

EDITORIAL

E. G. EBERLE, EDITOR

253 Bourse Bldg., PHILADELPHIA

THE DES MOINES MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

THROUGH the efforts of the Local Committee of Des Moines, with the support of Iowa pharmacists, wide publicity has been given to the meeting of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, to convene in Des Moines during the week of August 24th. There will also be held conventions of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties, National Conference of Pharmaceutical Research, and Pharmacy Laboratory Conference; the Plant Science Laboratory Seminar will be held at the University of Minnesota during the week of August 17th; nearly all of those attending the Seminar will, after its close, go to the convention city. The Northwestern Pharmaceutical Bureau is heartily cooperating with the Local Committee for a record attendance of pharmacists in Des Moines.

Information at this writing is to the effect that 9000 announcements of the meeting have been mailed—a copy to every member of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, one to every druggist of Iowa and 2500 to the drug stores of the northwest outside of Iowa. The folder is evidently issued by cooperation with the Rock Island Railroad and gives the names of its representatives in the larger cities, a map, and outlines the train service to Des Moines. The General Program of the Convention, as printed in the July JOURNAL, is included. The wide publicity given should assure a large attendance because of the importance of this meeting, at which the American Pharmacy Headquarters will be a leading topic for discussion. Pharmacists have never had a greater opportunity to inform the public of the mission of pharmacy, and of their deep interest in the service—the attendance should overtop every other preceding convention in that respect, because of the outstanding project and the interesting program which has been prepared. Another topic that will have consideration is Pharmacy Week—how to derive the best results therefrom; other countries have become enthused over its possibilities—it has become of international interest.

Serve pharmacy, benefit your profession, by attending the convention in Des Moines, if you can possibly do so, and induce others to join you. E. G. E.

BIOLOGICAL STANDARDS OF THE NEW U. S. PHARMACOPŒIA.

THE new Pharmacopœia will carry the following statement in the preface: “Biological assays have now been made compulsory for a number of important drugs and preparations, and in order to facilitate the adoption of these standards and to provide a greater degree of uniformity in the application of these assays, the officials of the Bureau of Chemistry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, at Washington, have indicated their willingness to supply substances conforming to the new pharmacopœial standards.”

Chairman of the Committee of Revision, E. Fullerton Cook, advises that word has been received from the Bureau of Chemistry that they are now prepared to supply standard substances conforming to the biological assay requirements of the U. S. Pharmacopœia, Tenth. Manufacturers are invited to make application and to indicate the approximate amount of material they may desire to receive from the Bureau. All who desire such standard substances against which to check their biological assays should make application at this time, addressing their communication to the Bureau of Chemistry, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

It is understood that the use of these Bureau of Chemistry standards is optional but they will doubtless be made the basis of comparison by all manufacturers. This service is the result of coöperation between the Committee of Revision, who have established the standards, a number of manufacturers who have supplied the Bureau of Chemistry with material, and the Bureau of Chemistry, which has made composite samples and will offer them without cost to those who manufacture biologically assayed products.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES THAT CONCERN PHARMACY.

ONE International Conference that concerns pharmacy has been held, and two others will convene. The International Pharmaceutical Federation met in Lausanne, Switzerland, July 21st-23rd. A program of this meeting was printed in the July number of the JOURNAL. Dr. Arno Viehoever attended the meeting as a delegate from the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

A second Brussels Conference to attempt further international harmony in the standards for potent remedies will meet September 21, and Dr. A. G. DuMez has been appointed an official representative of the U. S. Public Health Service, and he also will represent officially the Committee of Revision of the U. S. P. The 1920 convention of the U. S. P. recognized the need for a new conference. In outline, the tentative program of this conference follows:

First Topic.—Revision of the decisions made by the first conference.

Second Topic.—Unification of the composition of other heroic medicaments. The following are named in the program:

Preparations of Strophanthus, Hydrastis Canadensis and Cinchona. Belladonna leaf, Digitalis leaf, Ipecac. Adrenaline. Aconite Root and Colchicum Seed.

Third Topic.—Unification of arsenic and bismuth preparations.

Fourth Topic.—Is it desirable to unify the chemical assay methods for certain medicaments? Summing up: The work of the conference in the unification of assay methods should be limited to a choice between the methods of the different pharmacopœias, or to determine the procedure for making the choice rather than a study of the methods themselves.

Fifth Topic.—Is it desirable to adopt biologic methods to assay and to unify them? This is a subject that will come before the conference of the Section on Biological Standardization of the Health Committee of the League of Nations at Geneva, starting August 31st. Dr. Reid Hunt, Chairman of U. S. P. Convention, and Dr. C. W. Edmunds, Chairman of the Sub-committee on Bio-assay, U. S. P., will be present.

The Section on Hygiene of the League of Nations has charged a special committee to study the physiologic methods for the standardization of certain remedies: digitalis, belladonna, insulin, ergot and pituitary extract.

Sixth Topic—Unification of maximum doses.

Seventh Topic—Consideration of the proposition to adopt special containers for dispensing medicaments which will indicate by their form or other peculiarity whether the contents are intended for internal or external use.

Eighth Topic—International regulation of the traffic in narcotics. This topic will probably be deleted since the League of Nations has called two conferences for the purpose of studying and solving this problem.

Ninth Topic—Examination of the project to create a permanent international secretariat of pharmacopœias. Two projects are under discussion which do not differ greatly except as to the laboratories in which the work is to be done. The plan of Van Itallie makes use of scientific laboratories already in existence, and the Federation Internationale Pharmaceutique has expressed itself in favor of this plan; that of Tschirch requires a special laboratory annexed to the secretariat. As a matter of information the project of the latter is given:

1. Collection of all the articles of interest on pharmacopœias appearing in the journals and the publication annually of a volume of abstracts in German, French and English.
2. Comparison and verification of all methods for the determination of the active principles of drugs, principally of the heroic drugs, but also of the chemical medicaments, and publication of the results in such a manner that the reports will be continuous.
3. Elaboration, with the foregoing work as a basis, of projects for the regulation of and special decisions on all the articles of the pharmacopœias which lend themselves to international regulation. Those projects should then be submitted to the different governments represented at international conferences, where they should be discussed and adopted or rejected.
4. The office should also interest itself in international nomenclature and other analogous questions.

Tenth Topic—Adoption of an international nomenclature for pharmacopœias. The conference is asked to decide if it is desirable to adopt Latin as the nomenclature for medicaments;

If it is desirable to begin the titles of salts with the name of the cation or of the anion;

If it is desirable to exclude from the official nomenclature commercial names registered as trademarks and whether or not these names should be included among the synonyms.

THE U. S. PHARMACOPŒIA X ON SALE.

The new U. S. Pharmacopœia is now on sale. Early purchase will enable pharmacists to become acquainted with the new standard before it becomes official, January 1, 1926, and copies will be available for schools of pharmacy prior to the opening sessions.
