

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to the Association and its branches shall become the property of the Association, with the understanding that they are not to be published in any other publication than those of the Association, except by consent of the Committee on Publication."—By-Laws, Chapter X, Art.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

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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-

companying the products of manufacturing pharmaceutical houses in the exploiting of their own preparations, which, he said, serves to lead up to the importance of our getting back to Galen in our teachings and leave the proprietaries, which are the chief cause of the discordant conditions noted, go hang, which summing up of the situation was unanimously commended.

The closing hour of the evening's session was given over to the exploitation of "Plants Yielding U. S. P. Drugs Found in Allegheny County," by Dr. J. H. Wurdack, who exhibited more than forty varieties, all of which were of his own gathering during numerous botanizing excursions throughout the vicinity of Pittsburgh. Dr. Wurdack's intimate knowledge of his subject was a surprise to his audience, and his talk was most interestingly instructive. Dr. Wurdack said, "druggists should give more attention to this method of securing diversion, as he knew of nothing more interesting than occasional botanizing trips into the country.

These Branch meetings are held at the College of Pharmacy every second Friday evening of each month during the winter and spring, and are intended to give freely to the druggists, their clerks and apprentices, valuable information in connection with their calling. Anyone sufficiently interested to come will find a glad welcome.



NASHVILLE BRANCH.

The Nashville Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association delightfully entertained the druggists of Nashville, together with their wives and sweethearts, with a social get-together-meeting, Thursday evening, November 7, at Bloomstein's Hall on Church street.

The meeting was attended by about sixty people and proved to be one of the most enjoyable meetings of the kind ever held here. Many new links of friendship were formed and a feeling of enthusiasm and good fellowship pervaded the entire meeting.

It is intended that other meetings of this character will be held in the future from time to time in order that the druggists of the city may become better acquainted socially and be better prepared to entertain the 61st annual convention of the American Pharmaceutical Association which will meet here next August.

The following very interesting program was greatly enjoyed:

Introductory remarks by the toastmaster, William R. White.

Piano selection, by Mrs. William R. White.

Address, "The A. Ph. A.," by Dr. J. O. Burge, the local Secretary of the A. Ph. A.

Piano selection, Miss Isabelle Davis.

Address, "Nashville's Debt to the A. Ph. A.," by C. S. Martin, ex-President of the National Wholesale Druggists' Association.

Recitation, by Miss Dorothy Clark.

Short enthusiastic remarks were made by the following members: Dr. E. A. Ruddiman, Professor of Pharmacy at Vanderbilt; M. E. Hutton, member State Board of Pharmacy; E. C. Finch, of Waverly, Tenn., President Tennessee Pharmaceutical Association; J. T. Shannon, Secretary Tennessee Pharmaceutical Association, and Ira B. Clark, Secretary Tennessee Board of Pharmacy.

The remainder of the evening was then devoted to the social features, in which an effort was made to get everybody acquainted. Two courses of dainty refreshments, consisting of ices, fruits, etc., were then served, greatly to the enjoyment of all present.

The regular meeting of the branch was held in Furman Hall at Vanderbilt University at 3 o'clock Nov. 14, with Dr. J. O. Burge in the chair. A very favorable and encouraging report was made by the committee of the entertainment given by the branch to the druggists of the city at Bloomstein's Hall, and it was decided to give another one some time in January or February.

Further plans were discussed for the entertainment of the national convention of the American Pharmaceutical Association, which will meet here next year. Dr. E. A. Ruddiman, chairman of the General Entertainment Committee, appointed the following as chairmen of the sub-committees: Ira B. Clark, membership; M. E. Hatton, finance; Wm. R. White, entertainment.

A communication from the Council of Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association was presented, showing some of the work this body is doing in its propaganda for reform in proprietary medicines and in its efforts for a more rational use of medicines. The communication was very

favorably discussed and their work commended.

The next meeting will be held at the same place, Dec. 12, when abstracts reviewing the year's work in pharmacy will be presented.

W. R. WHITE, Secretary.



NEW YORK BRANCH.

A regular meeting of the New York Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held November 11, with President G. C. Diekman in the chair. The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was omitted. The report of Treasurer Joseph Weinstein was duly received.

