

ferent states regulating the practice of pharmacy and the sale of medicines, and report at each annual meeting what important changes, if any, have occurred during the year, and what additional legislation shall be desirable in this State.

Section 5. The committee on papers shall invite members and others, as they deem proper to prepare and present papers on subjects of interest to the profession, and shall have general management of any prize offered by the Association.

Section 6. Special committees may be appointed as occasion requires, but such committees shall be limited to the scope of the resolution under which they act.

Article VI.

This Association shall annually elect five delegates to the American Pharmaceutical Association, and they shall present their report at the next annual meeting of this Association. Delegates to other Pharmaceutical Associations shall be appointed by the President.

Article VII.

Any amendment to these by-laws must be made in writing, read before the Association at one sitting and laid over to a subsequent sitting, when upon receiving the votes of two-thirds of the members present, it shall become a part of these by-laws.

FEE-SPLITTING.

This is a practice which leads to several indictments. It induces family physicians to betray the sacred confidences of their trusting patients and refer them not to those men who are most competent and who offer the greatest possibility of the saving of life and the preservation of health, but to men who pay for the victim. It lowers the dignity and value of the services of the family physician, who is presumably rendering valued services for nothing, and gives a magnified value to surgery, which is presumably receiving all. How much more exalted would be the standing of the general practitioner if people were taught to value his services in diagnosis and his responsibility in counseling surgery and recommending a surgeon and that they should pay for this service as they would for any other. It should be the privilege of the surgeon to aid the physician openly to secure this just compensation. As a rule the patient is robbed, paying two fees instead of one, as he supposes. Fee-splitting is the stepping-stone by which incompetent men secure business. It penalizes honesty in the young surgeon who is capable but must sit idly by and starve while his less competent competitor buys the business. It leads to many unnecessary operations with their attendant risk and expense performed merely because the patient can be induced to submit and has the price. It is a betrayal of trust, encourages dishonesty, breeds incompetency and should in short, be held a crime. Dr. Jabez N. Jackson, Kansas City, Mo., before the Western Surgical Association, St. Louis, Dec. 19, 1913.—*Journ. Am. Med. Assn.*