

gested, the attendance is increased, a good program is assured, and the members of all of the local societies are brought into closer touch with each other. Questions of general business policy, matters of legislation, or other subjects upon which there is likely to be a difference of opinion, can be discussed and agreement reached, the results of which will react to the favor of the entire druggist community.

Once a year, or as much oftener as may be necessary, the several societies can hold separate meetings for the election of officers, and for the transaction of business pertaining strictly to their own organization.

No doubt experience would quickly enable the affiliating societies to develop improvements upon the plan suggested, and which would soon be adopted by societies in other cities.

Which druggist community will be the first to try out the plan?

Matters of General Interest

WILEY'S OWN STATEMENT ON RESIGNING.

On April 9, 1883, I took the oath of office and entered on the discharge of my duties as chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, in the Department of Agriculture.

For the past twenty-nine years I have endeavored to discharge these duties according to the dictates of my conscience, the knowledge at my command, and the obligations of my oath.

In retiring from this position after so many years of service it seems fitting that I should state briefly the causes which have led me to this step. Without going into detail respecting these causes, I desire to say that the fundamental one is that I believe I can find opportunity for better and more effective service to the work which is nearest my heart, namely, the pure food and drug propaganda, as a private citizen than I could any longer do in my late position.

In this action I do not intend in any way to reflect on the position which has been taken by my superior officers in regard to the

same problems. I accord to them the same right to act in accordance with their convictions, which I claim for myself.

After a quarter of a century of constant discussion and effort the bill regulating interstate and foreign commerce in foods and drugs was enacted into law. Almost from the very beginning of the enforcement of this act I discovered that my point of view in regard to it was fundamentally different from that of my superiors in office. For nearly six years there has been a growing feeling in my mind that these differences were irreconcilable and I have been conscious of an official environment which has been essentially inhospitable. I saw the fundamental principles of the Food and Drugs Act, as they appeared to me, one by one paralyzed or discredited.

It was the plain provision of the act and was fully understood at the time of the enactment, as stated in the law itself, that the Bureau of Chemistry was to examine all samples of suspected foods and drugs to determine whether they were adulterated or misbranded and that if this examination disclosed such facts the matter was to be referred to the courts for decision. Interest after interest, engaged in what the Bureau of Chemistry found to be the manufacture of misbranded or adulterated foods and drugs, made an appeal to escape appearing in court to defend their practices. Various methods were employed to secure this end, many of which were successful. I found that one by one the activities pertaining to the Bureau of Chemistry were restricted and various forms of manipulated food products were withdrawn from its consideration and either referred to other bodies not contemplated by the law or directly relieved from further control. A few of the instances of this kind are well known. Among these may be mentioned the manufacture of so-called whisky from alcohol, colors, and flavors; the addition to food products of benzoic acid and its salts, of sulphurous acid and its salts, of sulphate of copper, of saccharin and of alum; the manufacture of so-called wines from pomace, chemicals, and colors; the floating of oysters often in polluted waters for the purpose of making them look fatter and larger than they really are for the purposes of sale; the selling of moldy, fermented, decomposed and misbranded grains; the offering to the people of glucose under the name of "corn sirup," thus

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taking a name which rightfully belongs to another product made directly from Indian corn-stalks.

The official toleration and validation of such practices have restricted the activities of the Bureau of Chemistry to a very narrow field. As a result of these restrictions I have been instructed to refrain from stating in any public way my own opinion regarding the effect of these substances on health and this restriction has interfered with my academic freedom of speech on matters relating directly to the public welfare.

These restrictions culminated in the summer of 1911 with false charges of misconduct made against me by colleagues in the Department of Agriculture, which had it not been for the prompt interference on the part of the President of the United States, to whom I am profoundly grateful, would have led to my forcible separation from the public service. After the President of the United States and a committee of Congress, as a result of a searching investigation, had completely exonerated me from any wrong-doing in this matter, I naturally expected that those who had made these false charges against me would no longer be continued in a position which would make a repetition of such an action possible. The event, however, has not sustained my expectations in this matter. I was still left to come into daily contact with the men who secretly plotted my destruction.