With the exception of that of the Committee on the Progress of Pharmacy, no committee reports were presented. Otto Raubenheimer, the chairman of the Committee on the Progress of Pharmacy, gave a number of brief abstracts of articles appearing in recent European pharmacal journals. Among the subjects considered were "Cinchona and Its Galenical Preparations," "The Milk-Curdling Constituent of Salep," "The Manufacture of Santonin in Turkestan," "The Relation of the Chemical Constitution and the Pharmacological Action of Preparations of Antimony," "A New Antidote for Antimony," "Opium and Its Preparations," "Tests of Identity for Tincture of Aloes," "Corks Bleached with Sulphur Dioxide," "Transmutation of Elements," "The Coloring Substance of Egg Yolk," "Milk Preservation with Peroxides," and "The Composition of Oil of Cedar." He also spoke of the necessity of a knowledge of antidotes on the part of the pharmacist and told of a case of poisoning with hydrocyanic acid in which he had successfully used the official antidote for arsenic. Mr. Raubenheimer described briefly some new additions to the *materia medica*.

In discussing the report of Mr. Raubenheimer, J. L. Mayer said that because there is a variability in the results obtained by different operators in assaying opium, due to the difficulty of completely extracting the drug, the *Pharmacopoeia* should not assume that the assay showed the exact morphine content. Mr. Mayer referred briefly to the lectures recently given by Sir William Ramsay in Brooklyn.

Secretary Hugh Craig announced that a meeting of the special committee on the cer-

tification of pharmacies with the conferring committee of the county medical society would be held at an early date. The secretary also read a communication from J. H. Beal, the general secretary of the parent organization, in which the branch was reminded that it was benefitted by any efforts put forward by its members to increase the membership of the Association.

Mr. Raubenheimer announced that under the guidance of Prof. William Mansfield, botanical excursions would be conducted every other Sunday. All were invited to join.

Dr. Eugen Unna delivered a short but interesting address on "The Physiological and Chemical Properties of Potassium Chlorate." Chiefly this had to do with opposition which had been voiced by Dr. Prince, of St. Louis, against the use of potassium chlorate in buccal medication, in which it was contended that the salt was not a specific for stomatitis, caused bleeding of the gums, exerted no oxidizing bactericidal effect, and might through its absorption into the blood, act as a systemic poison.

Opposition of a similar sort arose in Germany and Europe generally, several years ago, said the speaker, and had been settled by the investigations of Kroner, Levine, Binz, Bachem and others. These investigators, continued the speaker, showed that only about 4 per cent. of the chlorate was left in the mouth after the use of a gargle or mouth wash containing the salt, that this was reduced by the buccal bacteria with the liberation of the oxygen, that susceptibility to the poisoning effect of the chlorate is an idiosyncrasy, as the salt is naturally absorbed very slowly; that the cumulative effect was negligible; and that only after long-continued use internally was there any untoward effect upon the kidneys.

Dr. Nodine, a dentist, in discussing Dr. Unna's remarks, said that the views of Dr. Price were not shared by very many of the leaders in the dental profession, although Buckley, in the latest edition of his work on dental surgery, advises caution in the use of dentifrices containing potassium chlorate. In a work by Blain, with whom Dr. Price collaborated, the use of the chlorate in stomatitis was, according to the speaker, advised. Dr. Nodine stated that as much as 740 grains of potassium chlorate had been taken in thirteen hours without untoward effect, yet he did not

wish to be considered as thinking the salt entirely harmless.

Messrs. Lascoff, McElheine, Raubenheimer, Oates, and Niece joined in the discussion of Dr. Unna's address. None of the speakers was of the opinion that the use of potassium chlorate in gargles, mouth washes and the like, was dangerous.

Adjournment was taken at 12:20 o'clock until December 9.

HUGH CRAIG, Sec'y.



CITY OF WASHINGTON BRANCH

The regular November meeting of the local branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held Wednesday, November 13, at the National College of Pharmacy.

In the absence of President Flemer, Dr. Lyman F. Kebler, the vice-president, presided. Communications from the president of the Association and from the general secretary were read, received and commented upon.

Dr. S. L. Hilton then presented and read a paper on "The Habit-forming Drugs," and pointed out very clearly the necessity for further legislation to regulate interstate commerce with regard to morphine, cocaine, and other habit-forming drugs. He also pointed out the alarming increase in the manufacture and sale of heroin and codeine and other products of a similar nature, such as dionin, etc. The adequacy of the District of Columbia law was clearly shown, Mr. Hilton stated, by the holdings of the police court in this District wherein it has been decided that heroin is a salt or derivative of morphine, and, therefore, its sale without a prescription is prohibited.

A very interesting discussion relative to the conditions existing in various states with regard to the sale of narcotics then followed.



