

## 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to the Association and its branches shall become the property of the Association, with the understanding that they are not to be published in any other publications than those of the Association, except by consent of the Committee on Publication."—By-Laws, Chapter X, Art.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 typewritten, with wide spaces between the lines. Care should be taken to give proper names correctly, and manuscript should be signed by the reporter. To maintain its activity and representation each Branch should see that at least three of its meetings during the year are reported in the Journal.

### BALTIMORE.

The members of the Baltimore Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association were the guests of the members of the Washington Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association on January 26, 1921, at the Hotel Willard, Washington, D. C., and preceding that very pleasant and instructive meeting, the Baltimore Branch elected the following officers to serve for the ensuing year:

*President*, J. C. Krantz, Jr.; *Vice-President*, Carrie G. Mossop; *Secretary-Treasurer*, B. Olive Cole; *Chairman Committee on Membership*, W. Lee Moose; *Chairman Committee on Professional Relations*, H. P. Hynson; *Chairman Committee on Science and Practice of Pharmacy*, H. Engelhardt; *Chairman Committee on Education and Legislation*, E. F. Kelley.

Charles C. Neal, 303 W. Pratt St., Baltimore, Md., was elected a member of the Council of the American Pharmaceutical Association to represent the Branch for the next three years.

B. OLIVE COLE, *Secretary-Treasurer*.

### CITY OF WASHINGTON.

The City of Washington Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association held a joint meeting with the Baltimore Branch on January 26th, this Branch acting as host to the Baltimore members.

Dr. A. R. L. Dohme was invited to be the speaker of the evening and his topic was "Therapeutics."

The paper brought up some very interesting discussions by the various members of the Branches including Dr. F. B. Power, who referred briefly to his work on the Chaulmoogra Oil, and its use in treating leprosy. Dr. Dohme's paper will appear in full in a subsequent issue of the JOURNAL.

At the business meeting preceding the entertainment, the election resulted in all of the previous officers being retained.

H. C. FULLER, *Secretary*.

### CHICAGO.

The 115th meeting of the Chicago Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held Friday evening, January 21, 1921, at the College of Pharmacy Building, with a splendid attendance of members and friends. President A. H. Clark presided.

As this was the annual meeting, the annual reports of officers and committees were presented. The Secretary-Treasurer's report was as follows:

The Chicago Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association, the oldest of the A. Ph. A. Branches, approaches its fifteenth birthday in splendid shape. Not only have we the largest membership in our history and a good financial standing, but we have the best of opportunities to implant in the pharmacists of Chicago those great fundamental principles of professional scientific pharmacy for which the American Pharmaceutical Association has stood these past seventy years.

The membership of the Branch January 1, 1920, was 228 regular members and 82 soldier and sailor members. We have received during 1920, 146 members (130 by joining and 16 by moving in), and have lost from the membership roll 5 by death, 6 by resignation, 9 by suspension and 6 by removal from the Chicago district. Our present membership (348) therefore represents a gain for the year of 122 regular members. Also, we have already received applications from about 30 more persons, but these have not as yet been officially approved for membership. They will serve to start off the new year 1921 in fine shape. From the S & S members we have received 28 regular memberships, 59 have been received from the classes at the School of Pharmacy, 39 from a special drive by mail among Chicago members of the I. Ph. A. and the remainder through personal solicitation by William Gray, Sec-

retary Day, Secretary Gathercoal and others.

Those S & S members who have not transferred to regular membership are automatically dropped at the end of 1920.

The Branch has held eight regular meetings, the 107th to 114th, inclusive, and one special meeting in 1920. The meetings were well attended, the average attendance being 52.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

##### *Receipts, 1920.*

January balance on hand.....	\$ 53.05
Branch dues in January.....	71.00
Branch dues in December.....	64.00
Commission for new members.....	37.00
Gift from entertainment committee of 1918 meeting.....	115.29
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$340.34</b>

##### *Expenditures, 1920.*

Printing and postage.....	\$175.40
Expenses for dinners.....	36.30
Miscellaneous.....	6.55
Balance.....	122.09
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$340.34</b>

The report of the Nominating Committee, appointed at a previous meeting, is as follows:

*President, C. M. Snow; First Vice-President, H. N. Bruun; Second Vice-President, Sidney Schmidt; Third Vice-President, Mrs. A. T. Carpenter, of Valparaiso; Secretary-Treasurer, E. N. Gathercoal; Council Member, C. M. Snow.*

The report was adopted and the nominees were declared elected to their respective offices.

