

Obituaries and Memorials

Persons having information of the death of members of the A. Ph. A. are requested to send the same promptly to J. W. England, 415 N. 33d St., Philadelphia, Pa. Information as to the age, activities in pharmacy, family, etc., of the deceased should be as complete as possible. When convenient a cabinet photograph should accompany data.

GUSTAVUS RAMSPERGER.

Gustavus Ramsperger, the dean of German pharmacists in this country, is at rest, after a life full of years of usefulness and honor. He met his death by falling from the window of his apartment in Central Park West in New York, on May 6th.

Mr. Ramsperger was born in Germany in 1834, and was educated as a pharmacist at the University of Tubingen. He came to this country in 1851, and purchased the drug store at 62 Oliver street, which he had for sixteen years. In 1867 he became a partner in the Faber-Balluff store at the corner of Thirty-eighth street and Sixth avenue, and in 1873, sold out his interest, and in 1875 re-entered the business in Brooklyn; and in 1884 sold this store to his nephew. Since then he has not been actively identified with business, but has traveled widely.

Mr. Ramsperger founded the German Apothecaries Society of New York sixty years ago, and was honorary vice-president of it at the time of his death; and was, also, honorary vice-president of the New York College of Pharmacy, of which he was one of the founders. He was a life member of the American Pharmaceutical Association, which he joined in 1860.

He was unusually well-informed in matters pharmaceutical, and took a deep interest in the New York College of Pharmacy, in the German Apothecaries Society, and in the New York Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

Genial in temperament and kindly in disposition, his pleasing personality and sterling character won the love and respect of a wide circle of friends and associates.

He leaves a son and a daughter, the wife of Otto P. Amend.

J. W. E.

F. Henry Parker, of Burlington, Vt., died on March 10, 1912, aged fifty-three years. He joined the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1909.—J. W. E.

Herschell Boynton, of Biddelford, Me., died on March 20, 1912, aged sixty-three years. He has been a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association for thirty-seven years.—J. W. E.

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."—Resolution adopted at the Boston Convention, 1911.

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 last meeting of the Pittsburgh Branch for the 1911-12 course took place Friday evening, May 10. It proved to be of unusual interest and value, and if the proceedings could have been listened to and participated in by each proprietor of a pharmacy in this district they would have been of great help to all in the conduct of their respective stores. Among the subjects covered were the duty of the druggist under the law with reference to the dispensing of poisons; the propriety of and the duty of a dispenser in the refilling of habit-forming drugs; the handling of intoxicants and sales of alcohol; the duty of the relief clerk concerning the display of his registration certificate; the attitude of the honest pharmacist toward fake proprietaries, both in his sales and his prescription department; the wisdom of preparing our own U. S. P. and N. F. preparations, from the economical as well as truthfulness-to-formula standpoint; all of the utmost value in their commercial bearing. The retail druggist who fails to

avail himself of the practical teachings of this post-graduate course, which is frequently tendered to him, loses something that can scarcely be computed from a monetary outlook, its value being beyond price.

The professional side likewise was well covered. Dr. Saalbach's paper, "Some of the Good Things of the National Formulary," will be found elsewhere in these columns; Dr. Kutscher's "Dont's in Pharmacy" was instructively interesting and full of excellent suggestions concerning the things not to do, and was greatly enjoyed by the many young clerks and students present. Dr. Blumenschein presented a resumé of the influence of the Pittsburgh Branch upon the forthcoming editions of the U. S. Pharmacopœia as indicated by acceptance of its recommendations submitted to the Revision Committee from time to time.

Owing to the absence of Dr. J. C. Wallace, his paper, "Present Status of National Legislation," not having reached the Secretary had to be omitted. Dr. J. A. Koch volunteered to occupy the time allotted to Dr. Wallace by an expose of the methods employed by the Revision Committee of the United States Pharmacopœia in preparing the Ninth Decennial Revision of that work, which he presented in generous detail and which proved a revelation to the uninitiated concerning the immense amount of labor there is involved, and made it quite plain why it requires so much time after the convention has adjourned before the Pharmacopœia is ready for distribution.

Dr. Koch also submitted the latest list of proposed deletions from the Pharmacopœia, which brought out quite an interesting discussion. In the main the list of articles to be deleted was commended. Dr. Kutscher objected to the omission of Cataplasma Kaolini for reason that it is being freely prescribed by a good class of medical practitioners, and should they continue to indicate it, which they no doubt will, there being no official standard for same will result in extending the growth of innumerable proprietary preparations of varying formulæ, hence on motion of Dr. George W. Kutscher, supported by Dr. F. J. Blumenschein, it was unanimously

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Pittsburgh Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association that both kaolinum and its official preparation, cataplasma kaolini, should be retained in the ninth decennial revision of the U. S. Pharmacopœia.