BALTIMORE BRANCH.

The regular monthly meeting of the Branch was held on Thursday evening, November 21, 1912, at the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty Hall. In view of the importance of the address of the evening, invitations were sent to all the retail, wholesale and manufacturing pharmacists of the city, and the attendance was very gratifying.

President Kelly in opening the meeting, welcomed those who were not members and said that he could not forego the opportunity

afforded to remind them of the great work which the A. Ph. A. had done and was doing for pharmacy, and to urge them to assist in this work at least to the extent of joining. No one should wait for a personal invitation and the Membership Committee only asked for an opportunity to present their claims. He regretted that American Pharmacy was not unified in one great national association but until it is every one connected with the profession in any way should feel it a privilege as well as a duty to support those associations at least, in which he is interested.

He explained that the officials of the Branch felt that the meeting could not be devoted to a more important or interesting subject than that on which Dr. Caspari, the Food and Drug Commissioner of Maryland, had kindly volunteered to address them, "The Condition of Pharmaceutical Products as He Had Found Them in the State and the Requirements of the Laws in Relation Thereto," and introduced the speaker.

Dr. Caspari said that the Maryland Food and Drug Law had now been in effect for more than two years and that the Board of Health of Maryland, who are charged with the enforcement of the law had so far attempted to conduct an educational campaign in collecting and examining only simple preparations and in dealing with those whose products were found illegal in only calling them before the Referee Committee of the Board for explanation and to be warned against repeated infractions of the law. The Board now felt that after this long period of preparation, their duty to the public demanded that in the future, repeated violation of the law should be punished more severely. To be charged with a criminal offence was a serious matter and he was glad of this opportunity to explain the conditions to pharmacists frankly.

While he was glad also to repeat his previous statement that in not one instance had it been shown that fraud was intended or was for pecuniary gain, it must be remembered that the law was for the protection of the consumer and that consequently, excuses for illegal product could not be accepted indefinitely on the ground of educating the seller. His experience as a pharmacist and as the Commissioner had convinced him that there was no valid excuse for a pharmacist who in the future sold illegal goods for it had been shown that they could be satisfac-

tortily made by the official processes and that those which the pharmacist was not equipped to make could be easily purchased of legal standard. If satisfactory articles could either be easily made or purchased there must be some reason for the considerable percentage of illegal preparations so far found as was shown by a list of them which he read and it behooved the pharmacist to find the reason promptly and to as promptly remedy it. The percentage of unsatisfactory products had decreased due, he was sure, to the desire of the average pharmacist to comply fully with the requirements of the law and to the educational policy of the Board of Health, but there was still ground for considerable improvement.

The majority of those called before the Referee Committee, he was sorry to say, had given all manner of excuses and but few were honest enough with themselves to admit that the error might be or was theirs and the majority of these excuses was to the effect either that the clerk had made a mistake or that the ingredient or ingredients used in the unsatisfactory product was illegal as supplied to them. As to the first excuse he was prepared to say that in a very large majority of cases it was not valid because he had had some of these ingredients examined and because wholesalers and manufacturers had the facilities and realized that it would be suicidal for them to supply inferior goods. For instance, a considerable percentage of such a simple and easily prepared preparation as Tincture of Iron had been found deficient or excessive in both iron and alcoholic strength, and the excuse was given by many that their tinctures had been made from solutions supplied by a jobber or manufacturer; he had thereupon purchased directly and indirectly from the sixteen jobbers and manufacturers doing the bulk of the business in the state, samples of the solution of iron chloride and upon examining them had found all of them of such strength as to yield by the directions given a satisfactory product.

The reason for such conditions he was therefore reluctantly forced to conclude to be due to unintentional thoughtfulness or carelessness on the part of pharmacists and while he regretted to speak so plainly he did so only with the view of assisting and warning them. This cause of trouble was easily remediable and this should be a cause of encouragement to every one. Some pharmacists

he had found possessing no standard works or using those long out of date and unofficial; some others were not sufficiently conversant with weights, measure, specific gravity, etc., as to be accurate and otherwise were not careful enough to carry out the directions given. Several illustrations were given. Such faults as these should be overcome at once and he was sure that they had been indulged in only through thoughtless carelessness and not with any intent to defraud the consumer as in some cases the result was to the pharmacist's financial loss, though recently a few samples had been collected which had been evidently prepared to fool the Board and a few had excessively charged the agents of the Board for samples. One Tincture of Iodine had been found to contain about 30 per cent of Iodine and the supplier had found it unwise to attempt to fool the Board with a superstandard product as such was as illegal as sub-standard ones.

