

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to the Association and its branches shall become the property of the Association, with the understanding that they are not to be published in any other publication than those of the Association, except by consent of the Committee on Publication."—By-Laws, Chapter X, Art.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

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NASHVILLE BRANCH.

(January Social Meeting.)

One of the most enjoyable social meetings ever given by the Nashville Branch of the A. Ph. A. was the entertainment given Thursday night, January 22, in the parlors of the Y. M. C. A., which was attended by about sixty people besides the Tennessee Board of Pharmacy. Wm. R. White acted as master of ceremonies and in his introductory remarks compared the A. Ph. A. to a diamond with its many brilliant sides. The scientific, commercial, historical, practical and educational sides were all important he said, but the social side should not be neglected, and it was the object of these meetings to develop more sociability and good fellowship among the druggists and their families.

Dr. E. A. Ruddiman made a splendid address, recounting some of the pleasant happenings of the Nashville convention and telling something of the beauties and attractions of Detroit, the next convention city. He said the subject of shorter hours was one that he thought should be discussed. He felt sure the wives and families of the druggists would be as much interested as the druggists themselves.

Mr. F. W. Ward, of Memphis, President of the Tennessee Board of Pharmacy, delivered an eloquent oration which was filled with humor and pathos. He told of the splendid things accomplished by the Memphis Drug Club which sprung into existence as the result of the last State Association meeting.

He highly commended the idea of the Branch in giving these social meetings.

Mr. J. E. Justice, of Clarksville, the newly appointed member of the Board of Pharmacy, told some excellent anecdotes and expressed his gratification at being present.

The following musical and elocutionary program was then rendered: Vocal solo, Mrs. Baxter Moore; recitation, Miss Lucy Davis; vocal solo, Miss Mary Louise Sharp; recitation, Miss Dorothy Clark; piano selection, Mrs. Wm. R. White; recitation, Mr. H. P. Clark; instrumental selection, Miss Bessie Johnson.

W. R. WHITE, Sec'y.

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NASHVILLE BRANCH.

(February Meeting.)

The regular meeting of the Nashville Branch of the A. Ph. A. was held at Furman Hall, February 12, with President J. O. Burge presiding.

The Entertainment Committee made a splendid report of the social meeting held at the Y. M. C. A., January 22, which was attended by over sixty people, including the members of the State Board of Pharmacy.

The committee appointed to present the claims and advantages of Nashville as a location for the A. Ph. A. Home made the following report, which will be sent to the Council for consideration:

WHEREAS, At the last annual meeting of the A. Ph. A., held in this city, the proposition to provide a permanent home for the Association was referred to the Council for further consideration; and,

WHEREAS, Efforts are now being made by other cities to secure the location of this permanent home,

Therefore, We, the members of the Nashville Branch, respectfully submit for the consideration of the Council the following reasons why the Home should be located in Nashville, Tenn.:

(1) Because Nashville offers a free site for the Home.

(2) It is about the center of population of the U. S. and within 24 hours' travel for the great majority of the pharmacists of the United States.

(3) The Climate is unexcelled for the proposed Botanical Gardens.

(4) It has the second largest facilities in the United States for printing.

(5) It is the greatest Educational center in the Central-Southern States and one of the greatest in the entire United States.

(6) It has progressive Pharmaceutical Schools for both races.

(7) It has a live growing Local A. Ph. A. Branch.

(8) It affords ample Hotel facilities for any future A. Ph. A. Conventions.

(9) It has low freight rates, proximity to needed supplies considered.

(10) Incorporated Bodies for Educational purposes on a non-profit basis, are not liable for taxation.

(11) It has been proven to have the cheapest cost of living of any city in the U. S.

Respectfully submitted,

W. R. WHITE,
S. C. DAVIS,
IRA B. CLARK,
Committee.

The subject of shorter hours was discussed at length and a state-wide movement is contemplated to interest the Pharmacists of the State in this subject.

The May meeting will be devoted entirely to this subject. W. R. WHITE, Secretary.



NEW YORK BRANCH.

(January Meeting.)

The January meeting of the New York Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held on the evening of the twelfth. The meeting opened with President C. O. Bigelow in the chair. As Secretary Hugh Craig was absent, Frank L. McCartney was requested to act in his stead.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's report was also read and approved.