Dr. Bernard Fantus and Prof. C. M. Snow presented the paper of the evening, entitled "U. S. P. and N. F. Elixirs." The paper was accompanied by a very extensive and interesting display of elixirs that they had compounded and presented some very surprising, but very valuable results. While it is very difficult to summarize so complete a paper, it may be stated that the first suggestion was the preparation of two elixirs, "Aqueous Elixir," containing but 5 percent of alcohol, and "Alcoholic Elixir," containing 98 percent of alcohol. By mixing these two elixirs in various proportions "iso-alcoholic elixirs" of suitable strength can be prepared as a vehicle for galenicals of any alcoholic strength. A complete review of the N. F. elixirs was presented in which their faults were criticized and suggestions made for improving them. No attempt was made to meet the question of the beverage use of these elixirs, it being

accepted that it were better to allow them to remain under the class of beverage alcoholic preparations and retain their suitability as vehicles, rather than remove the alcohol from them and render them less suitable as vehicles.

The paper was extensively commented upon by Wm. Gray, H. C. Christensen, I. A. Becker, W. B. Day, A. H. Clark, James Berardi, Stanley Clark and others.

Professor Snow pointed out that the present U. S. P. Elixir Glycyrrhizae kept well, showing samples in partially filled bottles that had been made as far back as June 1918, all of which were in perfect condition.

E. N. GATHERCOAL, *Secretary.*

#### NEBRASKA.

The January meeting of the Nebraska Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held in the library of the College of Pharmacy of the University of Nebraska on the evening of January 10. In the absence of the President, the meeting was called to order by Secretary Niels Mikkelsen, president of the Nebraska State Board of Pharmacy, who presented amendments to the state pharmacy law. According to these amendments all candidates who present themselves before the State Board after 1922 must be graduates from reputable colleges of pharmacy, the board to define reputable colleges. The board also is to have the power to make any rulings which may advance the science and the art of pharmacy in the state. This and other amendments to the pharmacy law will be submitted before the state legislature now in session and it is confidently expected that they will become a law without opposition.

Dr. Rufus A. Lyman made a plea for the modernization of the college of pharmacy curricula, especially in physiological and pharmacological instruction. Physiology and pharmacology cannot be taught satisfactorily by the lecture and text-book methods. Suitable laboratories must be provided and the work of the student directed by competent laboratory assistants.

The dues of the Branch were fixed at one dollar per year, and it was voted that suitable Branch association stationery should be used. C. P. Hildrebrand, the new state board member, was the guest of the evening. Among those who took part in the discussions were Guy Butler, A. Schneider, C. P. Hildrebrand, Miss Easton, Miss Malick, and others.

ALBERT SCHNEIDER, *Secretary.*

## NEW YORK.

The January 1921 meeting of the New York Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was called to order in the lecture hall of the New York College of Pharmacy Building, Monday, January 10th, at 8.15 P.M.

Sixty-seven members and friends were present.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

*Treasurer's Report.*—The Treasurer's report was received and ordered filed.

*Membership Committee.*—The following applications have been received for membership:

## PARENT ORGANIZATION.

Frank H. Eckert, 461 Clinton Ave., West Hoboken, N. J.

Harry E. Alvord, Chatham, N. Y.

Paul D. Bloom, 4815 Third Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Albert J. Dougherty, 1071 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Chas. F. O'Hagan, 30 N. Main St., Portchester, N. Y.

Isidor Lipowsky, 79 Purchase St., Rye, N. Y.

Wm. I. Smith, 855 Tremont Ave., N. Y. City.

## LOCAL BRANCH.

Elmer H. Hessler, 88 Reade St., N. Y. City.

Tom Potts, 640 Broadway, N. Y. City.

*Education and Legislation.*—Chairman Eddy brought in no report.

*Member of the Council.*—Dr. Hostmann reported that the result of the balloting on the date for the 1921 Convention showed a majority in favor of holding the meeting the first week in September.

*New Business.*—Dr. R. P. Fischelis read a clipping from a journal in which he called attention to the progress made by pharmacy in the Medical Corps of Belgium, and to the International Congress of Medicine and Pharmacy, to which all the physicians and pharmacists of the allied and neutral countries were invited. It was moved, seconded and carried that the matter be brought to the attention of the chairman of the Council with the request that some action be taken.

Dr. W. C. Anderson now announced that if there were no objections he would introduce Dr. Lentz at the conclusion of the scientific program, in order to allow the regular speakers of the evening to have preference. No objection was voiced to this procedure.

The Nominating Committee brought in the following report:

*President*, Wm. C. Anderson; *Vice-President*, Curt P. Wimmer; *Secretary*, Hugo H. Schaefer; *Treasurer*, Gustave Horstman; *Chairman Program of Pharmacy*, Geo. C. Diekman; *Fraternal Relations*, Henry B. Smith; *Education and Legislation*, Clyde L. Eddy; *Membership*, Robert R. Gerstner; *Audit*, Jacob Diner.

