jan. 7, 1913; 60 days session.
 South Carolina, Jan. 14, 1913; 40 days session.
 South Dakota, Jan. 3, 1913; 60 days session.
 Tennessee, Jan. 2, 1913; 75 days session.
 Texas, Jan. 14, 1913; 60 days session.
 Utah, Jan. 13, 1913; 60 days session.
 Washington, Jan. 8, 1913; 60 days session.
 West Virginia, Jan. 8, 1913; 45 days session.
 Wisconsin, Jan. 11, 1913; no limit.
 Wyoming, Jan. 10, 1913; 40 days session.



A LETTER FROM DR. SCHELENZ.

Cassel, Germany, Oct. 4, 1912.
 Prof. J. H. Beal, General Sec'y A. Ph. A.

Dear Sir: The American Pharmaceutical Association has shown me great honor in my election to honorary membership. I enjoy the distinction heartily and extend my sincere thanks for this great honor. It is quite a satisfaction and pleasure to me that at that distance my work in pharmacy, of which profession I am proud to be a member, has found such honorable recognition. The Association may rest assured that this will encourage me for the rest of my life to exert myself in like manner.

I beg you to extend my heartiest regards to the American Pharmaceutical Association, the true representative of American Pharmacy.

Yours sincerely,
 HERMANN SCHELENZ.

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CRITICIZES DR. FANTUS' VIEWS

Cleveland, O., Nov. 13, 1912.
 Dear Mr. Editor:
 Dr. Bernard Fantus in the November issue of THE JOURNAL, under the heading of "How Some Doctors View the U. S. P. and N. F. Propaganda," raises some interesting questions.
 He at least gives one the impression that a little commercialism as well as altruism is

prevalent among our brothers of the medical profession. I know it is not the desire of the pharmacist who carries on propaganda work to impose any therapeutic ideas upon the physician, his intention being to give the therapeutic properties of the preparation and no more, for even with our advancement in medical education, we find many physicians woefully ignorant of chemistry and pharmacy. Consequently, many of them may not appreciate that when certain substances are combined, an entirely different chemical compound results, having distinct therapeutic action.

Regarding pleasant administration, would it be possible to speak of this without reference to therapeutics? I wonder if physicians take such serious exception to the host of therapeutic information heaped upon them by the manufacturers of proprietary preparations. I feel that they do not, since the physician has no other means of knowing the therapeutic action of many preparations, and as they are constantly being prescribed by many of our most ethical physicians, it stands to reason that the detail man or the literature has made an impression.

Regarding counter-prescribing and code of ethics, this bug-bear can be laid with a single blow. In fourteen years' active practice in the retail drug business, I have never had occasion to practice, neither have I known a pharmacist who indulged in the practice of counter-prescribing.

There is in every city or town, one pharmacist, at least, who will not counter-prescribe. I think that the physicians might add to their code of ethics, that this man be given their patronage and also that they will avoid as much as possible the prescribing of proprietary preparations, stocking the pharmacists' shelves with row after row of bottles from which two to four ounces of preparation has been used.

It is also annoying to have to send a patient suffering from a progressive disease to the physician each time they call to have a prescription refilled, only to receive an order from the physician to refill original, and then have the patient take his patronage to a less ethical man.

Herein I feel the physician shows his commercial instinct.

The heads of every house manufacturing remedies for the prevention of disease, are made up of pharmacists and it is ever the effort of the practical pharmacist to keep

such goods in good condition and to bring the price within the range of the persons who need them most.

While conditions are far from perfect, still I feel that we are making earnest efforts and great strides to bring about ideal conditions. And, reviewing the propaganda work as a whole, know that it also presents an altruistic side.

T. BERNARD TANNER.

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THE A. PH. A. HOME IDEA FAVORABLY RECEIVED.

Boonville, Mo., Nov. 11, 1912.

Dr. J. H. Beal,
Scio, Ohio.