Owing to the fact that June will be a busy month among our members because of preparation for commencement exercises at the college, and the meeting of the Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association at Buena Vista Spring, it was decided to omit the June meeting. Therefore the Branch stands adjourned until the second Friday in October.

B. E. PRITCHARD, Secretary.



NEW YORK BRANCH.

In addition to a score or so of members there were present at the meeting of the New York Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association on the evening of May 13th, several visiting pharmacists and physicians and a delegation of about a dozen members of the New York Women's Pharmaceutical Association. The meeting was devoted chiefly to a symposium on the subject of "Ergot" which was quite interesting.

Following the report of Treasurer Joseph Weinstein the committee on the progress of pharmacy reported through its Chairman, Otto Raubenheimer. The report told of the Fairchild advanced lectures being given under the auspices of the British schools of pharmacy and of the announcement of a new British Pharmacopœia for next year. Among the published articles referred to were "The Filtration of Bitter Almond Water and Cherry Laurel Water," "The Inaccuracy of Official Tests for Sodium Salicylate," "Identifying Shapes for Tablets," "Sources of Error in the Use of Nylander's and Trommer's Reagents," and "The Determination of Phenolphthalein in Mixtures." Other matters referred to included the new Japanese law regulating the sale of unofficial medicaments, the homeopathic features of the Dresden Hygienic Exposition, a census of German licensed pharmacists and physicians, reported analyses of nostrums in the *Pharmazeutische Zentralhalle*, the approaching meeting of the American Medical Association, and a Treatise on Commercial Pharmacy, a new book by D. C. O'Connor.

For the committee on professional relations, J. L. Lascoff reviewed briefly the joint meeting held May 7th, under the auspices of the Branch and the Medical Society of the County of New York. In connection with this report there ensued some discussion of the suggestion made at the meeting to the effect that a joint committee be named by the

two organizations for the purpose of considering ways and means of certifying the fitness of pharmacies. The President of the Branch was authorized to select ten persons to serve on this committee as representatives of the Branch.

Delegates were appointed as follows to represent the Branch at this year's meeting of State pharmaceutical associations:

New York: Hugo Kantrowitz, J. L. Lascoff, and Hugh Craig.

New Jersey: J. C. Gallagher, Charles Holtzauer, and Hugh Craig.

Dr. H. H. Rusby was the first speaker in the symposium. His remarks had to do with the character of the ergot received for importation at this port and with ways and means of remedying the conditions which he said tended to prevent the medical practitioner from getting satisfactory results with this drug. Less than 10 per cent. of the ergot brought to the port in the season just closing, he said, was first-class, the defects being largely due to natural conditions which could not be overcome, because the drug is not adapted to cultivation. As some of the sophisticated practices which might be eliminated he mentioned the addition of rye grains, clean or only partially ergotized; the soaking of the ergot in water to increase the weight, with subsequent musting and decomposition of the active principles; infestation by insects; the incomplete drying of the drug soon after collection; and faulty packing for shipment and storing.

Whether or not the unplumped ergot was as active as that which had the form designated by the Pharmacopœia the speaker could not say; but, he explained, the government officials were obliged to exclude the thin sort because it varied from the official description. Sifting through a No. 8 sieve, he said, would separate all the passable ergot. He declared that ergot properly and promptly dried and properly kept would not deteriorate in five years. In concluding he expressed the belief that the treasury department should have a clearing house wherein imported drugs could be examined and when necessary made fit for consumption before being put in the market. In connection with his remarks, Dr. Rusby exhibited a number of samples of good and bad ergot.

C. E. Vanderkleed, of Philadelphia, the next speaker, considered "The Chemistry of Ergot." The examination of the drug chem-

ically, he said, was not an example of a very exact science, a hundred experiments having separated a so-called active principle in as many forms, none of which was unquestionably correct. He reviewed the chemical study of the drug since the discovery of the oil in 1817, mentioning in turn the claims advanced for the extract, the resin, the volatile amine, ergotin, ecbolin, ergotinine, and cornutine, as being representative of the therapeutic activity of the drug. He pointed out that each investigator gave a new name to the substance upon which he pinned his faith, although many of the so-called new principles were but more or less pure forms of the same substance. It was his opinion that the correct view of the matter was the one advanced by Barger and his associates, Kraft, and others, that no single substance was truly representative of the virtues of the drug.