I am now convinced that the freedom which belongs to every private American citizen can be used by me more fruitfully in rallying public opinion to the support of the cause of pure food and drugs than could the limited activity left to me in the position which I have just vacated. I propose to devote the remainder of my life, with such ability as I may have at my command and with such opportunities as may arise, to the promotion of the principles of civic righteousness and industrial integrity which underlie the Food and Drugs Act, in the hope that it may be administered in the interest of the people at large, instead of that of a comparatively few mercenary manufacturers and dealers. This hope is heightened by my belief that a great majority of manufacturers and dealers in foods and drugs are heartily in sympathy with the views I have held and that these views are endorsed by an overwhelming majority of the press and the citizens of the country.

H. W. WILEY.

N. A. R. D. ACTIVITIES.

CHARLES MYLERT CARR, Editor N. A. R. D.
NOTES.

One of the important features of the work of the National Association of Retail Druggists during recent months has been that of looking after National legislation. The climax to the fight against Parcels Post came when the Post Office Appropriation bill was introduced and embodied a section which will inaugurate, unless eliminated from the bill, a full-fledged rural parcels post system, and create a commission to consider plans for the establishment later of a general parcels post. March 18th is the date set apart by the friends of the bill to write their Congressman and Senators, and the opponents of the measure at once decided to make use of the same date to send their protests to Washington. N. A. R. D. Notes of March 14th was devoted largely to this issue and contained an editorial appealing to all druggists to become active in this letter-writing campaign. Officers of affiliated associations were requested to devote sufficient time on March 18th to line up not only the drug trade of their respective communities, but all other retail mercantile interests as well, in the absence of other National associations securing the cooperation of their respective constituencies. In the language of Notes, "It is now or never," and by the time this page reaches the readers' eye, the battle of letters to our legislators at Washington will have been fought and the victory, we believe, will be on the side of the most letters.

THE RICHARDSON BILL.

The Richardson Bill designed to so amend the Pure Food and Drugs Act as to make misrepresentation of drug products including proprietary medicines dangerous and expensive, seems to be one of the "storm centers" of comment and discussion at Washington. The bill was introduced by Congressman Richardson for the purpose of carrying into effect President Taft's recommendation to Congress which followed the famous decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Johnson Cancer Cure Case. Congressman Richardson had also consulted Dr. Wiley and as "the wagon was going to the mill," it was decided to carry a full load. It is the apparent design of the bill to place the sale of all medicinal preparations containing toxic and habit-forming drugs under the jurisdic-

tion of the pharmacist constituting him, along with the physician, as the guardians of public health so far as the manufacture and sale of medicinal products are concerned.

The principle of the Richardson Bill was strongly endorsed by the N. A. R. D. Convention at Niagara Falls, and while the bill itself exhibits many inaccuracies and incongruities, necessitating a redrafting of the same, it will probably become a law with the backing of the better element in all branches of the drug trade.

THE TENTATIVE FOOD AND DRUG DECISION.

The tentative food and drug decision, issued by Dr. Wiley's Department, designed to make the enactment of the Foster Bill unnecessary, has also occasioned much discussion. It is believed by a great many deep thinkers in the drug trade that the tentative decision, if permanently adopted, will provide machinery which will protect the public against the illicit sale of Cocaine and other habit-forming drugs. One hearing has been held to consider the merits and demerits of this bill, and another hearing is scheduled for about March 20th. The public sentiment outside of the drug trade is such that corrective measures are sure to be adopted. Dr. Hamilton Wright, the Opium Commission of the United States, has just returned from abroad with added information which will fortify him in his campaign for a system of registration that will put the federal government in possession of every transaction involving the sale of this class of drugs, the prescribing or dispensing thereof by physicians, etc., whether the party concerned is importer, wholesaler, retailer or physician.

AMENDMENT TO THE SHERMAN ACT.

