

him from the early sixties, have told of the confidence medical men had in his accuracy of work and in his honor in filling their prescriptions.

In the sixties and seventies people traveled for miles to get their prescriptions dispensed in his establishment.

He enjoyed traveling and accumulated, through reading and lectures, a large fund of geographical knowledge, and attained local repute as an ornithologist. He enjoyed the company of children, as well as that of matured minds. Men and women in every walk of life learned to know him and to love him. He was a member of Hesperia Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.

Following a slight indisposition from bronchitis, lasting three days, he died of heart failure on December 12, 1913, at the age of seventy-two years. J. W. E.

Proceedings of the Local Branches

"All papers presented to the Association and its branches shall become the property of the Association, with the understanding that they are not to be published in any other publication than those of the Association, except by consent of the Committee on Publication."—By-Laws, Chapter X, Art. III.

Reports of the meetings of the Local Branches should be mailed to the editor on the day following the meeting, if possible. Minutes should be *plainly* written, or type-written, with wide spaces between the lines. Care should be taken to give proper names correctly, and manuscript should be signed by the reporter.



NEW YORK BRANCH.

(December Meeting.)

A regular meeting of the New York Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held on the evening of December 8th, President C. O. Bigelow presiding.

Chairman Louis Berger, of the membership committee, presented an application from one prospective member for the parent association and reported that he had the assurance of another.

There had been no new developments in national legislative circles, reported Prof. W. C. Anderson for the committee on legislation. He read the new municipal ordinance

regulating the sale of mercuric chloride and referred briefly to the matters discussed at the legislative conference of the New York State Pharmaceutical Association. The matter of safeguarding the sale and use of mercuric chloride was discussed by Messrs. Roemer, Diner, Mayo, Raubenheimer, and Bigelow.

Dr. G. C. Diekman, chairman of the committee on the progress of pharmacy, included in his report a quotation from a German commercial report, about the difficulties of circumventing the adulterators of essential oils; an abstract of an article in the *Chemiker Zeitung* about the drawbacks of porous extraction tubes; an abstract of an article by Koller on the preparation of ampuls (*Pharm. Zentrbl.*); and an abstract of an article on the detection of hexamethylenamine in wine and milk by Von Rosenthal (*Pharm. Zentrbl.*).

George M. Beringer, president of the parent association, who was present as a guest, responded to an introduction by President Bigelow, and asked the members of the Branch to lend individual assistance toward the advancement of the Association.

In some communications read by Secretary Hugh Craig, Prof. J. P. Remington, Dr. H. H. Rusby, and Dr. C. S. Alsberg stated that the synonyms appearing only in the index of the Pharmacopœia had an equal weight with other pharmacopœial names, under the Federal food and drugs act.

The matter of participation in the drug exposition to be held in this city in January was discussed by Messrs. Reh fuss, Craig, and Roemer. A committee, consisting of Jacob Diner, F. L. McCartney, and Louis Berger, was appointed for the purpose of investigating the project.

At the invitation of President Bigelow, W. J. Schieffelin interestingly reviewed the recent meeting of the National Wholesale Druggists' Association.

The speaker of the evening was Prof. Henry Kraemer, botanist and pharmacognosist, of Philadelphia. His subject was "The Growing of Medicinal Plants."

Pharmacognosy as it is applied to the dead plant substance is a "dry" subject, said Professor Kraemer, but it has a larger scope and enlists a new and an absorbing interest when extended in the rational direction of the growing plant. His interest in the study of the growing plant had been first aroused

by a desire to ascertain whether spigelia contained calcium carbonate. The result of his interest in that question was the conclusion that the natural starting place in the study of the constituents of a plant was at the plant as such.

The speaker had a firm faith in the possibility of uniformity in plant constitution through proper cultivation. Although the subject at the present time is in the theoretical stage of consideration, he believed that in this, as in the many seemingly impracticable problems put before the pharmacognosist, the practicable solution was not far off; that the task of standardizing nature was not an impossible one. Despite the existence of well developed distinguishing tests, the matter of the variability of crude drugs was a puzzle to many, a fact which Professor Kraemer attributed to the reluctance of investigators to adopt natural methods of study instead of the teachings of past years. On the whole, he continued, the real knowledge of vegetable drugs is small and their preparation for medicinal purposes is far from scientific. But he foresaw the specialist in preparations who would devote time and energy to the real study of a single drug, or at most a few, and who would arrive at means of assuring uniformity.

There is a growing interest in the cultivation of drug plants, said the speaker, who frequently was asked for information concerning this branch of agriculture. He pointed out the necessity of a knowledge of drug conditions and of the economy of marketing in addition to a knowledge of cultural methods.

Supplementary to his general remarks, Professor Kraemer exhibited and explained some seventy-odd lantern slides depicting limited and extensive experiments in the growing of drug plants. He was, in all, enthusiastic in his belief in the resultfulness of even the least ventures in this field.