Dear Doctor:

Your editorial in the last JOURNAL is timely and was a splendid one. A home for the A. Ph. A. proceedings and other matter should be established. Already too much valuable material has been lost for the lack of such a repository. Such a project provides a splendid object toward which our surplus energies can be directed, and the accomplishment of which will be appreciated by future generations of pharmacists. Set the ball rolling, Doctor!

Frat. yours,

WM. MITTELBACH.

Waynesburg, Pa., Nov. 8, 1912.

Dr. James H. Beal,
Scio, Ohio.

Dear Doctor Beal:

I just received the JOURNAL, and your article, "The Need of an Association Home," expresses my sentiments to the letter. The A. Ph. A. should have a home by all means, in fact, should have had one long ago. I would suggest that each member give as much as he possibly can toward a fund for that purpose. I am willing to give a ten-spot toward such a fund as a starter. Put the thing through—I feel with you at the wheel it can be accomplished. To say the least, it is certainly deserving of every loyal member's support. With kindest regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

JAMES S. GLEGHORN.

Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 15, 1912.

Professor James H. Beal,
Editor Journal of American Pharmaceutical Association.

Dear Professor Beal:

I have read with much interest your admirable editorial upon "The Need of an As-

sociation Home" in the current issue of the JOURNAL. It expressed thoughts I have long had in mind.

In my judgment, the American Pharmaceutical Association will never have that growth and development it can and should have until it has a permanent and properly equipped home.

A home would give the Association greater stability and open the door to larger possibilities. It would promote the objects of the Association, not intermittently, as at present, but continuously, especially along the lines of original scientific research.

Before any movement to establish such a home is started, however, it seems to me that it might be well to decide, tentatively at least, upon the location of the proposed home, and take an account of our resources and liabilities.

This is a big country, and the home should be located in some city reasonably close to the center of population, preferably at one of the great railroad centers of the country, one that can be readily reached by rail from all sections of the country. The plant would need not to be in the costly business part of the city, but in the less expensive residential section.

Your estimate of \$50,000 as the probable cost of the completed structure is reasonable, but if we have to depend simply upon the interest of our permanent funds (which funds amount to \$30,000) together with such appropriations as could be spared from the annual receipts, for money to do research work, the latter would be quite limited in volume.

The best method, it seems to me, would be to enlist the interest of the wealthy philanthropists of the country who give large sums of money to hospitals, in the American Pharmaceutical Association and its scientific work, and secure, if possible, contributions amounting to \$50,000 or more, the same to be held *in trust* by the American Pharmaceutical Association, the interest to be used for the prosecution of pharmaceutical research work.

The Association has \$30,000 available assets. It could buy land and equip a building or buildings for this sum, subject to mortgage, and the interest from the research fund proposed (\$50,000) would yield sufficient income to pay the fixed charges on the property and prosecute research work.

The buildings would be an educational institution, and the city in which they were located would probably be willing to make them tax-free.

The millionaires of this country have given hundreds of thousands of dollars to hospitals. If they could be made to see the *practical* value of research work in pharmacy, in perfecting the tools with which physicians fight disease, and if they could see that every advance in the science and art of pharmacy made the work of hospitals more effective, and meant less pain and less suffering to humanity, I am confident that there would be little hesitancy on their part in promoting pharmaceutical research.

The Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research in New York City, founded by John D. Rockefeller, has done magnificent work for humanity; why not an Institute of Pharmaceutical Research under the auspices of the American Pharmaceutical Association? Such an institution, with its command of the services of the leading pharmaceutical workers of this country, could perform unusual work, and could cooperate with the Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research, and make the work of the latter institution practically effective (i. e. pharmaceutically) with resulting benefit to the medical profession and the public.