Chairman Louis Berger, of the Membership Committee, announced a new member for the parent association and made reference to several prospective members.

Professor W. C. Anderson, Chairman of the Committee on Legislation, reported that there was little activity in legislative matters due to adjournment of Congress for the holiday season. He stated that such legislation as had been proposed effecting the pharmacist was receiving the necessary attention.

Due to the illness of Prof. G. C. Diekman, there was no report made by the Committee on the Progress of Pharmacy.

Dr. Diner, as Chairman of the Special Committee on the Madison Square Garden Drug and Chemical Exposition, stated it was the opinion of the committee that the New York Branch should not participate in the exposition, and by a majority vote it was decided that the New York Branch of the

American Pharmaceutical Association would not be officially represented. It was then pointed out that literature sent out by the promoters of the exposition indicated that the New York Branch would participate, and this resulted in a resolution being passed to the effect that such publicity was unauthorized, and the Secretary was instructed to so advise the promoters of the exposition in writing and demand that they recall and destroy such advertising matter and literature in which the name of the branch had been used, and at the same time the Secretary was instructed to communicate this information to the daily press.

Dr. Joseph Mayer, acting for the Nominating Committee, submitted the following names to be balloted on for election as officers for 1914:

For President—Dr. H. V. Arny.

For Vice-President—John Roemer.

For Secretary—F. L. McCartney.

For Treasurer—Dr. Joseph Weinstein.

For Committee Chairmen:

Education and Legislation—Dr. W. C. Anderson.

Progress of Pharmacy—Dr. G. C. Diekman.

Membership—J. H. Rehfuss.

Fraternal Relations—Louis Berger.

The committee's nominees were unanimously elected. The newly elected President was escorted to the chair, and after acknowledging the honor bestowed upon him he called for the speaker of the evening, Mrs. St. Claire M. Ransford-Gay, who read a paper on "The Pharmacopœia: Its Limitations."

Mrs. Gay expressed the opinion that the U. S. Pharmacopœia was behind the times and she attributed the decline in the professional side of the pharmacy to this fact. A great many of the drugs, chemicals and preparations of the Pharmacopœia were practically obsolete, stated the speaker, and indicated that the modern physician wanted elegant preparations which would appeal to the eye and taste, and manufacturing pharmacists recognized this fact. Mrs. Gay stated that a great deal of good would result to pharmacy if a central U. S. P. research laboratory were established. In pointing out what she considers pharmacopœial defects, Mrs. Gay asks why some elixirs were in the Pharmacopœia while others were to be found in the National Formulary; why the obsolete synthetic remedies are found in the Phar-

macopœia while those now most used are not given recognition. In conclusion, she stated that it was high time that the Pharmacopœia became modernized so that it would be used to educate physicians on new remedies.

A discussion followed, in which Messrs. Diner, Raubenheimer, Arny, Mayer and Roemer took part.

Dr. Diner agreed with Mrs. Gay in that the Pharmacopœia was many years behind the times. He stated that many pharmacists regarded the U. S. P. as a sacred book, and added that if age is any criterion, then some of the formulas contained therein are indeed quite sacred. He indicated that the pharmaceutical press could do a lot towards keeping pharmacists abreast with new developments, but at the same time thought that their editorial pages were too often compelled to sing the tune of the advertising manager.

Otto Raubenheimer stated that he could not agree with the speaker in that the U. S. P. was behind the times, and asserted "we have the best Pharmacopœia in the world today, and I am proud of it. The next one will be better yet." He pointed out that many of the newer coal tar products were not official for the reason that process patents on them had not expired. He admitted that some reformation was needed in the U. S. P. and N. F.

Dr. Joseph Mayer suggested that the Revision Committee issue lists of items to be included in the U. S. P. more frequently in order that they might be published in the pharmaceutical journals. He indicated that quite recently a large batch of U. S. P. inclusions were issued at one time, and it was his opinion that this was done with the view to avoid publicity.

Dr. H. V. Arny pointed out many of the obstacles with which the Revision Committee had to contend.