In conclusion he said that while every precaution was taken to insure accurate examinations of samples in the laboratories of the Board, mistakes might happen there as with pharmacists, and every one interested had the right to question their accuracy and to have any competent chemist check the work in every particular in conjunction with their chemists, and that the Board welcomed such checks if made with honest intent as they were only interested in seeing justice done and in assisting every one to comply with the law which was made by the people themselves. The Board and the Commissioner had been severely criticized, however, for their work, as they fully expected to be, and in so doing many had inquired why so much attention should be given to such unimportant items as Lime Water and Seidlitz Powders. In his opinion they were far from being unimportant as they were so widely used and the Board had purposely chosen these as they wished to pass from simple to complex preparation in justice to and as educational to the pharmacists.

Mr. Caspari volunteered to give any further information that he could and answered many detailed inquiries. Of importance was one to the effect that while a pharmacist might employ assayed and guaranteed ingredients in his preparation this did not free him from the responsibility of insuring that the finished product was correct. For instance, standardized and guaranteed

opium might be used in the preparation of the correct amount of the Tincture of Opium but the operator should further insure the correctness of the tincture by assaying it as was directed and which was best or by proving the complete extraction of the marc. Another that guarantees from firms non-resident in Maryland could not be accepted as the givers could not be reached, and that most givers of a guarantee held that it only applied to goods in their original containers and was not valid after the container was opened.

Dr. H. P. Hynson congratulated the Branch on the attention and assured Dr. Caspari that his purpose in speaking as he had was fully understood and appreciated. As a retail pharmacist he fully agreed with the view that illegal products were the result largely of a lack of carefulness and his experience as a teacher further confirmed this opinion, as he had found the difficulty of impressing the great and growing need for carefulness in both small and large matters his hardest task with his students, and men were only grown up boys.

President Kelly thanked Mr. Caspari for his helpful address and said that the Branch was also fortunate in the attendance of the executive officers of two local associations with which the Branch was glad to cooperate—The Maryland Pharmaceutical Association and The Baltimore Retail Druggists Association—and he invited Mr. D. P. Schindel, of Hagerstown, the President of the former, and Mr. Lee Williamson, of Baltimore, the Vice-President of the latter association, to speak.

Mr. Schindel said that the association that he represented had cooperated enthusiastically in every movement to insure the proper enforcement of the Food and Drug Law and the strict protection of the interests of the public in this respect, and he was sure that this meeting of the Branch would assist greatly in securing this desired result.

Dr. Williamson said that his association was glad and anxious to cooperate in any way possible. He thought that pharmacists, while they should deplore and promptly remedy the conditions of which the Commissioner had spoken, could be proud that not one of

them had been guilty of either intentional fraud or fraud for pecuniary gain. This evidenced that pharmacists were true at heart and he thanked Dr. Caspari for his expression of confidence in the integrity of purpose of the members of the profession.

The Branch, President Kelly said, was anxious to be of assistance to the pharmacists of the city and the state and that their programs would be arranged with this purpose in view. Their meetings are held the third Thursday of each month from September to May and that all connected with pharmacy in any way were welcome and were requested to consider themselves invited to these meetings whether they received an official notice or not.

The meeting was then adjourned.

E. W. HODSON, Sec.-Treas.



CHICAGO BRANCH.

The November meeting of the Chicago Branch of the A. Ph. A. was held Tuesday evening, November 26, at the University of Illinois School of Pharmacy, and was well attended, there being about forty members and friends of the Association present.

Mr. L. E. Warren, Ph. C., gave a very interesting address on the subject, "Some Activities of the American Medical Association and Their Value to Pharmacists." The lecture dealt with the work of the A. M. A. in general and of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry in particular and closed with an expose of various fakes and nostrums. At the close of the lecture a vote of thanks was given to Mr. Warren, and a discussion of the subject in its relation to pharmacy followed. Dr. Bernard Fantus, Mr. H. C. Christensen, Secretary Day, Mr. I. A. Becker and Mr. C. A. Storer and others took part in the discussion. At its close Mr. Warren was requested to present his paper for publication in the Journal.

The Branch then adjourned to meet again on Tuesday evening, December 19, when Dr. Bernard Fantus will deliver a lecture on "Candy Medication."

At the December meeting the nominations for officers for the year 1913 will be made.