The American Pharmaceutical Association has under way a movement to found a William Procter Memorial Fund, with which to create a memorial to William Procter—"The Father of American Pharmacy"—the man who has rendered services of incalculable value to Pharmacy and the American Pharmaceutical Association. The fund now amounts to about \$5000. This is a most worthy movement and should be most heartily supported. But, instead of building a monument in the city of Washington, as has been proposed, why not build with the money a wing of the home suggested, to be known as "the William Procter Memorial Library," or use the interest of the fund to purchase books for such a library, or give fellowship-grants for special research work? Such working applications of the fund would appeal much more to the late William Procter (if he could but know it), with his Quaker instincts, than a monument, which would stand largely for the glorification of himself.

Procter's greatest monument is his monu-

mental work on Pharmacy, and no statue can continue this work; research work only can do so.

The means of American pharmacists are limited, and they have been given most generously in support of American pharmacy. Why not appeal to the millionaires of the country to encourage a work that will be of value to the sick, the suffering and the dying, as long as time shall last?

I am, Very truly yours,
J. W. ENGLAND.

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A CORRECTION NOTED.

New Castle, Pa., November 13, 1912.

Dr. James H. Beal,
Scio, Ohio.

My Dear Doctor:

At the Denver meeting in my address as chairman of the Section on Education and Legislation, I said, "Wisconsin has a pure drug law that relates only to flavoring agents, and specifically sets forth a standard for each one." This is an error and my attention has been directed to it by my good friend Mr. Edward Williams, secretary of the State Board of Pharmacy of Wisconsin, and upon further investigation I find that Wisconsin has a pure drug law covering adulteration, and also permits only of a single standard. This law is enforced by the Dairy and Food Commissioner.

Will you kindly publish this in the JOURNAL in order that Wisconsin may be placed in a proper light, and oblige,

Yours truly,
JOHN C. WALLACE.

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THE PHARMACIST'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR QUALITY.

Philadelphia, Nov. 6, 1912.

Professor J. H. Beal,
General Sec'y A. Ph. A. and Editor of
Journal, Scio, Ohio.

Dear Professor Beal:

Your valued favor of the first instant, addressed to me as President of the Philadelphia Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association, was received. I thoroughly agree with you that if pharmacy ever comes into its own it can only be due to the development of the features which the American Pharmaceutical Association especially represents. It is true that the at-

tempt to develop pharmacy along purely commercial lines has been tried for many years, and has been a failure.

The most important asset possessed by the pharmacist is his professional reputation. It distinguishes him from the petty shopkeeper and raises him to a position of dignity in the community.

The success of the merchant is not only measured by the amount of his business and the money he makes, but by the character of his business. The success of the professional man is measured by his knowledge and skill on which largely depends his commercial success. The pharmacist as a petty shopkeeper is of all merchants the most to be pitied, because of his long hours, great responsibility, and poor financial return. On the other hand, if he obtains a reputation for being an expert in drugs and is known by the medical profession and the public for his knowledge and skill in the selection, preparation, preservation and dispensing of medicines, he ranks in the community as a member of the professional class, not as a merchant or tradesman.

The only way for the pharmacist to obtain and maintain a professional reputation is by placing himself in a position where he can guarantee that the medicines he dispenses in prescriptions and over the counter conform to recognized standards for character, quality and strength. Owing to economic conditions, the pharmacist cannot afford to do his own manufacturing, except to a limited extent. The standardization work necessary for assaying finished products and testing them physiologically, requires special laboratory facilities and time which he cannot afford to spend, and such work cannot be conducted economically except on a large scale. The pharmacist is, therefore, forced by conditions to purchase most of his galenic and chemical preparations from large manufacturing houses.

But this does not lessen his personal responsibility as a professional man. The guarantee of the manufacturer is not sufficient. The moment the products of the manufacturer are opened the manufacturer can no longer be held responsible, either by the pharmacist or by the public. The pharmacist's personal guarantee is, therefore, necessary to the welfare of the community. This guarantee is worthless unless the pharmacist takes the trouble to personally in-

investigate the methods of standardization adopted by the manufacturing houses from which he purchases his supplies. He should not take it for granted that these standardization methods are employed or that proper methods are used, but personally inspect the laboratories and methods of these manufacturing houses with which he is dealing.