He was followed by John Roemer, who asserted that it was a vote and not a science which determined the inclusion of articles in the U. S. P. The Revision Committee rests on antiquated prejudices of 100 years ago in revising the U. S. P. He was of the impression that if the U. S. P. and N. F. were to act as a link between the physician and the pharmacist that these books must include some information useful to the physician. He indicated that the pharmacist also needed standards. He felt that the Pharmacopœia

should include single drugs and chemicals and the National Formulary should embody all preparations involving a pharmaceutical process.

The Branch placed itself on record as favoring this by adopting the following resolutions:

"That the U. S. Pharmacopœia include only single Drugs and Chemicals, with standards for such, and that the National Formulary embody all preparations involving a pharmaceutical process or processes."

Mrs. Gay was formally thanked by the Branch.

Upon Dr. Weinstein's motion, it was decided that the Branch hold a joint meeting with the New York County Medical Society at an early date, and suggested that Louis Berger, Chairman of the Committee on Fraternal Relations, should direct his efforts to bring this meeting about.

Former Secretary Hugh Craig telegraphed from Chicago, "All sorts of good wishes; I am with you in spirit."

FRANK L. MCCARTNEY, Secretary.



CHICAGO BRANCH.

(January Meeting.)

The annual election of officers, reception of new members and social evening of the Chicago Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association occurred Tuesday evening, January 20, at the University of Illinois School of Pharmacy building, Chicago.

The newly elected officers are as follows: President, J. H. Wells; First Vice-President, W. B. Day; Second Vice-President, Wm. Gray; Third Vice-President, Maurice Miner; Secretary-Treasurer, E. N. Gathercoal. Committee Chairmen: Practical Pharmacy, I. A. Becker; Medical Relations, Dr. Bernard Fantus; Publicity, L. E. Warren; Legislation, H. C. Christensen.

The Secretary-Treasurer reported receipts during the year of \$80, expenditures of \$67.61, and a cash balance of \$24.90. There were received 20 new members during the year. The total membership is 136, of which 86 are druggists, 17 members of pharmaceutical manufacturing houses, 14 teachers in pharmaceutical schools, four editors of pharmacy journals and the remainder chemists or engaged in allied industries.

An especial event of the evening was the welcome extended to new members. Secretary Thos. Potts introduced Mr. Hugh Craig,

recently installed Editor of the Journal of the National Association of Retail Druggists, and moved his election to membership in the Chicago Branch. The motion was carried by acclamation. Professor Day introduced Mr. H. W. Colson, Mr. J. A. Dorjahn, Mrs. Mary Zwick, Mr. George Kraemer and Mr. A. E. Anderson as new members. They were each pleasantly received by the company. Mr. Wm. Gray was congratulated upon his recent election to life membership in the A. Ph. A. Mr. Potts, in introducing Mr. Craig, took occasion to speak of the great need among retail druggists for reliable formulas covering the great number of unofficial preparations and household remedies. He spoke of the proposed A. Ph. A. Book of Recipes and said that the A. Ph. A. was derelict in not having published such a work ten years ago. He mentioned the attempt now being made by the N. A. R. D. to remedy this pressing need of the druggist by furnishing to the retail drug trade not only practicable reliable formulas for a number of household articles, but also in supplying suitable labels in small quantities at a very low price to retail druggists for these preparations.

Mr. Craig expressed his pleasure in uniting with the Chicago Branch and assured us that he expected soon to be as much at home here as he had been for seven years in the New York Branch. During the seven years in New York he had not missed a Branch meeting and this, his first meeting with the Chicago Branch in January, followed within a month of the last branch meeting in New York, his record was still intact. Mr. Craig, referring to his experience as Associate Editor of the Druggists' Circular, spoke of the great number of formulas for every variety of preparation that could possibly be used in the drug business that he had originated, "borrowed" or "stolen." He dwelt upon the fact that unless a formula went into very great detail as to the materials to be used and the methods to be followed in making a preparation, or unless the operator had an intuitive or acquired knowledge of methods, the product from the formula was usually a decided failure. In other words, the "personal equation" was the *q. s.* in all formulas, and unless a pharmacist had the "know how" in him the formula could but rarely put it in him.

