

EDITORIAL

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A. PH. A. LABORATORY.

WHEN plans were developed for the Headquarters Building in Washington, provision was made for three newer activities for the ASSOCIATION to develop, a Reference Library, an Historical Museum and a Research Laboratory, the latter to be devoted to the establishment and improvement of standards for the official drugs and medicines. The Library and Museum have been in operation for some time. With the opening of the A. PH. A. Laboratory on June 15, 1938, the third unit was put into operation.

The official standards have now become so numerous and exacting and so important from the legal as well as the public health point of view, as to require the most accurate facilities and control in their development. The recent enactment of the new Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act makes this movement all the more important and necessary. While the National Formulary and the Recipe Book, being the property of the ASSOCIATION, will receive primary attention in the Laboratory, it is expected that the research program will be widened so as to contribute more extensively to the revision of the U. S. Pharmacopœia.

At the 1935 Meeting of the ASSOCIATION in Portland, Chairman Gathercoal of the Committee on National Formulary, which was then about to complete the Sixth Edition, stated that if the necessary studies in connection with adequate Formulary revision were to be properly carried out, a laboratory should be established promptly where much of the control work could be handled. It was recommended that a temporary N. F. Laboratory be established in the School of Pharmacy, University of Illinois, where adequate facilities were offered to meet the pressing revision demands and to provide experience in operation before the permanent Laboratory was opened in Washington.

The N. F. Laboratory was opened in Chicago under the direction of Chairman Gathercoal, about January 1, 1936, and met an almost instant and pressing demand for the solution of many revision problems following the issuance of the Sixth Edition of the National Formulary in December 1935. During this period, 123 assignments have been made of which 87 have been completed, and 33 subjects are as yet unassigned.

At the 1936 meeting of the A. PH. A. in Dallas, Chairman Gathercoal reported the successful operation of the Laboratory and recommended that it be transferred to Washington as early in 1938 as possible. Later, a Committee with Dr. Gathercoal as the Chairman, was named to develop general plans for the Washington Laboratory.

These plans were approved at the New York meeting in 1937, the necessary appropriations were made and the Committee was continued to prepare the rooms, equip the Laboratory and transfer the personnel, records, materials, etc., from the Chicago Laboratory to Washington. The preparation of the rooms was completed in March, according to the floor plan, page 456, and they have since been equipped with laboratory furniture of the latest design and with the necessary apparatus and supplies.

Work in the new Laboratory opened on June 15th with the arrival from Chicago of Dr. Roy K. Snyder and Messrs. Emerson C. Beeler and Karl B. Rosen, who have been connected with the work for some time. Mr. Kenneth L. Kelly, who is research associate in the National Bureau of Standards, under grants from the N. F. and the U. S. P. on the color problem, will also be connected with the Laboratory. Dr. Gathercoal will continue to serve as Director during the year.

Recently the Council of the ASSOCIATION elected the following as members of the permanent Committee on Laboratory to have general supervision of its activities: George D. Beal, *Chairman*, Carson P. Frailey, Charles B. Jordan, John C. Krantz, Jr., and Joseph Rosin; with Chairman Cook of the U. S. P. Committee of Revision, Chairman Gathercoal of the Committee on National Formulary and Chairman Lascoff of the Committee on Recipe Book as ex-officio members. This Committee held its first meeting in Washington on Tuesday, June 21st, took over the charge of the Laboratory from the previous committee and adopted plans for its activities. All projects for investigation in the Laboratory or through outside grants will be submitted to the Committee through the ex-officio members and all reports on work done will be issued through the Committee in order that the program may be thoroughly coördinated and controlled. The Laboratory will be enlarged in personnel and equipment as experience indicates.—E. F. K.

PROPOSED PLAN OF STUDY OF MEDICAL CARE.

THE STATE and county medical societies are being encouraged by the American Medical Association to undertake studies to determine medical needs and to formulate preferable policies for supplying these needs in accordance with established policies and local conditions. The objectives of the study are classified as follows:

First: To determine the prevailing need for medical and preventive medical services where such may be insufficient or unavailable.

Second: To discover and to remove, if possible, the obstacles which interfere with the more efficient distribution of medical services.

Third: To develop a frank and friendly exchange of information on the demand and supply of medical and preventive medical service.