There are two large matters that have been engaging the attention of the N. A. R. D. Executive Committee and N. A. R. D. Counsel since the meeting of the Executive Committee in Chicago last December. One is the draft of a bill to amend the Sherman Anti-Trust Act so as to enable organizations of business men formed not for profit to work along cooperative lines for their mutual protection and advancement, drawing the line between such corporations and industrial and other corporations organized purely for profit. This bill has been drafted by Special Attorney Frank H. Freericks and is now receiving its finishing touches at the hands of the Committee on Legislation and the Na-

tional Executive Committee. This bill may or may not be introduced into the present Congress, the determining factor being political and other conditions. It is the desire of the National officers to introduce this bill at a time which will enable it to receive the widest publicity and the most serious consideration.

PRICE PROTECTION.

The other proposition deals with price-protection. The Executive Committee instructed Special Attorney Freericks to work out the details of a plan which will combine the Miles plan with the Boehm plan, the latter plan having been outlined in detail in N. A. R. D. Notes and many other pharmaceutical journals. It is expected that this plan will be ready in a very short time when it will be published in Notes and criticism invited from all quarters.

SECOND MID-YEAR MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The latest news development in N. A. R. D. work is the decision to hold the second between-conventions meeting of the Executive Committee in Chicago during the first week of April, the first session being held Tuesday morning. One of the principal matters to be considered at this meeting of the Committee will be the place and date of holding the next annual convention. Portland, Ore., and Cedar Point, O., are the principal bidders. Several other cities have been mentioned recently as possible bidders,—Kansas City, Minneapolis, Cincinnati, and Savannah.

THE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN.

The U. S. P. and N. F. propaganda work carried on by the N. A. R. D. is meeting with great success and has the most hearty approval and cooperation of the medical profession. It has been a movement of steady progress from its very inception. Beginning in January, 1909, a little over three years ago, it was with a feeling of skepticism that the prime movers of the movement in the N. A. R. D. looked upon the future of the work.

It was apparent that the physicians were ready for a change in their armamentarium, for the use of specialties was fast proving to the thinking members in the medical profession the secret preparations to be ineffective and that reliance upon them in the future would constitute a very serious handicap to medical progress.

In this respect, therefore, it was surmised

that the movement would prove immensely popular and such indeed it has proven to be. The real concern was felt when the druggists themselves were considered: How would they cooperate with their association and with their brother druggists to make the movement the success it deserved to be? While it is true that druggists as a whole are not so well informed of the needs of a better medicinal armament for the medical profession as are the physicians, they have displayed a most commendable spirit by "getting in line," thereby making up for any defects manifested in the past.

BETTER PHARMACISTS NOW.

It is one of the most promising signs of the times that pharmacists today are much better pharmacists than they were three, four and five years ago, and much of this betterment can be directly traced to the N. A. R. D. propaganda campaign and the incessant hammering of N. A. R. D. Notes on the benefits of better laboratory and prescription facilities in the pharmacy, and on the need for more thorough pharmaceutical education.

The propaganda literature sent out by the N. A. R. D. to the physicians of the country has improved from year to year in appearance and style, as well as in the educational character of the literature itself, until today it consists of a neat 20-page monthly pamphlet, entitled "Monthly Therapeutic Topics." This pamphlet is sent as first-class mail and is accompanied by a card bearing the druggist's name or, in case a local association is doing the work, this association's name is printed on the pamphlet itself.

"Monthly Therapeutic Topics" gives an accurate and detailed description of three official preparations each month, including the composition, dosage, pharmacological action, incompatibilities, methods of administration, etc.; also an expose of fraudulent and misbranded drug products, as well as other matters of importance to medical practitioners.

MEDICAL JOURNAL SPACE SECURED.

The success of the movement in general and the physician's need of this kind of information has induced a number of medical journals to devote some space to the subject. As any as thirty of these journals have opened departments headed "Official Preparations," and the matter is being furnished by the N. A. R. D. This is surely good news and this space will undoubtedly prove of

lasting benefit to the U. S. P. and N. F. propaganda. These friendly medical journals are to be highly commended for the advanced stand taken and the appreciated efforts they are making to supply their physician subscribers with reliable information regarding the U. S. P. and N. F. preparations.