Professor Day took occasion to review in a

few words some of the accomplishments of the Branch during the last seven years. He brought out the fact that when the Branch was organized in Chicago, the city already possessed one of the strongest and most active local druggists associations in the world, the C. R. D. A.; that the N. A. R. D. maintained its headquarters here, with all of their great activity, that the social side of things pharmaceutical was ably cared for by the Social Drug Club, now known as the Chicago Drug Club, and that our city possessed the most unique of all pharmaceutical organizations, the Chicago Veteran Druggists' Association, which especially attracted the older druggists. The Chicago Branch, therefore, upon its organization, chose as its special line of work the presentation and discussion of (1) legislative matters affecting pharmacists; (2) the revision of our national standards, the U. S. P. and N. F., and (3) original or improved unofficial formulas. Much good work along each of these lines has been accomplished. In addition, the Branch usually devoted one evening each season to a popular lecture and one evening to social events.

Under the able direction of Mrs. M. M. Gray and Miss Rose Schmid, refreshments were served and the meeting adjourned with many expressions of felicitations over "an evening well spent."

E. N. GATHERCOAL, Secretary.



CHICAGO BRANCH.

(February Meeting.)

Professor Joseph P. Remington honored the Chicago Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association, Monday evening, February 16, with a visit and led the discussion of the evening, "Progress of Pharmacopoeial Revision." The meeting was very well attended. Many pharmacists, chemists, editors, teachers and students from the pharmaceutical schools of Chicago and vicinity, all friends and admirers of Professor Remington, were present.

Professor Remington brought out the fact that the revision of U. S. P. VIII is nearing completion and that U. S. P. IX will undoubtedly be in the hands of the publishers this year, possibly by July 1. He spoke of the large publicity being given to the work of revision and referred to the fact that

according to the wish of the 1910 convention, all changes in and additions to the text of the new pharmacopœia are to be published for comment and criticism before the matter goes to the printer. These changes and additions in the text of the chemicals has already been published (see *J. A. Ph. A.* for Dec., 1913), the copy of the text for the crude drugs has been sent to journals and will be published during March and April, and the material on the volatile oils and pharmaceuticals will immediately follow. The final date for the reception of criticisms by the Revision Committee will be announced with the last of the copy.

Professor Remington spoke of the inclusion of mercuric chloride tablets in the U. S. P. and the selection of the most desirable form for their administration. The subject is exceedingly important and suggestions are wanted. The definition of a "poison" has been put up to the Committee of Revision, and the professor humorously offered a prize of a five-dollar gold piece for a definition that would be acceptable to the committee. He discussed the admission to the Pharmacopœia of substances known as protected, proprietary or patented, and was inclined to oppose the admittance of such substances.

The address of Professor Remington was received with much applause. Then ensued a very interesting and profitable discussion of the address. Mr. Wilhelm Bodeman, member of the Committee of Revision, extended a welcome to Professor Remington.

Dr. Bernard Fantus, pharmacologist at the U. of I. Medical College, questioned the advisability of any tablet form, particularly a colored tablet, for dispensing bichloride, especially in view of the increasing use of candy medicaments in tablet or lozenge form.

Mr. Fred Meissner, of the U. S. P. Board of Trustees, believed that the present attention given to the dangers of bichloride tablets was largely due to newspaper notoriety and that if newspaper editors could be persuaded to omit the name of the poison in the published accounts of suicides, the danger of suicidal waves from particular poisons would be largely averted. In his extensive experience as a retail pharmacist he had never personally known of an accidental poisoning from bichloride.

Secretary Thos. Potts, of the N. A. R. D., spoke very strongly against the bichloride tablet, stating that the U. S. P. should not

recognize it and that this extreme poison should never be sold except on physicians' prescription, and then only in solution.

Secretary Light, of the C. R. D. A., said that the sale of bichloride tablets could be regulated in Chicago by city ordinance just as has been done in the case of phenol, cocaine, heroin, etc. He stated that recently a newspaper reporter came to him in regard to the sale and use of heroin in Chicago, and had been informed that members of the C. R. D. A. strictly adhered to the municipal code. Later the reporter attempted to buy heroin in twenty-seven drug stores located in different sections of the city, and in every case was refused the drug.

C. P. Van Schaack, of the wholesale trade, was warmly in favor of some regulation over the sale of bichloride.

Editor Hugh Craig, of the *Journal of the N. A. R. D.*, endorsed the idea that corrosive mercuric chloride should be sold only on physicians' prescriptions. He referred to the suicidal cycles, lately phenol, now bichloride, next something else, each fostered by newspaper notoriety. He favored the addition to the U. S. P. of definite and important medicaments, even if patented.

