

COMMITTEE REPORTS

REPORT ON THE PAN-AMERICAN MEDICAL CONGRESS.

BY THEODORE J. BRADLEY.

The fourth congress of the Pan-American Medical Association at Dallas, Texas, March 21st-25th, was attended by hundreds of members and delegates from North and South America and the West Indies. This organization is devoted to the scientific aspects of medicine and allied sciences, and its previous meetings were held in Mexico City, Panama and Havana, Cuba. The next meeting is to be held in Caracas, Venezuela, probably in January 1935.

The United States Pharmacopœial Revision Committee was represented at the Congress by Dean Theodore J. Bradley of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, chairman of Sub-Committee No. 14 of the Pharmacopœial Revision Committee, who served as acting chairman of the Section of Pharmacopœias, in the absence of the chairman, Dr. Francisco Hidalgo of Cuba. The secretary of the Section was Dr. L. W. Fetzer, of Dallas.

In his address as chairman, Dean Bradley presented, "Some Thoughts on the Future Relationships of the Pharmacopœias of the Americas" and suggested the creation of a Pan-American Committee on Pharmacopœias, whose duty it would be to recommend steps to reconcile differences between the different American Pharmacopœias, and which should consider the preparation of a digest of the different American Pharmacopœias, to be published in both English and Spanish.

The Section on Pharmacopœias held three sessions during the Congress, at which a number of papers, prepared by members of the Revision Committee and others, were presented, including the following:

1. "Pan-American Pharmacopœial Uniformity," by E. Fullerton Cook, chairman of the Committee of Revision of the Pharmacopœia of the United States.
2. "Pan-American Drug Standards," by E. L. Newcomb, P.D., chairman of the Sub-Committee on Botany and Pharmacognosy of the Committee of Revision of the Pharmacopœia of the United States.
3. "Biological Products for the Forthcoming Revision of the U. S. Pharmacopœia," by George W. McCoy, M.D., chairman of the Sub-Committee on Biological Products of the U. S. P. Committee of Revision, and Director of the National Institute of Public Health, Washington, D. C.
4. "Thirty American Medicinal Plants, Parts I and II," by Felipe Urquieta, Sc.D., P.D., Arequipa, Peru.
5. "Some Difficulties Encountered in the Assay of Hyoscyamus," by H. G. DeKay and C. B. Jordan, chairman of Sub-Committee on Proximate Assays of the U. S. Pharmacopœia, eleventh Revision.
6. "Pharmacopœial Standardization of Medicinal Chemicals," by George D. Beal, P.D., Ph.D., Assistant Director, Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, chairman Sub-Committee on Organic Chemicals, United States Pharmacopœia, Committee of Revision.
7. "Alcohol in the Important Pharmacopœias of the World," by Charles H. LaWall, Ph.M., Sc.D., chairman of the Sub-Committee on Volatile Oils, Committee of Revision, U. S. Pharmacopœia; and Amelia Mesa Ponce, P.D., Member Cuban Auxiliary Commission, U. S. Pharmacopœia, Eleventh Revision.
8. "Distilled and Potable Waters in the Important Pharmacopœias of the World," by Charles H. LaWall, Ph.M., Sc.D., and Amelia Mesa Ponce, P.D.
9. "The Determination of Hydrogen-Ion Concentration in Its Relationship to a National Pharmacopœia," by John C. Krantz, Jr., chairman of Sub-Committee on Inorganic Chemicals of the U. S. Pharmacopœia, Eleventh Revision.
10. "Pharmacopœial Ointments," by Leonard A. Seltzer, Sc.D., Detroit, Michigan, chairman of U. S. P. Sub-Committee on Galenicals.
11. "A Method for the Biological Assay of Drugs That Depress the Nervous System," by James C. Munch, Ph.D., and Amelia Mesa Ponce, P.D., Biological Laboratories of Sharp and Dohme, Glenolden, Pa.

12. "Pan-American Medical Congresses as Agencies for Stopping the Gap between Medicine and Pharmacy," by Lewis W. Fetzer, Ph.D., M.D., Sc.D., Dallas, Texas.

Typewritten copies of nearly all of the papers, with translations into Spanish by Dr. Amelia Mesa Ponce, were distributed to the delegates in attendance when the papers were read. It is felt that a great deal was done at the meeting to secure and maintain the highly desirable uniformity among the present and prospective pharmacopœias of the various countries in the western hemisphere.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT.

Word has been received from Dr. Francisco Hidalgo, of Havana, Cuba, who had been appointed chairman of the Section on Pharmacopœias but was unable to attend the meeting in Dallas, that the following additional papers have been contributed to the Pharmacopœial Section and will be published.

1. "Concept of the Pharmacopœia," by Dr. José C. Diaz, of Havana.
2. "The United States Pharmacopœia and the Projected Pan-American Pharmacopœia," by Dr. Francisco Hidalgo.
3. "Considerations in Regard to the Translation into Spanish of the United States Pharmacopœia," by Dr. José Capote Diaz, of Havana.
4. "Official Pharmacopœias and Formularies of the American Continent. Introductory Study for a Projected Pan-American Pharmacopœia," by Dr. Ricardo Galbis, of Havana.
5. "The Pan-American Pharmacopœia," by Dr. Francisco Velez Salas of Caracas, Venezuela.

OFFICIAL PHARMACOPŒIAS AND FORMULARIES IN USE IN THE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES OF AMERICA.

PRELIMINARY SKETCH TO BE USED FOR THE CREATION OF A PAN-AMERICAN PHARMACOPŒIA.

BY DR. RICARDO GALBIS.

We, the people of the various countries of America, know each other less than the inhabitants of distant continents. We mind more European affairs than our Pan-American cultural development, being thus careless about the cultural status of our neighboring countries.

With reference to the Pharmacopœias, which are of vital importance in all health problems, we must admit that many are ignorant as to the type of Pharmacopœia, either official or in use, employed by their respective neighbors.

The object of the present sketch is to investigate which are the official pharmacopœias and formularies in use in the different countries within the American Continent and with this information adopt a policy which will regulate the construction of The Pan-American Pharmacopœia, discussing at the same time its advantages and disadvantages.

The data for this sketch have been obtained from official sources, such as: Bureau of Foreign Relations, Public Health Board, universities, scientific reviews, professors, individual authorities, etc. (The author desires to be reminded of any misquotation, misrepresentation or errors regarding the body of this work, and invites the reader to make suggestions, for it will be for common interest.)

Our information is not limited to American political units, for it also covers data from European possessions in America. The European possessions in America not quoted in this work are understood to be using the official pharmacopœia of their respective commonwealths.

In accordance with the above we come to the following conclusion: Out of the twenty-one independent republics of America, six have their own pharmacopœia: United States of America, Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentine and Chile. The following possess their own formulary: Canada, United States of America and Cuba. Eleven countries lacking a local pharmacopœia have adopted the French Pharmacopœia; five have adopted the Pharmacopœia of the United States of America. (In accordance with the information received Nicaragua has adopted as official both the French and the United States pharmacopœias, which information must be, in due time, verified.)