With the beginning of 1912 still another plan has been put into operation. This consists of sending a series of monthly letters to druggists and dispensing physicians, the intent of which is to reduce the practice of counter prescribing by pharmacists and dispensing by physicians to a minimum through educational methods. While all recognize these practices as unethical, few have given them enough thought and attention to realize that they are also money-losing propositions as well.

With the three plans mentioned in good working order, it will readily be seen that pharmacy is progressing and will sooner or later again come into its own. The one thing necessary is the undivided moral and financial support of the pharmacists themselves, for the benefits of the propaganda movement are in direct ratio to the amount of energy and money expended.

In such cities as Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Savannah, and scores of others, where the work is consistently carried on, the prescription files of pharmacists are mute but powerful witnesses that the money and labor expended are producing worth-while financial benefits.



THE NAMING OF MEDICINAL PRODUCTS.

The following circular letter has been addressed by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the A. M. A. to the manufacturers of and dealers in medicinal products:

The Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association, since its organization, has been obliged to refuse recognition to a number of otherwise unobjectionable preparations, because their names were considered detrimental to the best interests of the public and the medical profession. In the hope that in the future those who introduce new remedies may see their way clear to adopt names which will not be open to objection, the Council has decided to

issue this explanatory statement to the manufacturers of medicinal substances.

The trade names of pharmaceutical preparations or mixtures should be so framed as to indicate the most potent ingredients. An article whose name gives a false impression in regard to its identity or origin or which is in other ways misleading would not be acceptable for New and Nonofficial Remedies. An article will not be acceptable if its name suggests to the laity the diseases or conditions in which it is said to be indicated.

After December 31, 1912, recognition will be refused also to names so framed as to indicate even to physicians the diseases or conditions for which the article is to be used. The Council will make no objection to articles submitted to it before December 31, 1912, on the ground that the name is suggestive to the physician, provided that the name is already in use at the time of submission and also provided that the name is so framed as not to be liable, in the judgment of the Council, to lead to self-medication on the part of the public.

Medicine, in common with other branches of knowledge, requires that the subjects with which it deals be provided with a rational, descriptive nomenclature. The Council holds it desirable and important not only that the medicaments official in the pharmacopeias should be provided with scientific names, but that those of a proprietary character should also have names which are descriptive of their composition. Further, the Council believes that the interests of both the manufacturer and the consumer, the physician and his patient, can be sufficiently safeguarded if to the descriptive name of an article there be appended a distinctive word, syllable, initial or sign that shall identify its manufacturer. In substantiation of this it may be stated that such designations have permitted manufacturers to build up almost world-wide reputations for their products. Reference need only be made to chloral hydrate, Schering; chloroform, Squibb; phenacetin, Bayer; quinin sulphate, P. W. R.; sodium salicylate, Merck, etc. In view of these considerations, the Council offers its endorsement and cooperation to any effective movement toward the establishment of a rational, and if possible, international system for the naming of medicaments.

However, the Council recognizes that trade conditions make difficult or infeasible, at this time, the adoption of such a rational sys-

tem of nomenclature. But, on the other hand, experience has shown it possible to give names to new remedies which at least shall indicate their principal constituents. Thus among the articles described in "New and Nonofficial Remedies" appear such names as arsenoferratin, an organic compound of iron and arsenic; Bornyval, a valeric acid ester of borneol; brovalol, a bornyl bromvalerate; carbosant, a carbonate of santalol; guaiacodein, a compound of codein and guaiacol; tannismuth, a tannate of bismuth. Therefore the Council recommends that all remedies be given names which shall at least be suggestive of their most characteristic or potent constituents. The Council gives the fullest recognition to the principle that a discoverer has the right to name his discovery and imposes no restriction in the naming of new substances, provided that such names shall not be detrimental to the progress of medicine and thereby work against the welfare and health of the people.

