

ing was that fresh Spanish ergot is more active than Russian but the rate of deterioration is greater and, in his opinion, an investigation of this would be of value. E. L. Newcomb referred to domestic ergot and cannabis. E. A. Ruddiman had nothing to add; he desired to know when the standard would be obtainable. H. A. B. Dunning asked whether investigations are going on with a view of improving the preparations of the drugs under consideration.

Dr. Munch replying said that the questions presented were concerned with deterioration, the source and time of supplying standards. He stated that manufacturers were giving much attention to deterioration and that the subject would in that way be taken care of, at least to some extent. It is the purpose to provide composite fluidextracts (of ergot and of cannabis) each from ten different lots of the respective drugs. Combining these there will be precipitation, but one precipitate is better than ten. This composite fluidextract will be aged, decanted and sealed; as soon as a standard falls below a desired strength a new standard will, in like manner, be prepared—the assays are being made at regular intervals.

The speaker referred to the international significance of the work, as mentioned by Chairman Cook.

When he left Washington (two weeks prior to convention) eight lots of ouabain from Germany were being assayed; other lots had come from manufacturers. A supply of pituitary powder was on hand, which should last for four years. Ergot must be aged; this is not the case with cannabis, so this will be available earlier. It may be possible to grow strophanthus in the United States and steps are being taken to make that possible; if that is feasible the supply of ouabain will be assured. Dr. Munch concluded by saying that he had received full coöperation of manufacturers in every way and he wished to publicly and definitely go on record expressing thanks to the manufacturers for the coöperation they have extended to the Bureau.

Dr. Munch was given a vote of thanks and the session was adjourned.

#### SECTION ON PRACTICAL PHARMACY AND DISPENSING.

The first session of the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing was convened by Chairman Robert J. Ruth at 9:35 A.M., August 28. Owing to the absence of the Secretary, Ivor Griffith was asked to serve in that capacity, and F. W. Nitardy presided during the reading of the Chairman's address, which follows:

#### CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

BY ROBERT J. RUTH.

It was with a feeling of deep appreciation that your Chairman assumed the responsibilities of the office which you entrusted to him and he has at all times endeavored to serve you to the greatest extent of his humble capabilities, mindful of your reposed confidence and of the resultant effects of either the failure or success of his administration.

It is appropriate at this point to express the appreciation and thankfulness that your Chairman feels for the staunch support of his associates and Delegate Irwin A. Becker and their spirit of close coöperation and helpfulness, all of which has made the work of your Chairman a pleasure to him and has assisted greatly in the smooth functioning of the affairs of the section and accounts in no small degree for the success of our program. Your Chairman feels that this occasion should not pass without special reference being made of our fellow member Edward Swallow, who, although a bed-ridden invalid, fights valiantly with his pen for pharmaceutical prestige and recognition, and his many letters expressing his optimism and high ideals have ever been an inspiration to your Chairman in carrying on his duties. Your Chairman would like to continue on with a long list of those who have so kindly and willingly helped him throughout the past year in the preparations for this meeting, but as time does not permit, he sincerely hopes they will know that he does not minimize the value of their service or fail to appreciate it, and this pertains also to the President and Secretary of the Association and to the Editor of the JOURNAL.

During the past year, Chairman Snyder and Secretary Pittenger of the Scientific Section met with President Army in New York City and drafted proposed By-Laws for the Scientific Section. Your Chairman was called into conference when these proposed By-Laws were given final consideration before being presented before the Scientific Section for adoption at this meeting and it was then suggested by your Chairman that they be made the model By-Laws for all of the

sections of the Association. They will be read to you by the Secretary of this section and your Chairman would make the specific recommendation that they be passed upon by this section, becoming its By-Laws, subject, of course, to the approval of the Council and that the Council be notified of such action and its approval asked.

During the past year your Chairman has given much time to a deep study of the present plight in which American Pharmacy is confusedly struggling. An effort to write a comprehensive report finds your Chairman just as confusedly struggling as the conditions suggest a series of battling circles with no clearly defined start or finish, reminding one of the sea charts of that delightful old book-keeper characterized by the author of "Blowing Weather," a most refreshing book, depicting the apothecary of the early days of the 19th century. But we must remember that the old book-keeper's circles led to a very practical and pleasing conclusion, so we must try to make a start that we may seek the end.

Your Chairman's experiences over a period of the past eleven years since his graduation from college, first as a member of the faculty of the medical and pharmaceutical departments of a Southern University; next, with a large pharmaceutical and biological house, then as proprietor of two retail pharmacies in the Middle West, and finally his connection with a large Eastern college of pharmacy, have served him with a great amount of information on the subject of the condition of American pharmacy; and, as this section is visited by the retail pharmacists the hospital pharmacists, the laboratory pharmacists, the manufacturing pharmacists and members of the faculties of colleges of pharmacy, this seems to be the proper place for your Chairman to attempt to present his humble opinions.