Referring to Keller's assay process the speaker showed that its only use was to estimate the total content of mixed alkaloids and non-volatile amines. This assay meant nothing to the physician because it failed to assure uniformity in therapeutic activity; it therefore had to be supplemented by a physiological test. Of these latter, he said, the blood pressure test gave the most nearly concordant results and was the one nearest approaching a definite quantitative test.

Ergot to be satisfactory, he said, must have been carefully selected; must contain at least 0.15 per cent. of total principles separated in Keller's assay process; and, if used in the proportion of 0.8 cc. (mil) of fluid-extract per kilo of body weight, must produce an increase of 30 mm. in blood pressure. Because the drug and preparations thereof deteriorate rapidly they must be kept so as to exclude moisture and as far as possible air. He recounted a series of experiments in which it was shown that while a sample of fluidextract kept in a sealed airless tube for a year did not deteriorate in alkaloidal content or power to elevate the blood pressure, some of the same preparation kept in a frequently opened bottle decreased two-thirds in its effect upon the blood pressure and lost more than half its alkaloidal content.

In considering the subject of "Ergot" from the pharmacal standpoint, Cornelius De Jonge said that the selection of the drug was rather difficult for the one who wanted only a first-class quality. This difficulty was increased by the fact that the drug was stored without

any consideration of its liability to deterioration, and that old lots of the drug were frequently mixed with the fresh. Age and soaking change the appearance of ergot and also its odor. He had found from 3 to 8.6 per cent. of moisture in ergot, this year's average being about 8.3 per cent. because the crop shortage had led to considerable wetting to increase the weight. The amount of dust which is caused chiefly by the action of mites varied from 0.13 to 0.56 per cent. in prime lots. Nails and other metallic articles are usually found mixed with the drug.

Mr. De Jonge reviews the ergot preparations of the Pharmacopœias from 1860 to the present time, pointing out the number of variations in the processes. He stated that any exposure of the drug to the action of heat was to be condemned. The buying of the fluidextract in large quantities for dispensing was wrong in his belief because of the deterioration that would follow unless the liquid was immediately transferred to small well-stoppered bottles. Mr. De Jonge exhibited several samples of ergot and some fluidextracts made from thirty-five to forty-four years ago.

In the general discussion of the subject Messrs. von Oefele, Coblenz, Raubenheimer, Lascoff, Weinstein, Dissosway and Bigelow spoke.

A special meeting will be held June 10th, at which time the Branch will hear an address on "Ointment Bases," by Dr. Unna, of Germany.

HUGH CRAIG, Secretary.



CHICAGO BRANCH.

The May meeting of the Chicago Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held Tuesday evening, May 21st, at the University of Illinois School of Pharmacy, and was noteworthy by reason of the presence of Mr. Harry B. Mason, of Detroit, who favored the members of the Branch with an address on the subject, "Why Some Druggists Don't Make More Money." After discussing the subject in a general way, Mr. Mason pointed out the following specific list of blunders which are often responsible for the failure of some druggists to make as much money from their business as they should make: First, they don't keep business accounts. Second, they don't take inventories. Third, they don't know how to figure profits. Fourth, they lose money with-

out knowing it. Fifth, they don't keep the percentage of expense and the percentage of gross profits far enough apart. Sixth, they don't take advantage of their cash discounts.

In closing, Mr. Mason stated that he had not tried to exhaust the catalogue of shortcomings but only to point a few of the reasons why some druggists don't make more money. Neither did he mean to suggest that druggists are any worse than any other retail merchants, but was convinced that as a class druggists do not make that close economic study of their business which the times demand. Modern business is just as much of a science as astronomy, biology or engineering. The old slipshod methods won't go; we are either up-to-date or out-of-date.

Mr. Mason's paper was very well received and a rising vote of thanks was tendered him. A lively discussion followed the reading of the paper. Secretary T. H. Potts of the N. A. R. D., Ex-President J. J. Boehm of the I. Ph. A., Professors Snow, Clark and Patterson, Secretary Day, Mr. Gathercoal, Mr. Sass, Mr. H. W. Snow, Mr. Storer and others voiced their opinions. It was gratifying to the officers of the Branch that the closing meeting of the season should be so well attended and so much interest shown. The next meeting of the Branch will be held in October unless a special meeting should be called during the summer.

W. B. DAY, Secretary.



PHILADELPHIA BRANCH.

