

EDITORIAL

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE DES MOINES CONVENTION.

SEVERAL of the departments of this issue of the JOURNAL, have been cut down and others omitted, so as to give as many pages as possible to the minutes of the convention at Des Moines. In the September number the addresses of the presiding officers were printed and in this issue record is made of the proceedings of the General Sessions, of the Council and of the House of Delegates of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION; those of the Sections will be published in the succeeding number, thus bringing into the three issues the report of the sessions at Des Moines.

The new Pharmacopœia and National Formulary were given careful consideration, a joint session of the Scientific Section and the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing being devoted to these standards and the "Unofficial Formulary." In a way these discussions present a commentary on the standards and with the "Abstracts of Changes" and other articles heretofore published are replete with essential information for pharmacists, and for medical practitioners' of the why for making larger use of these standards in their prescribing. The "Abstracts of Changes" and other contributions bearing on the U. S. P. and N. F. are published in the JOURNAL for 1924, pp. 56, 133, 248, 360, 372, 795, 954, 972, 1046, 1058; a comprehensive article on admissions, deletions, new names, etc., will be found in the JOURNAL for June (1925), p. 536. The discussions of the Joint Session will be reported prior to the first of the year, when the new Pharmacopœia becomes official.

The Pharmacy Headquarters has a large part in the minutes which make up the greater number of pages in this issue of the JOURNAL. That which represented a possibility a few years ago is now coming to a realization. More than \$10,000 was added in Des Moines to the Headquarters' fund and plans were laid for completing the work at as early a day as possible, so that selection may be made of the Headquarters' site.

The frontispiece of this number of the JOURNAL, introduces an educator whose induction into the field of pharmaceutical education brings to pharmacy an influential advocate of its mission, who visions greater opportunities. The reports of the Commonwealth Study of Pharmacy evidence the thoroughness and value of the investigations under his direction. We may, perhaps, be permitted to say that his interest has grown with more intimate acquaintance and there is a possibility of a study of the business side of pharmacy, provided pharmacists generally exhibit a desire that will warrant the expenditure of funds necessary for the purpose. The wholesale druggists have for several years coöperated with Harvard Bureau of Business Research and the worth of the work can be comprehended by a reading of the report on the "Operating Expenses in the Wholesale Drug Business in 1923," published in the 1924 Proceedings of the N. W. D. A., which occupies nearly 100 pages of that volume. The members have realized on their investment through information which they have advantageously applied in business management.

A resolution of coöperation was adopted by the House of Delegates in anticipation of a study of "commercial" pharmacy.

General publicity has been given to "Pharmacy Week;" it has received the hearty endorsement of all pharmaceutical organizations and pharmacists have expressed their intention to make "Pharmacy Week" an annual event during the second week of October. Assurances of success have been most promising and the results of the first event are now part of the history of American pharmacy.

E. G. E.

THE NEW PHARMACOPŒIA.

THE Tenth Revision of the Pharmacopœia of the United States, which will become official January 1, 1926, is the product of practically five years of earnest, coöperative effort, carried out in the spirit of professional idealism.

The harmonious division of labor and the results are gratifying to all who have shared the responsibility and should be equally satisfactory to the thousands of users of the book.

The Committee of Revision, as elected by the Convention, in 1920, was made up of specialists in the several phases of the revision. Fifteen distinct fields were recognized at the outstart and sub-committees created in each. To strengthen these groups many experts, not on the original committee, were invited to serve as auxiliary members and a policy of the revision has been to depend upon these sub-committees for the settlement of every technical question in their field.

In the determination of the scope of this new Pharmacopœia, this policy has strongly influenced the status of the new book. It means that the therapeutic agents included in the U. S. P. X are those selected by the physician-members of the committee, without any restriction, and offers the physician a guide to the latest and most efficient materia medica of our time.

Another policy of the revision was to provide standards and assays whenever practicable, thus insuring the physician, when he prescribed U. S. P. products, uniform and reliable medicines.

The actual work of revision was participated in by every interested group; the National Bureaus and Departments responsible for enforcing drug standards, the various medical associations, numerous national pharmaceutical bodies, and hundreds of individuals, all working with the appropriate organized sub-committee.

The resulting book is placed before the country with confidence in its ability to meet the immediate needs. There are a number of problems which arose during the revision which remain unsettled. Some of these will be investigated during the next few years, using funds recently provided by the Board of Trustees through the establishment of The Remington Research Fund.

It is hoped that by this method at least, some of the unsolved questions of this revision may be clarified for the pharmacopœial workers of the next decade.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: In the November issue of the JOURNAL reports and discussions on the U. S. P. X will be published. These will be both interesting and instructive, because they not only give an account of the work of revision but also reasons for changes, inclusions, etc.