

BETTER DRUGS AS WELL AS FOODS.

MR. FRED WINDOLPH, NORWICH, N. Y.

The following address was delivered by Mr. Windolph at the recent meeting of the Association of Dairy Food and Drug Officials and was highly commended:

I am to speak to you today on behalf of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Chemists and, as I understand it, with reference to the relation which might exist or should exist between your honorable body and the manufacturers of medicinal products. The very able remarks which were made yesterday with reference to food products are applicable in a large measure to the conditions which exist in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals. But in addition to that we, as drug manufacturers, have problems which possibly the food men have not. And in speaking of "drug products" I do not refer to what are ordinarily known as patent medicines.

Our association is the oldest association of manufacturing pharmaceutical chemists. We were the first ones to organize for our mutual benefit and for the advancement of the science of pharmaceutical manufacturing.

I say we are the oldest, but even that does not date our beginning back very many years because it has only been within a few years that the manufacturers have gotten together and discussed the problems which enter into their daily work.

We make the preparations which are used by the physicians and which are prescribed by physicians for the alleviation of human suffering. We make thousands and thousands of pharmaceuticals and these are made in various forms. And, having so many items to handle, so many drugs and constituents to handle, we have many problems which cannot come to the manufacturer who specializes upon but a single thing.

If we were manufacturers of patent medicines it would be a simple matter for us to learn how we should label our goods and then our troubles would be over.

But we have, in the first place, the various medicines which enter into these preparations. They are not only chemical but they are vegetable constituents and they come to us from all corners of the earth in varying conditions. It is necessary for us to standardize our raw materials and we have our own difficulties there, as I am sure those of you who have anything to do with the importation of these chemical and vegetable ingredients will agree. We have our troubles in getting the proper materials to start with and then in the course of manufacture. We find it necessary to have control departments, employing a corps of chemists to assay and analyze the drugs, and then to pass upon the finished product. We have our troubles even after they leave our hands, so that you see the manufacturers' lot is not altogether a happy one. And when, added to these troubles, come questions of interpretations of the laws as to the proper labels for goods, there we are confronted with a condition which makes us welcome very heartily indeed the sentiment—that there should be uniformity in the laws throughout the country so that when we get an answer from one state or federal government as to labeling products we will know that that same answer will suffice.

We are more than glad to see this spirit manifested. And I was very much pleased to hear the discussion in reference to the net weights and measures law, the disposition that was shown by the state commissioner to wait for the national government to lay down its regulations for tolerance and so on before they make them in the states, so that when we do have them they will be uniform everywhere.

Then there is another matter which has been brought up here which gives us great hope and faith to believe that there is balm in Gilead. That is your constructive work for helping the manufacturers not only in the decision on technical questions in reference to labels, but also as to processes and in the conservation of waste products and other matters which enter in the practical manufacture of goods. In that you are undertaking a grand work, and it is one which will not only redound to the benefit of the manufacturer but to the country at

large. The most excellent paper by Dr. Barnard was a wonderful contribution along those lines. Dr. Kebler has done a great work for the manufacturers of pharmaceuticals in his very efficient investigation into the manufacture of tablets. He has written a wonderful paper on that subject which has been published in the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and which will undoubtedly be of great benefit to every manufacturer of tablets in the country. I also wish to thank you gentlemen for the most excellent information which you put into these bulletins which you send out from time to time. My only regret is that we don't get more of them from more of the states.

The association which I represent was formed for this purpose of bettering the production of the articles of the manufacturers who belong to that association and, really, for the improvement of all who are engaged in the manufacture of medicinal products. Our aim is to get better raw materials, to eliminate waste, to improve methods of manufacture, and to make better goods where we can raise our standards—and we have found that all this has been of great benefit to us individually. We are all competitors, of course, and in days gone by we did not meet with one another, we did not consult one another. We felt that we could not associate very much with our competitors, but we find now that there is a great deal we can do for each other, and if in the constructive work which you contemplate we can cooperate with you gentlemen, the work will be magnified and redound not only to your good and to our good but to the good of the people of the country at large. And, feeling, as I do, that there is a light breaking which helps to guide our pathway, I wish to thank you for permitting us as manufacturers of one particular line, to appear before you, and I wish to join in all the good words which have been said by the manufacturers here, and I wish also to say that I think we are all disposed to work in harmony with the known wishes of the gentlemen who are in charge of the administration of these laws. We, who were present this morning at the musical concert, had a manifestation of the beauties of harmony. Those of us who listened to that magnificent concert, had a manifestation of a true symphony. Those of us who listened to that magnificent concert could not help but be impressed with the great harmony of that wonderful organ. When the magnificent instrument responded to the touch of the organist I think we all felt lifted out of ourselves; we thought a little better of ourselves even, and certainly we thought more of our fellow-men. And so in the operation of the pure food laws as they apply to the manufacturers of this country, if we can have a spirit of harmony and cooperation I believe that we will all be better men, better executives, and better manufacturers, and in that way we will be doing much better and greater service for our country and for those who depend upon the industries represented here to-day.

NEW PHARMACY REGULATIONS.

A recent presidential decree establishes new pharmacy regulations governing the composition, labeling, sale, etc., of patent and other medicines in Venezuela. Pharmaceutical specialties of a determined formula must bear labels showing the quantity of active substances contained in each dose and the names of these substances. Such preparations will be subject to analysis by the Department of Public Health of Venezuela, and those failing to correspond to the declared formula will be considered fraudulent. The unauthorized use of containers peculiar to food or other medicinal preparations or mineral waters, as well as of labels which are imitations of those on the corresponding genuine products, or which tend to deceive in respect to place of origin, shall also be held to be fraudulent. Poisonous preparations and products must bear labels on which shall appear, on a black background, the word "Veneno" (poison), in white letters not less than 2 centimeters high, together with the customary sign of the skull and crossbones, also in white.—Gaceta Oficial, June 3, 1914.