In point of numbers in attendance as well as generally aroused interest the May meeting of the Philadelphia Branch ranks well with any previous meeting ever held, a miserably wet night preventing what would have been under more favorable weather conditions an overflow meeting.

Incidentally a long forward stride was made in the direction of placing the conscientious pharmacist before the doctor and the layman in the light of one who is not only alive to his responsibilities to both the latter, but seeking how he may better fulfill his professional obligations to both and thus more intelligently assist in promoting the general welfare.

The cordial co-operation on the part of the physicians present and their enthusiastic interest in the program spoke volumes for what may be accomplished in the way of develop-

ing a better appreciation of the inter-related interests of medicine and pharmacy.

The program was well calculated to stimulate the interest of the retail druggist in the question of handling vaccines, and the frequency with which the speakers referred to the druggist's responsibility as a distributor emphasized the need for some thought along this line.

In evidence of the fact that druggists uniformly do not appreciate the importance of carefully storing these products the statement was made that the Board of Health in one community had found it necessary to establish distributing depots provided with proper facilities for preserving the potency of vaccines because the retail druggists of that particular section had failed to do so.

That such discreditable conditions need not become general was made clear in Mr. Cliffe's excellent paper (which is published in full) wherein he describes a simple method whereby the retail druggist may meet his obligations in this matter with a minimum of expense and a maximum of credit to himself.

Not the least interesting feature of the meeting was the announcement that future programs will be printed in the Roster of the Philadelphia County Medical Society. This move is in response to the frequently expressed desire of physicians to attend such pharmaceutical meetings as are of interest to the medical practitioner if the programs were brought to their attention. The courtesies extended by the representatives of the Medical Society during the program negotiations were acknowledged by a vote of thanks to Dr. J. Torrance Rugh, Chairman Publication Committee, and to Dr. A. Bern Hirsh, Editor of the Roster.

The program below was the result of the combined efforts of Presidents Stewart and Kimberly, the meeting being a joint one of the Branch and Scientific Section:

"The Production of Smallpox Vaccine," (illustrated with lantern slides), by W. F. Elgin, M. D.

"The Production of Bacterial Vaccines," (illustrated with lantern slides), by A. Parker Hitchens, M. D.

"Precautions to be Observed in Storing Vaccines for Distribution," by Wm. L. Cliffe, Ph. G.

"The Arguments of the Antivaccinists and the Measure of Truth and Error Contained Therein," by Jay F. Schamberg, M. D.

The discussion was participated in by Drs. McFarland, Wadsworth and Royer, of the Coroner's Office and the Pennsylvania Board of Health and by members of the Branch.

Changes of Address

All changes of address of members should be sent to the General Secretary promptly.

The Association will not be responsible for non-delivery of the Annual Volume or Year Book, or of the JOURNAL unless notice of change of address is received before shipment or mailing.

Both the old and the new address should be given, thus:

HENRY MILTON,
From 2342 Albion Place, St. Louis, Mo.
To 278 Dartmouth St., Boston, Mass.

Titles or degrees to be used in publications or in the official records should be given, and names should be *plainly* written, or *type-written*.



ALBERT GUY,
From 4836 Delmar, St. Louis, Mo.
To 5270 Delmar, Field Sta., St. Louis, Mo.

LOUIS MAY,
From Tondeau, N. Y.
To Loveman Bros., 473 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

SAMUEL HARRIS, Sgt. H. C., U. S. A.,
From Ludlow Barracks, Mind., P. I.
To Camp Jossman, Guimaras, P. I.

FRANK C. STUTZLEN,
From 231 3d St., Elizabeth, N. J.
To 10 Park Ave., Elizabeth, N. J.

SOPHIA JOERGENSEN,
From Com. St., La Conner, Skagit Co., Wash.
To Front St., La Conner, Skagit Co., Wash.

SAMUEL KRESS,
From 8 Enoch St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
To 209 Idaho St., South Sharon, Pa.

B. O. WILSON,
From 46 Canal St., Boston, Mass.
To 19 Morse St., Newton, Mass.

GARRETT S. LOHMANN,
From 3142 Locust St., St. Louis, Mo.
To 4580 Easton Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

F. M. SCHMIDT,
From 64 W. Randolph, Chicago, Ill.
To Room 1612 Mallery Bldg., Chicago, Ill.

C. A. HECKLEMAN,
From 2831 Eads Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
To 3511 Juniata St., St. Louis, Mo.

CHAS. E. MATHEWS,
From 234 Randolph St., Chicago, Ill.
To 169 W. Franklin St., Canal Sta., Chicago, Ill.