Professor W. B. Day referred to Dr. Cohen's famous definition of a dose, "A dose is enough," and said then that a poison might be defined as "A poison is too much."

Dr. H. M. Gordin, member of the Revision Committee, humorously defined a poison as those substances listed by a suitable committee of learned gentlemen as such. Professor Remington refused him the prize.

Professor A. H. Clark, of the Revision Committee, said that the wide divergence of opinion as brought out in the discussion of the evening on one or two topics only illustrated some of the difficulties Professor Remington, as chairman of the committee, had to overcome in harmonizing on many subjects just as great differences of opinion in the committee. He was sure that U. S. P. IX, however, will rank, as does now U. S. P. VIII, the premier pharmacopœia of the world.

Professor George D. Timmons spoke of the U. S. P. doses, which Professor Remington had criticized as of no legal value, and held that average doses were of much value to teacher and student, pharmacist and even the physician.

Professor C. W. Patterson favored the

radical regulation of the sale of bichloride tablets and expressed, he was sure, the opinion of the entire audience, his pleasure in hearing the very interesting and instructive address and discussion of the evening.

Professor C. M. Snow spoke of the very complicated formula proposed for fluidextract of squill. Professor Remington thanked him for the criticism, and again asked for comments, favorable or unfavorable, on the text as now being published, stating that such comments would invariably receive the attention of the committee.

Secretary Gathercoal, of the Chicago Branch, announced the subject of the March meeting, "The Preparation of Diphtheria Antitoxin." Dr. H. M. Letton will lead with an illustrated lecture on the subject. All present, as well as others interested in this subject in Chicago and vicinity, were invited to attend the March meeting.

He moved a vote of thanks to Professor Remington for his very generous service to the Branch on this occasion. There was a unanimous response in a rising vote.

E. N. GATHERCOAL, Secretary.



NORTHWESTERN BRANCH.

(January Meeting.)

The January meeting of the Northwestern Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held jointly with the Minneapolis Retail Druggists' Association and the Minneapolis Drug Club, in Odd Fellows' Hall, 703 Hennepin avenue, Minneapolis, on Thursday evening, January 22, at 8 p. m.

On account of the inability of President Gamble to arrive until later in the evening, Dr. Justin S. Brewer was asked to take the chair. The program consisted of the following symposium on Fungi:

1. "The Culture of the Edible Mushroom (*Agaricus Campestris*) as a Hobby for the Retail Pharmacist," illustrated with specimens grown by the speaker, Mr. A. J. Kline.
2. "Ergota and the Standardization of Ergot Preparations," demonstrated by the Cock's Comb Test, by Prof. H. C. Rogers.
3. "Fungus Plants and the Pharmacist," by Prof. E. L. Newcomb.

The papers presented were further illustrated with drug specimens, models of fungus plants, charts, lantern slides, etc.

Mr. Kline first gave descriptions of the more common forms of edible mushrooms and then proceeded in detail with the methods of soil preparation, culture and marketing

of the crop. The speaker illustrated his talk with beautiful specimens which he, as a busy retail pharmacist, had found great pleasure in growing. The paper, which appears elsewhere in this issue, was discussed by President Gamble, Dr. Brewer and others. Mr. J. D. Smeltzer called attention to the work of the Minnesota Mycological Society and stated that pharmacists who are interested in fungi would be welcomed at the meetings of that association. Mr. Smeltzer also suggested for those interested in the subject a visit to the Lambert caves in St. Paul and a perusal of the book entitled "Minnesota Mushrooms" by Prof. Frederick E. Clements.

