

some fifteen or twenty of the prominent physicians of Cincinnati, who had been present at the meeting, who assured him—and possibly through him the Association—that any effort of this kind would have their very hearty approval. A bill had been introduced at the last session of the Ohio Legislature which, to a great extent, embodied the views here expressed by Mr. Beal. He agreed with Mr. Beal that any effort in this direction must be based primarily on the public good and welfare; it could not be a question of what was best for the druggist, but must always be a question of whether it served the public welfare. He expressed the hope that some method might be found by the author of this bill under which it would be possible to make it applicable to the unqualified vendor, who had a fixed place of business, as well as to the unqualified vendor who traveled around, because there was some doubt as to whether a distinction made as to the itinerant vendor that was not applicable to the vendor at a fixed place, would be constitutional.

Mr. Nixon thought one of the strongest assets the itinerant vendor had was in that clause of the Pure Food & Drugs Act allowing a multiple standard. In his section of the country they had found that these vendors were selling tincture of iodine containing three per cent., which the law allowed. He had a customer to whom he had sold tincture of iodine to bring it back because it stained (!) his hand. It was easy to see where he had been buying the article. He had had physicians tell him the same thing, that they were able to obtain tincture of iodine which would not stain the skin, and that their patients preferred it. Another instance was peppermint. He thought the percentage of essence of peppermint, which was 10, was too high. A lady had brought him back a bottle not a great while ago, saying she had given her child a teaspoonful of this essence of peppermint, and it had nearly strangled the child. She had been buying of an itinerant vendor, and he requested her to bring him the bottle, which she did, and he found it contained only 2½ percent. of oil. Personally, he expressed himself as being strongly in favor of the single standard for Pharmacopœial preparations.

Mr. Cassaday said that, in Indiana, they had had quite an experience at Indianapolis, at the last session of the Legislature, in getting their narcotic law passed. When it began to be apparent that the bill was to be enacted into law, the question arose as to where the authority to enforce its provisions should lie. Some contended that the Board of Pharmacy was the proper authority, others that it was the Board of Health. The Press took the side of the Board of Pharmacy, as it had control of the sale of medicines, and argued that it was rather out of the sphere of the Board of Health. As had been suggested here, these itinerant vendors were becoming "drug-stores on wheels." The question was, who was going to look after the enforcement of the law as to the sales of medicines and the licensing of those who should sell medicines in the State? Was this authority to be turned over to the Board of Health? It was generally conceded that these boards had enough to do already, and he was ready to enter his protest against any supervision of the sales of medicines in any way by the Board of Health. Druggists were the people best qualified to do this. He thought this could be properly regarded as a matter pertaining to the public health, which should properly be administered through the Board of Pharmacy. If not, druggists might as well turn the matter over to some other association that knew less or nothing about it. He thought the people themselves should make it their business to study and know about these things.

GOVERNMENT AID TO FRENCH CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES.

The French Government, by presidential decree, created a special bureau in the Department of Commerce, for the duration of the war, charged with matters touching the production and supply in France of chemical and pharmaceutical products.

The decree (see *Journal Officiel* for Oct. 19, p. 8355) provides that the duties of the office shall be to determine the amount of existing stocks of chemical and pharmaceutical products, to estimate the present volume of production, and to secure production and distribution for the future. "It is equally its duty," the decree continues, "to develop in France a more intensified production of these same products and to encourage the manufacture of new products." Mr. Behal, professor in the *Ecole Supérieure de Pharmacie* and member of the Academy of Medicine, is named director.—Consul General A. M. Thackara, Paris, Oct. 22.