When the wide variation in the strength of galenical preparations is considered, and it is realized that tinctures, fluidextracts, extracts, and prescriptions compounded from them may vary in strength to such an extent as to make them useless, on one hand, and dangerous to life on the other, when given in doses prescribed in text-books, the importance of this question of standardization looms up as the most important subject of all that the physician and pharmacist has to consider in relation to the materia medica supply business. Preparations of aconite, digitalis, ergot, and strophanthus vary from 0 to 443 per cent., and variations in strength characterize the preparations of most of our important drugs.

The following table shows the variation in the strength before standardization of some U. S. P. drugs and their preparations assayed during the past year in the Mulford laboratories. By standardization, some of the preparations which showed great variation were made definite in strength and thereby rendered instruments of therapeutic precision, instead of being indefinite and uncertain, as they would have been without standardization. In many cases, however, the drug was discarded as inert.

Drugs and Preparations.	No. of Samples Assayed.	Variation.
Aconite Root	16	83 to 193%
Aconite Root F. E.	7	52 to 266%
Belladonna leaf	33	88 to 187%
Cannabis Indica F. E.	15	40 to 150%
Calabar Bean	5	61 to 143%
Coca leaf	4	142 to 211%
Colchicum Corm.	9	99 to 151%
Digitalis Tinct.	51	30 to 443%
Ergot	10	57 to 253%
Ergot F. E.	17	0 to 310%
Henbane leaf	29	70 to 292%
Gelsemium Tinct.	7	64 to 156%
Hydrastis	15	112 to 194%
Ipecac	17	62 to 150%
Jalap	13	52 to 138%
Nux Vomica	33	74 to 131%
Stramonium leaf	11	76 to 188%
Strophanthus Tinct.	12	55 to 277%
Squill	13	71 to 153%

It can be readily understood that with such a variation, the physician cannot depend upon obtaining a definite effect from a given dosage unless he prescribes a "standardized" preparation. Suppose, for example, that a druggist who *does not* dispense standardized preparations, fills a physician's prescription, calling for Tr. Digitalis, with a preparation possessing only 30 per cent. of the standard activity. The physician, failing to obtain the desired effect, is required to treble the dosage. In the meantime, the druggist, having replenished his "stock bottle," fills the new prescription with a preparation possessing 443 per cent. of the standard activity. As a result, the patient, instead of receiving a dose possessing therapeutically three times the activity, receives one possessing fifteen (14.7) times the activity of the dose first prescribed.

Variability in the strength of crude drugs has long been a matter of common knowledge and many efforts have been made to standardize them by chemical and physiological methods. But the enormous variability in the pharmacodynamic power and therapeutic usefulness of finished preparations, even though made from assayed and physiologically tested drugs, is a surprising discovery. It was supposed that preparations made from assayed drugs was all that was necessary, but it is now known that the methods of preparation must be taken into account to secure uniformity, and finished products must be standardized to insure their effectiveness as therapeutic agents.

It is advocated by some that galenical preparations shall be substituted by alkaloids and other active principles. While principles are all right in their way, yet they cannot take the place of preparations of the entire drug, as they do not possess the same physiological and therapeutic effects. Morphine cannot take the place of opium, atropine of belladonna, or aconitine of aconite, and the same applies to the preparation of all medicinal plant drugs. Therefore, the only true solution to medicinal plant therapy must be found in the proper selection, preservation and preparation of the medicinal plants themselves, and the proper standardization of the finished products.

I am presenting your letter and my reply to the Philadelphia Branch that the same may appear in the proceedings. This will give an opportunity to bring the entire sub-

ject before the Association for discussion in the pages of the JOURNAL, and I hope that the question of personal responsibility of the pharmacist as a professional man in his relation to the community may be seriously considered before it is too late. As you have stated in your letter, while the exercise of sound commercial practice is, of course, indispensable to business success, commercialism alone cannot save the pharmacist from extinction.

Very truly yours,
F. E. STEWART, PH. G., M. D.,
President Philadelphia Branch A. Ph. A.