In discussing Ergota, Prof. Rogers first gave a description of the life history of the plant yielding the drug, followed by a consideration of the different commercial varieties and their supposed relative value. Old and new methods for the preservation of the crude drug and its preparations were given and it was stated that experiments covering probably five years should be carried out before positive assertions can be made concerning the keeping qualities of ergot preparations under vacuum conditions. In discussing the constituents, attention was called to the unstable character of amines under certain conditions. The physiologic effect of ergot upon various animals such as pigs, horses, cattle, dogs and man were referred to. The different physiologic assay methods of ergot were explained and the method of applying the cock's-comb test was given in detail after which intra-muscular injections of U. S. P. fluidextracts of ergot were made on two white leghorn roosters. The arbitrary standard dose of 1.5 cc. per Kilo was given. Both samples were freshly prepared preparations, one being made from Spanish Ergot and the other from Russian. The results as indicated by the darkening of the comb, due to the rise in blood pressure, were pointed out by comparison with a third untreated rooster and these results were said to indicate that both preparations were of excellent quality. The preparations made from the Spanish Ergot gave slightly the better test. While waiting for the reactions to take place the speaker called attention to a tabulation which he had prepared of some fifteen tests carried out at the College of Pharmacy, University of Minnesota, showing the relative value of various commercial preparations and the deterioration due to age. The simplicity

of the manufacture of the fluidextract was also demonstrated. The retail pharmacist who uses considerable fluidextract of ergot was encouraged to make and standardize his own preparations from selected drugs and it was shown that by so doing the pharmacist not only can save money, but that he can accomplish something of greater importance by insuring the physician of a uniform active medicament and at the same time demonstrate his ability, all of which will tend to raise the doctor's estimation of the druggist as a professional man.

The symposium was closed by Prof. Newcomb, who spoke briefly on a number of fungus plants of interest to the pharmacist. These were illustrated by views thrown upon the screen by means of the projection lantern. Prof. Newcomb stated that the slides were loaned by the Department of Botany of the University of Minnesota and that many of them represented accurately colored photographs of rare specimens. Among the large number of fungi illustrated the following were dwelt upon at some length: *Peronospora*, *Aspergillus*, *Penicillium*, *Mucor*, *Claviceps*, *Ustilago*, *Agaricus*, *Amanita*, *Polyporus*, *Lycoperdon*, *Morchella*, *Coprinus* etc.

Following the several papers Mr. E. V. Clark gave a short talk on the value of active membership in such organizations as were represented by the joint meeting, laying special emphasis upon the lasting qualities of educational programs such as had just been presented.

After studying the various exhibits the meeting adjourned to meet in February with the Scientific Section of the Minnesota State Pharmaceutical Association.

E. L. NEWCOMB,
Secretary, N. W. Branch, A. Ph. A.



CINCINNATI BRANCH.

(January Meeting.)

The monthly meeting of the Cincinnati Branch A. Ph. A. was held at the Lloyd Library, January 13-14, with Prof. John Uri Lloyd as President of the meeting. The Secretary's report of the previous meeting was accepted and was favorably commented upon by the President. The exhaustive communication drafted by the Legislative Committee voicing the protest of the Branch to the enactment of the so-called Duffy act and

to other proposed laws was forwarded to Governor J. M. Cox, and a most courteous reply has been received by the Secretary. The President then introduced as the subject of discussion for the evening, "Mercury and Its Salts."

Mr. Charles A. Apmeyer, in stating the historical points of the subject, said in part, that the first records as to the use of mercury are found in Theophrastus, about 325 years before Christ. Its preparation is here given as from cinnabar by means of copper and vinegar and it was called Liquid Silver. The metal was known to the Egyptians, to India, and to China. The Arabs also were much interested in Mercury, as is shown by the works of Geber, in which the metal and its compounds, red precipitate and corrosive sublimate, are described. It was used much by the Arabians for skin diseases. Dioscorides describes the production of mercury from cinnabar. Pliny also makes mention of its preparation and described its purification by squeezing it through leather. It was known then that gold and other metals were altered by mercury. This knowledge is shown by processes described for assaying gold and silver. Paracelsus and his disciples had no hesitancy in making use of mercury sublimate and the so-called Turpeth Mineral. In this way a much better knowledge of the various mercurial compounds was gradually obtained until finally investigations and experiments led up to the discovery of calomel and white precipitate, both of which were hailed as great discoveries, were highly prized as medicines and still hold an important position among medicinal chemicals. It was during this period also that it was determined that cinnabar consisted of mercury and sulphur, and that mercury was a true metal.