First, let us take up the main evils confronting our chosen profession. We have the bootlegging drug store, the drugless drug store, the patent medicine store, the cut-rate situation, office girls compounding and dispensing medicine in physicians' offices, untrained persons compounding and dispensing medicines in many hospitals where every consideration is paid to sanitation, clinical diagnosis and the care and welfare of the patient, but little or no attention to the preparation, standardization, potency or compounding of the medicine which, in the main, is the treatment depended upon to restore the patient to good health; the lack of recognition accorded pharmacy by the United States Government as evidenced by the pharmacists' standing in the United States Army and Navy and other governmental departments; and other evils of more or less importance. It sounds so bad that we think sometimes there is almost no hope. On the other hand, let us consider that when conditions remain just bad enough to be tolerated they often are tolerated for a very long period of time, but when they become too bad they are more often remedied. Can we not suppose that American pharmacy has reached that point where conditions have become unbearable? Can we not hope for the remedies soon? Remember that a bad condition does not remain stationary—it either gets worse or better. We can hardly think of worse conditions confronting the practice of pharmacy. Is it not at its lowest ebb? Can we not therefore look for a bettering of conditions? Sometimes your Chairman likes to compare our situation with that of General Washington and his struggling little Continental Army of 5,000 weary souls, during that terrible winter when they camped in the snow-covered valley of despair—Valley Forge. Every poor suffering soul left his footprints of blood in the snow. There were deserters, those who lost hope entirely. Have you seen the portrait of Washington, picturing him as he sat in deep study on the very verge of despair trying to find the way out? He found it! Was hope lost? Darrow might call this a fantasy bordering on a paronomasia, but this is a world of comparison.

Next, let us consider the fact that too small a percentage of the medicines taken internally and used externally are prepared or sold by the legitimate manufacturing pharmaceutical houses, or by the retail pharmacists. An astonishingly large per cent. is manufactured by concerns having no professional standards and sold from patent medicine stores, through mail order houses or vended from house to house by people in each instance having no knowledge of medicines. Is this not a menace to public health? Is it fair to the pharmacists who are bound by every manner of regulations from municipal to national? No, it is not fair, nor is it fair for the unscrupulous imitator to prostitute the name of our profession with his bootlegging drug store or his drugless drug store, or for untrained persons to assume the duties of pharmacists in physicians' offices or hospitals. So much for the evils that confront the practice of pharmacy. We could go on to the end of this session and into the next one on this subject. What we want to know is, what are we

going to do to remedy conditions? The only answer is, organization, public information and legislation.

The late President Theodore Roosevelt said that every man owes an obligation to his profession. It is indeed unfortunate that this address is not reaching the thousands of pharmacists not in attendance at this convention, as they are the ones to be reached, not you, ladies and gentlemen, who devote so much of your time and energies to the uplift of pharmacy. But we must carry on.

It is discouraging to hear so many pharmacists say that they do not want to be known as such, because the public's impression of a pharmacist is not a good impression. Your Chairman does not believe this, and you here do not believe it. Your customers are your friends and they come to you with the innermost secrets of their hearts, their troubles they impart to you, and they seek advice from you. You know that. Does it then follow that their opinion of you has suffered? What we want the public to think of us and our profession they will think. Nevertheless, the public certainly does not fully appreciate the pharmacist and his great service to humanity. We must impress it with this fact. How shall we go about it? And do we really deserve more recognition? Is the pharmacist necessary in America? Should he be more highly educated? These questions all come to us. First, let us consider whether or not the pharmacist is necessary to the American public. Who will handle the poisons and the acids and the narcotics and other drugs and chemicals, assuring the great amount of safety which is now assured to the public while the pharmacist handles them? Does anybody else care to handle them legitimately? Does the drugless drug store care about putting up a half pint bottle of muriatic acid? No, there is no money in it, considering the time involved, not to mention the knowledge required, or the danger involved. Well, if it is fit and proper for the pharmacist to dispense and sell all of the disagreeable things pertaining to his profession how about a law making it unlawful for any one to sell anything used internally or externally for medicinal purposes, either packaged or unpackaged, except by a registered pharmacist and from a licensed pharmacy owned and controlled by a registered pharmacist? It seems that this would give the registered pharmacist the opportunity to dispense and sell the drugs, medicines and medicinal supplies used in this country, which in itself would be so considerable a task that the pharmacist would have less time to exploit the virtues of various brands of hairnets and glass beads, or need to sell sandwiches and toys. As conditions now exist he must sell everything he can think of to pay the ever-increasing overhead, and he cannot be blamed for wanting to meet his expenses and make a living for himself and his family.