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ARE DRUGGISTS PAYING ATTENTION TO DETERIORATION OF DIGITALIS PREPARATIONS?

Chicago, October 30, 1912.

To the Editor:

I have gleaned here and there a few pointers on the various preparations of digitalis and conclude that the leaves should be obtained fresh every year after the crop has been gathered. The best, so far as I know, are put up by an English firm, Stafford & Sons, and are physiologically standardized. The infusion should be made fresh from day to day and not kept on hand even though it does contain 10 per cent alcohol. Our present tincture deteriorates about 10 per cent per annum. If a higher percentage of alcohol were used, say 70 per cent, there would be little or no loss in active principles.

The powdered extract deteriorates about 8 per cent per annum. This article is one, I think, apt to be overlooked and in such cases would no doubt be a very great detriment to the patients.

WM. GRAY.

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DIASTASE CLUB SOUVENIR.

There were distributed among those present at the Denver meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association a little reprint of the constitution and by-laws of the Diastase Club, an organization made famous by the late Prof. C. S. N. Hallberg. The constitution and by-laws constitute a unique document, drawn in Hallberg's drollest style, which is perhaps the most appropriate souvenir of an organization that automatically

underwent a radical change of nature when Hallberg's spirit fled.

These reprints were made by Francis B. Hays, 100 William street, New York, who will mail one free of charge, as long as the limited supply holds out, to any druggist who sends a request for the same and encloses a stamp. There is no advertising of any kind on the pamphlet.

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THOMAS F. MAIN.

Honorary President of the A. Ph. A.

Few men are as widely known in pharmaceutical circles as the subject of this sketch—Thomas Francis Main—who was elected honorary president of the American Pharmaceutical Association at the recent meeting in Denver.

Mr. Main is of English birth. He came to this country in early youth, entered the drug business, and matriculated as a student of the New York College of Pharmacy while employed in the retail department of Tarrant & Co., graduating with the class of 1871. He remained head of the retail department of Tarrant & Co. for several years, and organized its pharmaceutical laboratory. Later, he

traveled for the concern for a number of years, covering territory in New Jersey, Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. In 1876, he bought an interest in a pharmacy located at New Britain, Conn., which was conducted for two years under the firm name of Thompson & Main.

In 1878 he bought an interest in Tarrant & Co., and re-entered its employ as general superintendent. Later, he became its president, and on the formation of The Tarrant Co., to succeed Tarrant & Co., he became the president and treasurer of the new company.

Mr. Main has been especially active in the wholesale and manufacturing interests of pharmacy. He became a member of the National Wholesale Druggists' Association in 1883 and has had a potent voice in the direction of its activities ever since, serving on numerous committees and as its president in 1894-95.

In his annual address as president of the N. W. D. A., Mr. Main said, with reference to the work of the National Wholesale Druggists' Association: "Our National Wholesale Druggists' Association has been of incalculable benefit to its members in the correction of trade abuses, and in the cultivation of an era of friendly competition. Its achievements in the past are matters of record; its future is in your hands, and will be whatever you choose to make it. At the beginning of my term I ventured to remind you that the honor of the Association was in the keeping of the individual members. If in the future the individual member bears this in mind and governs his actions accordingly, if the Association as a whole fearlessly grapples with the problems of trade that confront it from time to time, if freedom of discussion prevails and united action follows, and if in acting the individual is willing to waive somewhat his individual interest for the common good, then this Association may expect to retain its present proud position as the leading trade organization of America."

These were his ideals for the National Wholesale Druggists' Association, and he has labored in season and out of season to promote them. He was chairman of the Committee on Fire Insurance of the N. W. D. A., in 1903-4 and 1904-5; his report of the latter year containing a "list of hazardous drugs with suggestions as to handling and storage;" "hints on how to best handle a drug house so as to properly extinguish a fire if one oc-

curred," and "how to organize a fire brigade in an individual warehouse." In 1906-10 he was chairman of the special committee of this organization on standards and tests of the U. S. P. and N. F.