The subject introduced by Professor Kraemer was discussed by Messrs. Mansfield, Army, Mayo, and Raubenheimer. A vote of appreciation was tendered to the speaker.

HUGH CRAIG, Secretary.



CINCINNATI BRANCH.

(December Meeting.)

The monthly meeting of the Cincinnati Branch, A. Ph. A., was held December 16,

1913, at the Lloyd Library. Prof. Lloyd presided.

After disposing of routine business, Prof. Lloyd introduced the subject of the evening, an open discussion of Erythroxyton Coca and its Derivatives, he himself taking the initiative, his part being the historical description of the plant and its uses. He mentioned his son's extensive investigations regarding this particular plant, in connection with his duties as Entomologist of Harvard University, having paid special attention to the study of Coca while traveling extensively over the Andes Mountains of South America. The native Indians' use of Coca was unquestionably exhibited, especially by the Indian "Runners," who are subjected to the most exhausting physical efforts in crossing the Andes, carrying with them a modicum of food. A few coca leaves sufficed as a hunger pacifier, and upon this as a basis the runners underwent the most exhausting and exacting journeys. It was accepted by observing travelers of early days that the leaves, being chewed, would yield an abundance of "vital strength." The endurance of people thus employing the drug was noted by the Jesuit Father Blas Valera, under the name *Cuca*. From other explorers it may be gathered how powerful the *Cuca* is in its effect upon the laborer from the fact that the Indians who use it become stronger and much more satisfied, and work all day without eating.

The miner will perform for twelve long hours the heavy work of the mine, and sometimes even double this period without taking any further sustenance than a handful of parched maize, but every three hours he makes a pause for the purpose of chewing a small amount of coca leaves. He would work illy and reluctantly if the proprietor let him want his favorite herb. The same holds good with the Indian porter, messenger, or vendor of his own productions who traverses the Andes Mountains on foot. Merely chewing coca from time to time, he travels with his load of a hundredweight on his back over indescribably rough roads and accomplishes frequently ten leagues in ten hours.

Entering South America from the Pacific Ocean, a very peculiar fact was noticed, namely, that the lowlands, being inhabited by practically all negroes who raise the coca, but do not use the same. On ascending the Andes to a height of 15,000 feet, there is found a gradual diminution of the negro race,

an admixture of the white race, and, finally, the pure Indian race is reached, who are inveterate users of coca leaves, mixing them with a small percentage of lime. They do not chew the leaves, but put the mixture of coca and lime in the cheek and subsist upon small quantities of corn, rice, etc., using no meat; are a happy people, who refuse to sell their coca but will sell anything else.

Professor Lloyd stated many more interesting facts which were greatly appreciated.

The speaker who responded to the scientific features of the subject was Prof. C. T. P. Fennel, who discussed the formation of alkaloids and in particular of cocaine. Professor Fennel was tendered a vote of thanks, and was followed by Mr. Charles G. Merrell, who discussed the commercial side of the subject. Aside from the commercial importance of the crude drug, he paid attention to the possible different action of the crude drug and its alkaloids, maintaining coca to be a very valuable drug, but being much abused by the use of its alkaloids, and called attention to the possibility that the coca leaves may have beneficial effects other than those due to their alkaloids.

Mr. H. W. Jones described the structure of coca leaves, calling attention to the different species. He cited the investigations of Dr. Rusby, showing the various amounts of alkaloids. He mentioned the extensive production of synthetic cocaine, which may possibly be the source of the extreme ill effects of the abuse of cocaine, thus finding a reason for the absence of ill effects in the extensive use of coca leaves by the natives.

Mr. Frank H. Freericks followed with a discussion of the legal aspects of the subject, giving reasons for the legitimate use of cocaine. He mentioned the comparatively recent ill effects due to the abuse of the drug. The first legislation against the sale of that alkaloid took place in the State of New York in 1893, and principally brought about by the misuse of this valuable drug by physicians. Other states soon followed with special restrictive legislation, not alone regarding cocaine, but for other habit-forming drugs, until today the statute books of almost every state show an annual record of laws enacted tending to curb the consumption of habit-forming drugs. However, he maintained that the existing laws are still insufficient and referred to a new New York law as the best yet devised. This law has a special requirement

for the keeping of a record of all sales, requiring a patient's certificate from a pharmacist and obliging the pharmacist to keep a record of the amount of cocaine and similar habit-forming drugs on hand.

Mr. Freericks blames the dispensing physician to a great extent for the misuse of this drug, and claims that the doctor should be placed on the same plane as the dispensing druggist. The failure of spasmodic efforts at the enforcement of these restrictive laws was mainly attributed by the speaker to either the inefficiency of the officials or the insufficient means of enforcing these laws. He pointed out the great need of a Federal law regulating the sale of all habit-forming drugs, by which means the use of such harmful ingredients in patent medicines could be entirely obviated.