Fourth: To urge that information be kept up-to-date in each community, thus enabling the professions and other responsible agencies to maintain the local demand and supply of medical and preventive medical services in constant balance.

The state and county medical societies have been advised to contact various agencies, including pharmacists, which are most likely to have data concerning medical needs. It is therefore logical to suppose that when these societies begin the surveys of existing facilities they will set up committees which will include representatives of all agencies able to supply necessary information.

State pharmaceutical associations and county and local associations will certainly be contacted and it is essential that full coöperation shall be forthcoming in this very important undertaking. Pharmacists who have definite knowledge of local health conditions and who are therefore competent to work with committees of physicians and other professional and lay persons working on this serious problem should be selected to serve if requested.

The Committee on the Study of Pharmacy of this ASSOCIATION has been working with the Bureau of Medical Economics of the American Medical Association in formulating the questionnaire and the schedule of information to be obtained from pharmacists. Copies of the questionnaire and information about the study have been sent to the state pharmaceutical associations with the request that they contact their state medical society, with an offer of assistance, and also inform their county and local associations. Obviously, it is to the interest of the public health professions to show the extent of services now being rendered by them both to private patients and to the indigent, and that they can meet all reasonable demands for additional services.

Actual facts and figures are necessary if an equitable procedure for supplying medical care is to be worked out in the interest of the people as well as the professions. The practice of pharmacy is naturally affected by all changes in the present method of providing medical services. Pharmacists have a very great interest in this situation and should cooperate fully and wholeheartedly with those who are endeavoring to get the facts and, then, to develop a procedure based on these facts.—E.F.K.

TRI-STATE HOSPITAL ASSEMBLY.

This Assembly, sponsored by the Hospital Associations of Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin, was held in the Stevens Hotel, Chicago, May 4-6, 1938. One of the nineteen sections of the Assembly was the Conference of Hospital Pharmacists which held three sessions on May 4th and 5th, under the able chairmanship of Dean C. B. Jordan of the School of Pharmacy, Purdue University.

The following papers were presented during the two morning sessions:

1. Report of Chairman, C. B. Jordan.
2. "Systematized Services by Hospital Pharmacists," P. M. Clair, Jackson Park Hospital, Chicago, Ill.
3. "Hospital Formularies," Sister M. Stephanina, St. Elizabeth's Hospital, La Fayette, Ind.
4. "The Drug Formulary in Our Hospital," Beatrice A. Zeman, Women and Childrens Hospital, Chicago, Ill.
5. "Problems of the Hospital Pharmacist," S. W. Morrison, Illinois Research and Educational Hospitals, Chicago, Ill.
6. "Coöperation of the Pharmacist with Internes," Fred R. Berger, Indiana University Hospitals, Indianapolis, Ind.
7. "The Therapeutics Committee of the Hospital," Bernard Fantus, Director of Therapeutics, Cook County Hospital, Chicago, Ill.
8. "The Pharmacist's Services to the Physician," Charles W. Strout, Grant Hospital, Chicago, Ill.
9. "The Pharmacists' Activity in the Navy," F. G. Lyon, Chief Pharmacist, U. S. Navy.
10. "Opportunities of Hospital Pharmacists Serving in Other Professional Capacities," Mary Dienhart, Methodist Hospital, Rockford, Ill.
11. "The Modern Pharmaceutical Curriculum," C. O. Lee, Professor, Purdue University, School of Pharmacy, La Fayette, Ind.
12. "New Medicinals," Elizabeth K. Neufeld, University of Chicago Clinics, Chicago, Ill.
13. "Suggestions for Manufacturing Pharmacy in Hospital Dispensaries," H. G. DeKay and C. O. Lee, Professors, Purdue University, School of Pharmacy, La Fayette, Ind.

These papers have been filed with the A. P. H. A. and are available to anyone interested.

The afternoon session on May 4th was devoted to an Administrative Panel Round Table Conference on Hospital Pharmacy Problems which was very helpful.

An instructive pharmacy exhibit was included among the Educational and Technical Exhibits, under the auspices of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, and the School of Pharmacy, Purdue University. This exhibit included a collection of hospital formularies which will be preserved in the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHARMACY and will be available for future exhibits of this type.

The Hospital Pharmacists' Section of the Tri-State Hospital Assembly will be continued under the direction for the next year of S. W. Morrison as *Chairman* and Elizabeth K. Neufeld as *Secretary*.