Mr. Main has taken a deep interest in his alma mater, becoming a member of the New York College of Pharmacy in the early '70s, and serving it in the capacity of trustee or other officer ever since. He was one of the founders of the Alumni Association of this college; has served as its treasurer and president, and attended the meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association held in Cleveland in 1872 as a delegate from the Alumni Association, at which time he became a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

For the past forty years, Mr. Main has been a faithful and loyal member of the American Pharmaceutical Association and a frequent attendant of its annual meetings. He recognizes the fact that the Association stands for the highest ideals in American Pharmacy, and represents the interests, not only of retail druggists, but also of all pharmaceutical workers, and has striven in every way to advance the work of the Association into ever widening fields of usefulness.

He early recognized the mutuality of interests between the N. W. D. A. and the A. Ph. A., and in an address delivered before the annual meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1886, as a representative of the National Wholesale Druggists' Association, he said:

"As you are well aware, between individual members of both Associations, there exist certain intimate relations, and there seems to me to be no reason why the relations between the two Associations should not be very fraternal and close, inasmuch as I find in the articles of your Constitution that one of your principal aims is to regulate the drug markets, to prevent the importation of poor drugs, and to expose sophistication and adulteration. On these grounds both Associations can join hands. I can assure you, in looking after and in elevating the standards of drugs you will be heartily supported by the members of our Association. I have wondered whether the members of this Association realize how the standards of quality in the drug market are regulated by your own demands. If the members of the pharmaceutical profession demand high grades of drugs, the

drug market will most certainly respond; if, on the other hand, they demand goods of low quality, they will certainly get them; but in all your efforts to obtain a high grade of goods and prevent adulterations, you may be sure our Association will most heartily support you and act hand in hand with you."

Personally, Mr. Main is a broad-gauged man of business whose extended experience and sound judgment has ever been at the command of his friends and the organizations with which he has been connected. Genial and most courteous in his relations with his fellow men, he has strong opinions, and yet is most tolerant of the opinions of others. He values character above the dollar, and the hundreds of friends of "Tom Main," as they love to call him, will wish him many, many years of unalloyed happiness and success.

J. W. E.

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HENRY W. MERRITT,
President of the National Association of
Retail Druggists.

Henry W. Merritt, president-elect of the National Association of Retail Druggists, was born in 1873, at Plains, a suburb of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., where he still makes his home and conducts an up-to-date drug store.

His education was obtained in the public schools of Wilkes-Barre, in a commercial

school, and in a state normal school. He has been an active member of the Pennsylvania State Pharmaceutical Association, and for a number of years president of the Luzerne County, Pa., Druggists' Association.

Like many others who have gained celebrity in pharmacy, his introduction into the drug business was more or less of an accident. His father having taken a drug store as the result of a business deal, young Merritt went into the store to look after his father's interests. This connection gradually lengthened into an apprenticeship, which resulted finally in his becoming a registered pharmacist.

The interest which he manifested in the work of the National Association of Retail Druggists resulted in his election to the Executive Committee of that Association, and the value of the work he did in this capacity eventuated naturally in his election to the presidency at the Milwaukee convention.

The esteem in which he is held by his fellow citizens is illustrated by the following, which is clipped from a Wilkes-Barre newspaper:

"He is a firm believer in the uplift of humanity and his voice and pen are ever ready to take up any crying need. His creed is to do something good for somebody else, and his philosophy of life incorporates the same tenets. An illustration of Mr. Merritt's never shirking an obligation was manifested in the local courthouse two weeks ago. He was drawn on a common pleas jury. Several business men asked to be excused and were accorded the privilege, but Mr. Merritt did not. With fourteen and sixteen hours of work ahead of him each day, it was a difficult matter to keep his desk clear and sit for two weeks listening to monotonous civil trials.