Mr. Freericks' legal review of the subject was followed by an open discussion by the members, among whom were Messrs. Edward Voss, Theo. Wetterstroem, C. T. P. Fennel, and others.

It was unanimously agreed that this Branch had had a very interesting discussion of a very important subject, which should be taken up at some future time for further discussion.

Adjournment.

CHARLES A. APMEYER, Secretary.



NASHVILLE BRANCH.

(January Meeting.)

On January 8 the regular meeting of the Nashville Branch of the A. Ph. A. was held at Furman hall, Vanderbilt University, with Vice-President E. A. Ruddiman presiding in the absence of President J. O. Burge.

The committee appointed to make arrangements for the entertainment to be given to the local druggists and their wives made their report through W. R. White, recommending the Y. M. C. A. as the best place to have it. January 22 was selected as the time, and the committeemen instructed to prepare a suitable program for the occasion. Mr. M. E. Hutton then read a splendid article on "Stopping Leaks in Business," which was interestingly discussed by Messrs. J. B. Sand, S. C. Davis, Ira B. Clark, E. C. Finch, A. Nickel, L. J. Pully and C. C. Young, who brought out many points where careful observation and system had saved

them money. A general discussion of provisions of the new state anti-narcotic law followed, in which the plan of the Narcotic Commission to allow habitues to obtain narcotics on a permanent prescription, to be issued by their physician and endorsed by the Commission, was considered from many points of view. All favored the idea of restricting the sale of narcotics.

After receiving an application for membership, the Branch adjourned.

W. R. WHITE, Sec'y.



PITTSBURGH BRANCH.

(January Meeting.)

The meeting of the Pittsburgh Branch of the A. Ph. A. for the current month was delayed for one week owing to the absence from the city of the secretary. It was held Friday evening, January 16, and in point of attendance was most successful. The number of students present was gratifying, as was also the presence of many ladies.

The only business taken up was the election of officers. The personnel of the nominees was given in the last issue of this JOURNAL, and as there were no new nominees submitted, the ticket recommended by the Committee on Nominations was unanimously elected.

The feature of the evening, the promise of which it was that brought out the unusually large audience, was the presentation by the aid of hand-colored lantern slide pictures, and descriptive lecture, by George B. Parker, Esq., of the wild flowers of nearby counties, and no one present was in the least disappointed in their most sanguine expectations of a rare treat. The delicate coloring in natural shades of the various flowers proved a continual source of wonder and appreciation, and it was clearly evident that in the production of them Mr. Parker must have had a severe strain on his patience, who explained that it was only possible by the use of the microscope while it was under way. Every plant and flower thrown upon the screen had been photographed by Mr. Parker during numerous rambles over the surrounding territory contiguous to Pittsburgh. His collection is extremely rich in number as well as in detail. Mr. Parker claims that he is not a botanist, but merely a lover of the plants and flowers as they grow in their

natural environments; he submitted no illustrations of cultivated specimens. It is Mr. Parker's intention to present his valuable and interesting collection to the Pittsburgh Camera Club, a body of amateur photographers, and each member with a hobby. This disposition of the collection will place it where it can be secured for use in interesting the pupils of the schools of the city in the study of flowers and plants. The gentleman was the recipient of a very enthusiastic vote of appreciation of the instruction and entertainment he had so kindly given.

Dr. Louis Saalbach was on the program for a report on the proposed changes in the United States Pharmacopoeia, but owing to the serious illness of his mother, whose life is despaired of, he was not able to be present, nor in a mental condition to prepare the paper on the assigned topic.

B. E. PRITCHARD, Secretary.

The Pharmacist and the Law

ABSTRACT OF LEGAL DECISIONS.

VOID ORDINANCE LICENSING SELLERS OF SOFT DRINKS—RECOVERY OF LICENSE FEES PAID. A firm of druggists in a city of the fourth class in Kentucky were engaged in selling soft drinks as a part of their business. In April, 1910, at the solicitation of a number of persons who were engaged in that business, or that desired to engage in it, in the city, the board of councilmen adopted an ordinance providing for licensing the sale of soft drinks in the city, fixing the license fee at \$200 per annum, payable quarterly. The firm in question obtained the required license, and continued to do business thereunder for 18 months, during which period they paid license fees aggregating \$300. In September, 1912, the firm brought action against the city to recover that sum, upon the ground that it had been paid through mistake, and collected without authority of law. The want of authority upon the part of the city to collect the license fee appeared, for the first time, shortly before the action was brought, when the firm discovered that the ordinance of April, 1910, was void, because the yeas and nays of the vote upon its adoption had not