Your Chairman is convinced that the vast majority of students study pharmacy because they love the profession. They have the high ideals, in the majority of cases, which are held by their preceptors, and they are imbued with a desire to serve their suffering fellowmen. Certainly it would be foolish to study pharmacy without this high inspiration. It may be argued that the average student goes to college because he happened to go to work in a drug store. Still he could hardly spend four years in the drug store and go through college without having acquired this desire to serve humanity. Shall he then be graduated and sent out into a field where he cannot find the proper outlet for his talents and, finally disillusioned, be obliged to resort to commercial store-keeping as his life's work? Legislate pharmacy into a recognized profession, so that a graduate pharmacist can devote his life to the practice of pharmacy and make an income in proportion to his knowledge and position in society, and it will then not be difficult to raise the standards of our college courses to a minimum course of four years, five days a week, leading to an appropriate degree.

Now, is the pharmacist merely desiring this legislation from a selfish motive, or is there another object? Where does the public come in? Who suffers? To answer the last question first, no one suffers. Those who would prey on the misfortunes of the unsuspecting and suffering public must discontinue their criminal practice. The pharmacist gains only what is rightfully his. The public is protected. For example, the young mother goes into the patent medicine or drugless drug store, and she asks for some calomel tablets. The clerk hands her an original bottle containing 100 tablets of one-half grain each and he informs her that the price is 19 cents. Whereupon the young mother asks how to give them to the baby who is five weeks old and the clerk replies that he guesses that the directions are on the bottle. If this young mother had gone to a registered pharmacist, you can readily see that she would have been given the proper information. The pharmacist would have rendered her the information and service to which she was en-

titled and he would have considered it his professional duty to correct her purchase. Public health would not be jeopardized.

The pharmacists have failed to use the greatest argument within their power—that of public health. It pertains as surely to pharmacy as to medicine and dentistry.

Your Chairman is optimistic concerning the Pharmacy Headquarters Building project and what it will do to unite pharmacy under one great banner. The manufacturing, wholesale, retail and hospital pharmacists have much in common to gain through legislation. We are right in our objective, and right wins. Public health is at stake; fair play is our just due.

Your Chairman prays that you do not consider his address impertinent, nor does he think that much that he is saying is new to your minds, but he hopes to bring the foregoing once more to your attention, and to offer the following suggestions not in the form of recommendation, but it is his prayer that these suggestions will be given some thought on the part of the members of the Association and that they may be instrumental in forming a definite plan of action.

*First:* It is essential to unite all pharmaceutical interests in a great movement for public information and constructive and protective legislation.

*Second:* A "National Pharmaceutical Week" could be inaugurated with specially written articles prepared by men of national prominence in pharmaceutical circles, appearing in newspapers and magazines throughout the nation; and speakers from our ranks addressing the Rotary, Kiwanis, Exchange, Lions and similar clubs, Chamber of Commerce, women's clubs, neighborhood clubs and other similar organizations throughout the United States, which are so very instrumental in shaping our national thought. Public health should be the keynote.

*Third:* Radio broadcasting of a constructive nature, as has already been inaugurated in some of our colleges, should be continued on a more elaborate scale and also carried on by our All-Pharmacy Headquarters when it is complete and functioning, thereby educating the public in our favor.

*Fourth:* We are like a giant monster that knows not its own strength. A great political organization would result from united pharmacy, which could accomplish any reasonable legislation. The American pharmacy to-day is the greatest political center in the nation, 50,000 petitions could be placed in the reputable pharmacies throughout the country and secure 25 to 50 million signatures, asking for the passing and enforcement of proper legislation to protect public health. A special type of petition could be used for the signatures of physicians, who will soon realize that misuse of the word drug and the indiscriminate sale of medicines is as slowly and surely undermining medical practice and medical prestige as it is that of pharmacy. The medical practitioner has his natural enemies and they are common enemies to both medicine and pharmacy, so it follows that the medical men need our support as surely as we need theirs. We must go direct to the medical profession and ask their support. We don't want to practice medicine, we want to practice pharmacy. Study of the problem shows that the pharmacist is necessary to mankind and if he is to survive, something must be done to protect him. If the politicians fail to support us, we can elect politicians who will.

*Fifth:* Pharmacists and particularly hospital pharmacists should write articles to appear in medical and hospital periodicals, emphasizing the work of their departments, and your Chairman would respectfully recommend to this section that preparations be made for this work as part of the program for the ensuing year.