"He was found at his desk by a late traveler long after midnight, at his private work, and explained that his days spent on the jury were retarding his pressing business needs. 'Why don't you get excused as some others?' His reply was characteristic. 'Well, you see,' he answered, 'serving on the jury is a duty that every man owes once a year if called upon to perform; and it is only a small effort in comparison with the immeasurable benefits one derives from living in this great country of ours. No, I don't see how I could conscientiously shift that work to other shoulders.'

"Few communities can boast of citizens more worthy or more devoutly interested in

all that makes for the welfare of its people than Henry W. Merritt."

The N. A. R. D. is to be congratulated upon its wisdom in selecting as its standard-bearer a man so well calculated by his disposition and energy to lead that association to still greater achievements.

Proceedings of the Local Branches

"All papers presented to the Association and its branches shall become the property of the Association, with the understanding that they are not to be published in any other publication than those of the Association, except by consent of the Committee on Publication."—By-Laws, Chapter X, Art. III.

Reports of the meetings of the Local Branches should be mailed to the editor on the day following the meeting, if possible. Minutes should be *plainly* written, or type-written, with wide spaces between the lines. Care should be taken to give proper names correctly, and manuscript should be signed by the reporter.



PITTSBURGH BRANCH.

The Pittsburgh Branch held a very interesting session Friday evening, November 8, for the first time since the election, nearly two years ago, without having President Andrew Campbell, of Greensburg, with his hand on the tiller. Dr. Louis Saalbach, first vice-president, however, guided the craft safely over the shoals of parliamentary usages very satisfactorily. Mr. Campbell thoughtfully sent his regrets that he could not possibly arrange to be present.

Dr. F. J. Blumenschein, chairman of the Committee on Practice, called attention to the dangers involved in the handling of bottles and other containers brought into the pharmacy for refilling from the presence of patients suffering from ailments the nature of which are not known to the dispenser, thereby subjecting him to the possibility of being infected with dangerous disease germs. During the discussion aroused by this statement Dr. Emanuel suggested that the chances were so remote as to be scarcely worthy of serious consideration. B. E. Pritchard, however, cited two instances of local occurrence within the past few years in which death had

resulted from diseases that had been incurred as a result of the practice. One of these being due to smallpox, the other to scarlet fever, which served to give the warning-note sounded by Dr. Blumenschein a more serious ring. The discussion was joined in by Mr. O'Brien and Drs. Koch and Wurdack. Continuing, Dr. Blumenschein said: "Particularly is there necessity for caution when immediately after the refilling of a prescription for gonorrhoea or syphilis, an eye lotion should follow, as sometimes happens, in which event the evil results go further than to the dispenser only." Recent unfortunate happenings have served to call marked attention to the need for especial care being observed in the handling of medicines with closely synonymous names. The numerous creolin preparations, too, were given consideration in Dr. Blumenschein's talk because of the fact that they are so freely dispensed in the drug store, and are not looked upon as being dangerous drugs; in fact one of the most widely exploited preparations of this class, viz: Creolin-Pearson, bears a label conspicuously displayed containing the words "Non-Poisonous." Mr. Young said there are cases on record of deaths traced to the misuse of the latter preparation. The outcome of this discussion was the adoption of a resolution, introduced by Dr. Emanuel and supported by Dr. Koch, instructing the secretary to communicate with the distributors of Creolin-Pearson, calling attention to the erroneous practice of labeling it non-poisonous.

Referring to the query concerning the permanence and availability of the U. S. P. Syrup of Hypophosphites, Dr. Blumenschein held that the content of water present is too great and should be reduced, as that is the cause for its non-keeping quality.

Dr. F. A. Judd delivered a very instructive discourse upon the subject, "The Constituents of Aspidium and Ergot." Dr. Judd dwelt largely upon the difficulties involved by the confusion in the nomenclature of the constituents of the two drugs, and brought out many instances tending to show the necessity for a clearing of the atmosphere surrounding the subject matter pertaining to these remedies as found in our literature. The subject was discussed by Drs. Emanuel, Koch and Blumenschein. The latter suggested that most of the literature upon these drugs was to be found in the writeups ac-