Names which are suggestive of the diseases or conditions in which the remedy is said to be indicated are objectionable because the layman becomes familiar with the names of such remedies and their uses through physicians' prescriptions and is thus led to use them in indiscriminate and harmful self-medication. The many cases of harmful self-medication with such remedies as migrainin, diabetin, purgen, antikamnia, anti-tussin, which preparations at first were exploited to medical men only, are sufficient to show that such names should be forbidden.

But even if the name of a remedy does not disclose its proposed use to the laity, it is still objectionable if it suggests to the medical man the diseases or conditions in which the remedy is to be used. This for the reason that the thoughtless physician will base his use of the remedy on the name without giving due consideration to the condition and symptoms of the patient.

Recognizing that some therapeutically suggestive names have been applied without any intention of appealing to the laity thereby, and further recognizing the difficulty of changing a name once established, the Council has decided to make no objection to names that are now in use if they are therapeutically suggestive to physicians only. Such articles, if on the market and submitted prior to December 31, 1912, will be considered ac-

ceptable in so far as their names are concerned.

The following rules apply to the names of articles proposed for inclusion with New and Nonofficial Remedies:

1. The names of pharmaceutical preparations or mixtures must indicate the most potent ingredients.

2. Names which are in any way misleading will not be accepted.

3. Names which suggest diseases, pathologic conditions, or therapeutic conditions will not be admitted, except as provided under 4.

4. An exception is made for established names of synthetic substances, active principles, and other new substances: For these if submitted prior to December 31, 1912, therapeutically suggestive names may be admitted, provided that the name has been in actual use prior to December 31, 1912, and provided further, that the name is not likely to foster self-medication by the laity.

W. A. PUCKNER, Secretary.

Communications and Correspondence

All communications must be signed by their
Authors

BAITING JOURNALISM.

I have nothing but praise for our new Journal, for the subject-matter, choice of articles, judgment even to the selection of the page paper, and color of the cover. I feel confident that our Journal will exercise due diligence to exclude communications which are based on personal grudges paying back old scores, hitting back because some member of the A. Ph. A. has seen a chance to get even with some other member who is a personal antagonist, etc., etc.

The new Journal has a fine opportunity to uplift the whole profession of pharmacy by dealing with public questions of prime importance in a dignified manner free from yellow journal methods or muck-raking propensities now so popular. Honest criticisms, of course, and helpful comments, which improve and uplift even if they destroy cherished ideals, are demanded when occasion

arises; evils must be combated in a fearless spirit, but sensationalism, simply for the purpose of arousing the interest of the readers by "exciting the animals" is to be deprecated. Smart writing, ridicule, sarcasm, unjust attacks, and, above all, *baiting* to provoke replies is a mean way to obtain copy.

You have asked for suggestions: These are tendered in a spirit of helpfulness. That you have avoided pitfalls of this kind in professional journalism amply proves the judgment of those who unanimously elected you as editor. Very truly yours,

JOSEPH P. REMINGTON.

COMMITTEE ON PRACTICAL PHARMACY AND DISPENSING BULLETIN NO. 1.

The practice of pharmacy today is not that of a few years ago, nor even of yesterday. We have but to retrace our steps a few years into the past to marvel at the rapid strides our profession has in reality made. The attempt to keep apace with this onward march of progress in matters pharmaceutical is the ultimate aim and function of our Association. To foster the good work and to make secure our continued prosperity ought to be the chief duty of each and every member.

Innumerable opportunities for individual work along many different lines present themselves to our fellow-pharmacists almost continually, e. g., the enormous task of revision of both our official text books furnishes an abundant field for suggestion and experimentation in practical pharmaceutical work. Papers on practical or operative pharmacy; notes or suggestions for the manipulation or improvement of official preparations; original articles or ideas pertaining to the science or art of pharmacy are particularly desired.

The Committee on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing at this time would respectfully urge upon its members the desirability of engaging in some phase of this work to the end that our meetings at Denver may enjoy the benefit of such original work. The appeal is made thus early in order that all who so desire may have ample time for preparation.*

Faternally yours,

P. HENRY UTECH, Chairman.

J. LEON LASCOFF, Secretary.