

has the constitutional right to limit the compounding of curative preparations to authorized physicians and pharmacists.

As with regard to the second provision which would prevent a description of disease symptoms, it must be admitted that this is a desirable provision, but as it reads at present, it is without limitation, and some one in the exercise of authority, might under it prevent even the most harmless statements.

As with regard to the third proposed feature of the first Amendment to Section 8, it is of course likely that the author meant merely to require preparations containing the named drugs to be so labeled, and if this be the intention, then with proper change carrying such intention into effect, there is possibly no well grounded cause for objection.

While considering generally amendments to the present Food and Drugs Act, it is a question also as to whether the deviation from the standard of the Pharmacopœia and of the National Formulary, as now permitted under the Federal Act, should not find attention. Such permitted deviation has been strongly and very generally criticised, and the claim is made that it caused an injury to the legitimate pharmacist. No doubt those who favor such deviation have strong and plausible reasons for doing so, but since amendments are contemplated it would no doubt be well to express the views of this Association at this time.

In closing, I trust that I may once more be permitted to point out the urgent need for having a thorough understanding on the proposed National Legislation, and a working in harmony such as will enforce a proper respect for the wishes of the pharmacists of this country by the law-making body.

STATE PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION PROCEEDINGS.

H. M. WHELPLEY, M. D., PH. G.

The volume of proceedings of the annual meeting of a state pharmaceutical association preserves in permanent and convenient form the official records of the convention. It is not necessary nor is it always advisable to have the minutes complete, but what is recorded should be accurate. The volume should be of immediate interest to all of the members of the association, of general interest to editors of pharmaceutical periodicals, to state association officers, board members and others who are expected to keep in touch with the topics of the times during the convention season. The book deserves a place on the shelf of reference books in both college and drug-store libraries. A collection of complete sets from all of the states would prove of great historic value as well as of service in everyday literary work by pharmaceutical writers. As far as I know, the Lloyd Library has the only complete collection of state association proceedings. I now come to the consideration of a debatable purpose of the published volume of state pharmaceutical association proceedings. I say debatable because few associations seem to consider the annual report to be a source of news and demand its early publication. At one time, the pharmaceutical press gave full and prompt accounts of all the state meetings but at the present time with forty-four such organizations and at least one-half of them holding the annual convention in June, it is no

longer possible for drug journals to do the subject justice. I have for several years felt that the members are entitled to the annual report within a month of the close of the meeting. This year, I mailed the proceedings of the Missouri Pharmaceutical Association two weeks from the day the convention closed. I have been asked by several secretaries to explain how this was done and these questions are my excuse for presenting my views on this subject.

Stenographer. First of all, we must have a stenographer who is competent to take down the discussions and readily read the notes. Do not give the work to some one who is anxious to have the practice. I have had but three stenographers during nineteen years. I coach my stenographer before the first meeting he reports so that he knows the general style to be followed in preparing copy. He typewrites his notes each day and usually hands me the complete manuscript the day following the close of the meeting.

I edit the copy at once while the convention work is fresh in my mind. I prepare each page and call on the printer with all of the copy in consecutive order ready for the compositor.

Printer. I secure bids for the work at a flat rate of so much per page including the use of cuts and printing of inserts. The proportion of ten, eight and six point type is indicated in the copy; no extra charge is made for authors' corrections. I leave it to the printer to designate in his bid how soon the bound volume can be delivered. I have the envelopes printed and addressed while the volume is in press and mail the reports the day they come from the bindery. In other words, I get out the proceedings as an editor does a journal, on schedule time.

Size of Page. It is to be regretted that the secretaries of the different state associations have not adopted a standard size for the volumes of proceedings. I use 70-pound super calendar (S. & S. C.) paper 25"x38", which cuts to an advantage and trims, 6x9 inches. I consider this to be about the right size but am ready to adopt any size that the majority of the associations consider the most suitable.

The Cover. A few associations bind the report in cloth. I have never considered this to be worth the additional expense. Such covers must be removed when the reports are bound in a single volume. We should encourage the members to bind the reports every three or five years.

Index. This is the key to the situation and should be ample as well as correct.

Inserts. Full page pictures should be printed as inserts, faced with tissue paper. I print a picture of the retiring president and such other pictures as are convenient. These usually include some of the ex-officers, the life members who are present, the officers for the ensuing year, the board of pharmacy members, etc. Large groups do not reproduce to an advantage. It is better to devote the space to smaller groups which enables the members to recognize each person.

The Board of Pharmacy. In states where the board of pharmacy issues an annual report as a separate volume, it is not necessary to give much space to the board. In states where the board does not print an annual volume the state association report should contain the state pharmacy law and all the rules and regulations of the board of pharmacy.

Fraternal Relations. Each of the following associations should be accorded a full page: The American Pharmaceutical Association, National Association

Retail Druggists, American Conference Pharmaceutical Faculties, National Association of Boards of Pharmacy.

Organization. It is well to publish each year the list of those who attended the organization meeting and accompany the same with a few words about the first meeting.

Minor Points. Many things will occur to the secretary who studies to make the annual report useful and convenient for the members. I might mention the following: Give date of organization and date of incorporation; state the date to which the list of members is corrected; print life members in bold face type and explain the meaning of the same; use a star to indicate each one who was present at the annual meeting; at the end of the list give the total number of members. Of course, the committees, delegates and lists of ex-officers as well as dates and places of past meetings should be given in a prominent place.

I have suggested on previous occasions that the secretaries of the state associations who attend A. Ph. A. meetings meet in a formal manner and discuss subjects of mutual interest. Such conferences would result in secretaries becoming more efficient officers.

NEW SOURCE OF POTASSIUM SALTS.

At present Germany controls practically the world's supply of potassium salts, which are more needed by the farmer than by the druggist, so that the report of a new source of supply of potassium will be welcome to all. Recent work by the field experts of the Department of Agriculture has proven that the United States has an almost inexhaustible supply of potassium in the kelp beds of the Pacific coast, and high yields of this indispensable metal have been obtained by them from what was hitherto considered a nuisance to bathers and fishermen. Kelp, a marine growth, has long been used as one of the sources of iodine until the discovery of the brine wells of western New York, Michigan and other lake states, but only recently have the properties of the vast kelp beds of the California coast been thoroughly investigated. These beds are of enormous extent, some of the plants reaching a growth of a hundred feet in length, and tests have shown that dried kelp will yield from 20 to 25 per cent. of potassium chloride when treated by proper methods, and the byproducts, iodine, etc., may possibly be made to pay the cost of the extraction of the potassium salts. This particular variety of seaweed seems to have a selective power of absorption for potassium salts, rejecting the sodium salts in sea water in preference to the much smaller proportion of potassium salts contained therein, and the potassium so absorbed by the living plant can be very readily extracted in the form of potassium chloride or other salts. In order to prevent the wasteful exploitation of this newly discovered wealth steps are being taken to preserve the present kelp beds and to provide for future growth and supply.—*American Druggist.*