It was regularly moved, seconded and carried that the Chairman of the Nominating Committee shall cast one ballot unanimously electing the candidates as mentioned in the report.

## SCIENTIFIC SECTION.

Dr. Diekman, chairman of the Committee on Progress of Pharmacy, brought in a lengthy and interesting report consisting of abstracts of various current scientific articles.

Mr. Geo. M. Beringer was now introduced by Chairman Anderson and presented a paper on American Pharmaceutical Research. At the conclusion of this paper discussion was opened by Dr. H. V. Army; Dr. Mayer, Dr. Wimmer, Mr. Eddy and Dr. Diner also took part in this discussion. This was followed by a rising vote of thanks extended to the speakers.

Chairman Anderson now introduced Dr. Lentz, who outlined the work of the Kings County Professional Guild, relative to legislation affecting pharmacy and medicine. It was moved, seconded and carried that a committee of five be appointed to confer with similar committees of other associations with reference to enlarging the work of the Guild.

Chairman Anderson appointed Messrs. Lehman, Eddy, Mayer, Lascoff and Bigelow to act on this committee.

Thomas Potts, formerly of Chicago, was now introduced and briefly addressed the meeting.

HUGO H. SCHAEFER, *Secretary*.

## PHILADELPHIA.

## DECEMBER MEETING A NOVEL ONE.

On December 14th, at the usual evening hour at which this Branch convenes at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, the shades of five alchemistic celebrities responded to the summons of the Egyptian deity, Hermes Trismegistus, and performed for a present-day audience some of the tricks of the black art with which they had mystified—yes, and terrorized—their contemporaries in that distant past when the forces of nature were but little understood. Just as astrology preceded astronomy, and legendary loer preceded history, so alchemy preceded chemistry.

It is out of alchemy that chemistry developed, and upon which it is built. These men—alchemists—who searched for the philosopher's stone, and for the elixir of life, and searched in vain, did in fact make many important advances in that domain of knowledge out of which our modern science of chemistry has risen. History deals rather rudely with the alchemist, and in fiction he is the object of ridicule or of scorn—witness, *Dousterswivel* in Sir Walter Scott's "Antiquary." But inasmuch as the search for the philosopher's stone and for the elixir of life led to numerous discoveries which were not altogether devoid of practical value, it is quite proper that we should have our attention directed from time to time to the greatest of these ancient votaries of research along lines which we now classify as chemical.

To be sure, at this evening entertainment there were some anachronisms, as, for example, when Geber, who should have spoken fluently in classic Arabic of the vintage of 750 A.D., or thereabouts, rolled off in Welsh the way stations of a narrow gauge railroad in Wales, and when Paracelsus who should have communicated his thoughts to us in sonorous Latin, or Hochdeutch, of the 17th century, spoke in a dialect which was suspiciously like the Pennsylvania Dutch of "Sous Beslehem," Pa. We were mildly surprised also to see Roger Bacon, whose earthly labors ended about nine hundred years ago, use phenolphthalein and other products of modern synthesis with skill which indicated intimate familiarity with these substances. But what would one have? When we attend a dramatic performance of Richelieu, do we object if the Cardinal's robe is of modern weave and dyed with a synthetic dye which traces its ancestry to the tar barrel? Aren't we satisfied if the atmosphere is correct and an air of verisimilitude pervades? And judged along these broad lines the performance was splendid, and highly enjoyable, not only for chemists, but also for those who had no understanding of the reactions involved. Indeed, those who were mystified the most, enjoyed it best.

When we entered the chemistry lecture room, we were in semi-darkness, and fumes and strange odors pervaded the air. The present-day workaday world, with its noises and its bright lights, had been left behind. We were in a strange world—and in strange company. Robed figures moved stealthily back and forth behind the lecture table and worked with strange paraphernalia, the pur-

port of which we did not as yet apprehend; then rose Hermes Trismegistus to address the assembly. The rays of a feeble flame illuminated his countenance, and we saw that his profile was aquiline, his hair and eyes black, and his complexion swarthy, as befitted a deity of old Egypt. He said:

"I speak not of fictitious things but what is true and most certain. What is below is like that which is above, and what is above like that which is below, to accomplish the miracles of one thing.

"And as all things were produced by the mediation of one being, so all things were produced from the one thing by adaptation.

"Its father is the sun, its mother the moon, the wind carries it, its nurse is the earth.

"It is the cause of perfection throughout the whole world.

"Its power is perfect if it be changed into earth.

"Separate the earth from the fire, the subtle from the gross, acting prudently and with judgment.