*Sixth:* The Association could arrange with magazines of a national circulation, such as the *American Magazine*, to interview pharmacists of repute, thereby securing articles of interest and information to the general public, and furthering the public health and public service points of pharmaceutical service.

*Seventh:* What is good for pharmacists and the public in Massachusetts, is good for pharmacists and the public in California, and likewise in New York, Georgia and Minnesota. Therefore, a committee composed of two men from each state in the Union, selected by the State pharmaceutical associations, should meet at some central point, and assisted by a half dozen of the best legal talent of the nation, should draft model state and national pharmacy laws, which would hold water and not be full of loopholes. Then it might take us ten or fifteen years to get them passed—the national laws at Washington and the state laws through all of the state legislators—but it would be worth while, it would be a definite goal, with satisfaction and comfort at the end. It can be done, it would seem, and if it cannot, we might as well give up entirely.

Your Chairman begs your indulgence for this long address, which he realizes is contrary to the precedent of Chairmen's addresses, but he feels that the time has arrived for constructive and definite action and he craves action.

#### ABSTRACT OF DISCUSSION.

Charles H. LaWall said this address should go to all pharmacists; it should not be lost because of the few members here. In his opinion a sufficient number of reprints should be made for mailing to all officers of State Associations, all drug journals and colleges of pharmacy with the request that publicity and coöperation be given the plan. He made a motion accordingly and that the matter be referred to the Board of Directors, as to the financial outlay.

Chairman Nitardy asked whether this would come from the Section as a recommendation to the Board of Directors. The mover replied in the affirmative. The motion was carried.

A further motion, which was carried, referred the address for publication.

Chairman Ruth said that the Section should start on a definite program of writing articles for periodicals.

Chairman Nitardy referred to another recommendation of Chairman Ruth's address—that the By-Laws of the Scientific Section be adopted by this Section; he asked whether it was necessary to refer these to a committee. Charles H. LaWall considered this unnecessary and moved that the recommendations be approved. The motion was seconded and carried.

The By-Laws were read section by section; in Section 9, the word "extract" was changed to "abstract," and "scientific interests" was changed to "pharmaceutical interests" in order to make the term apply to this Section. A vote was called for to adopt the By-Laws, as amended, as a whole; it carried.

Report of the Special Committee on Recipe Book was called for, see p. 865, September JOUR. A. PH. A. The report was made by F. W. Nitardy; a motion to adopt and approve the report was made by Charles H. LaWall.—Carried.

Chairman Ruth appointed as members of the Committee on Nominations: *Chairman*, P. Henry Utech, B. E. Höckert and H. M. Faser.

By request of the Chairman, Charles H. LaWall presented notes of two papers to be submitted for publication, on "A New Emulsifying Agent for Volatile Oils" and "Denaturants in Distilled Extract of Witch Hazel;" the co-worker on latter paper is Joseph W. E. Harrison. Chairman Ruth requested that the contributors complete the papers and send them to the JOUR. A. PH. A. for publication.

A general discussion of the papers was participated in by Messrs. Gray, Krantz, Doran, Walton, Becker, Glover, Gauger, Handy and others.

The emulsifying agent receiving consideration in the first paper is albumen and potassium bitartrate.

In the discussion of the notes on denaturants in distilled extract of witch hazel, the varying costs were brought out, evidencing that pure ethyl alcohol was not invariably used in the preparation. Mr. Doran stated that for the distillation the weight of witch hazel is not given, so it lacks standard. Mr. Walton referred to the Government's viewpoint—classifying witch hazel among toilet articles and not as medicine. Mr. Handy contended that in framing a standard it should be remembered that witch hazel has constituents which have therapeutic value, however minute the quantities they may be essential to its action, and pharmacists should have assurance that the product purchased by them is what the manufacturers allege it to be. Mr. Doran said that correct labeling is the key to the situation.

A paper, by E. F. Kelly and John C. Krantz, Jr., was next read on "An Experiment in Extraction" (see pp. 815-818, September JOUR. A. PH. A.). There was no discussion, but Charles H. LaWall expressed his appreciation of this interesting and scientific study, which throws light on some of the difficulties of extraction.

A paper by Jos. W. E. Harrison on "The Preservative Effect of Certain Substances on Carrel-Dakin Solution," was read by Charles H. LaWall—see October JOUR. A. PH. A., p. 902.

The following paper was called for and read by the author:

#### THE A. PH. A. RECIPE BOOK—ITS SCOPE.

BY IVOR GRIFFITH.

The A. Ph. A. Recipe Book was the name originally intended for this compilation of for-