"This thing is the fortitude of all fortitude, because it overcomes all subtle things and penetrates every solid thing.

"Thus were all things created.

"Whence proceed wonderful adaptations which are produced in this way.

"Therefore am I called Hermes Trismegistus, possessing three parts of the philosophy of the whole world."

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"My confreres are the shades of those who attained to eminent distinction in the ages past in works of alchemy and magic:

"Paracelsus—Philippus Aureolus Theophrastus Bombastus von Hohenheim, whose erratic genius in the 16th century revolutionized alchemy, and founded the school of Iatrochemistry, which had for its object the preparation of medicines instead of the foolish quest of the philosopher's stone.

"Albertus Magnus, or Albert Groot, or Albert von Bollstadt, a German alchemist of the 13th century who after his education at Padua entered the Dominican order, and devoted his life to science.

"Roger Bacon—the most illustrious of medieval alchemists, an Englishman, and of the Franciscan order. He was a firm believer in the philosopher's stone. By some he is credited with the discovery of gunpowder.

"Geber—An Arabian alchemist of the 9th century. He was the first to describe many chemical operations, such as distillation,

sublimation, calcination. But his voluminous writings contained so much which was mystical and obscure, that Samuel Johnson was led to believe that the word gibberish had been derived from the name of this famous alchemist.

"Joseph Balsamo, better known in history as Cagliostro, an Italian of the 18th century, a man of mystery, of magic, and an expounder of the occult.

"These spirits have appeared to remind you of their almost forgotten existence, and to demonstrate that instruction and entertainment have a common meeting ground."

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The shades assembled then proceeded to do things. They waved their wands, and colors appeared on white surfaces. Liquids blushed and paled, turned blue or purple, as with cold. Flames of fire were projected toward the audience; strange odors developed; explosions happened, seemingly without cause. Events followed in rapid succession. Nor did the shades condescend to lift the veil of mystery, or indeed to turn on the bright light provided by the genius of the great modern wizard, Edison, until the programme had been brought to a close.

When the shades had divested themselves of their somber gowns and makeup, it was disclosed that Hermes Trismegistus was none other than Prof. C. H. LaWall, Paracelsus stood forth as Prof. F. P. Stroup, Geber was Ivor Griffith, instructor in pharmacy, Albertus Magnus, Ralph R. Foran, instructor in Technical Chemistry, Roger Bacon, Edward J. Hughes, instructor in Chemistry, and Joseph Balsamo, Joseph W. E. Harrisson, of the class of 1916, and now serving as the secretary of the Philadelphia Branch.

It was to these men that the audience extended a hearty vote of thanks for a most enjoyable evening. J. W. STURMER.

#### JANUARY MEETING.

The regular monthly meeting of the Philadelphia Branch of the American Pharmaceu-

tical Association was held at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, Tuesday evening, January 11, 1921, President Goodhart presiding.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and approved and new members elected, a report of the result of the vote sheets sent out on deletions and additions to the National Formulary, was received. Numerous communications expressing a variety of views on the National Formulary were received. After a discussion of the matter Prof. Charles LaWall moved that all communications and data received should be forwarded to Chairman W. L. Scoville of the National Formulary Revision Committee.

Dr. Ivor Griffith then opened the scientific features of the evening with a paper entitled, "Seriological Tests as Diagnostic Aids." By interspersing with his Welsh wit he presented the subject in such a manner that it was of interest to all, and also very clearly showed the advantages derived from such tests.

"A More Practical Assay Process for Some Zinc Salts of the U. S. P.," by George Éwe and Fred. Gloor was then presented by Mr. Éwe. Mr. Éwe pointed out the fallacy of determining the purity of zinc salts by the estimation of their acid radical. He advocated the estimation of the zinc by titration with a standard solution of potassium ferrocyanide, results being much quicker and the method more easily handled than the present U. S. P. method.

Prof. LaWall discussed the paper, after which both contributors of the evening were given a vote of thanks.

At the December meeting of the Branch the resignation of Secretary Elmer H. Hessler was received, due to his leaving the city. Mr. Hessler was commended for the very efficient and hearty services he had rendered the Branch. J. W. E. Harrisson was then nominated and elected to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Hessler. J. W. E. HARRISSON, *Secretary*.

## COUNCIL BUSINESS

### A. PH. A. COUNCIL LETTER NO. 12.

(Abstract.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 18, 1921.

53. *Representation on Advisory Council of the National Botanic Garden (Items 45 to 49).*

*Result of vote.* Motion No. 49, a motion authorizing the Council of the American Pharmaceutical Association to inform Mr. J. G. Langdon of the Fine Arts Commission at Washington that the American Pharmaceutical Association would be pleased to be represented