We do not find mercury mentioned in the Book of Moses, or in the writings of the older Greek authors. Theophrastus (300 B. B.) speaks of liquid silver or quicksilver, and says it is obtained by rubbing cinnabar with vinegar in a copper vessel. Dioscorides, in the first century, mentions this body and states that it was obtained by subliming cinnabar and charcoal in an iron pot upon which a cover was luted. Pliny, who named the material thus obtained Hydrargyrum, in contradistinction to the native mercury to which he gave the name of *Argentum Vivum*, was acquainted with the fact that all solid bodies, with the exception of gold, float upon the

surface of the metal. Isadorus, in the beginning of the seventh century, was acquainted with the metal as is shown by the following extract: "Argentum vivum servitur melius in vitrius vasis nam caeteras materias perforat." Mercury was well known to the older alchemists for they believed it to be one of the component parts of all metals. Native mercury is occasionally met with in globules disseminated through the native sulphide, which is the ordinary ore. This is called cinnabar. It is found in many places in the world. From investigations of Becker and Schrauf the average per cent of metal found in cinnabar was 82.2%. Statistics show that California produced, in 1850, 7,723 lbs., and in 1908, 16,984 lbs. In 1906 the United States produced 26,238 lbs.—in 1908, 19,752 lbs. In 1907 the average price per flask of 75 lbs. was \$38.43, and in 1908, \$41.72. The world's production of quicksilver in the years 1907-8 was:

	1907	1908
United States.....	734	672 flasks
Austria	610	630
Italy	680	423
Russia	130	49
Spain	1,210	1,065
Mexico	200	200

Mr. Apmeyer was followed by Dr. Dieckmeier, who spoke of the medical sides of the question. He said, "The physiological effects of all mercury salts and compounds are similar and vary only in degree according to the preparations used, with the exception of those salts of mercury in which that metal is combined with a substance having stronger toxic properties than mercury. All soluble mercury salts act on the skin and other surfaces as caustics and the insoluble salts do this as soon as they are converted by the body juices into soluble salts. Salts of mercury are of principal use for their antiseptic action, both internal and external. Mercury is principally a brain poison and in toxic cases few organs show definite pathological changes, the kidneys, bones, skin and mucus membranes being an exception.

Mercury is mostly eliminated by the intestinal tract, about 77% passing off through this channel, but all organs of the body will be found to contain some of the mercury ingested. Mercury injected into blood-vessels or sub-cutaneously is eliminated most quickly by the body, the effect of the poison administered in this way is more transitory. Mercury administered by mouth or inunction is

eliminated from the system, but very slowly, its presence in the system having been ascertained a year after its administration had been discontinued. The use of the bichloride as a surgical antiseptic should be discontinued on account of its caustic properties and because other equally important but less dangerous agents are available for use.

The discovery of the Wasserman test enables us to regulate the use of mercury preparations, so as to correct dosage, and to limit administration."

Dr. A. O. Zwick followed Dr. Dieckmeier, giving a short talk upon the destructive local effects of the bichloride of mercury, after which F. W. Wiessmann gave an interesting address upon "The Construction of Substitution Products," which was received by the members with much and earnest appreciation.

CHARLES A. APMEYER, Secretary.



CINCINNATI BRANCH.

(February Meeting.)

The regular meeting was held at Lloyd Library on February 10. President Lloyd being out of the city, the duties of presiding fell upon Vice-President, Prof. Theo. D. Wetterstroem. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Prof. Theo. D. Wetterstroem read a paper on the subject of "Aspirin and Other Synthetics." He commented upon the products of different manufacturers, Hoffman, Van Heyden and others, calling particular attention to the fact of the trade name being perpetual, and described the physical and chemical properties, melting points, etc., of this synthetic drug. The discussion was participated in by Mr. L. Werner, Mr. C. G. Merrell and others.

Mr. Chas. G. Merrell took for his subject, "Sodium Salicylate." He presented the uses of same and illustrated the distinctive features between the products obtained from natural sources and that by artificial means. Notwithstanding the similarity of crystalline construction, he still prefers the sodium salicylate obtained from natural sources. He very entertainingly described his efforts in trying to secure the true herb in Pennsylvania and North Carolina, and said that most of the oil used was the Oil of Birch, which was indicated by a difference in the amount of Terpenes. Government distinguishing tests are not efficient as yet, but show im-

provement, based upon the presence or absence of Terpenes. Many other interesting points were brought out by this discussion, which were appreciated by the audience.

Miss Bertha Ott read a paper on the subject of "The Hospital Apothecary," describing the grand work accomplished, especially in hospital work in the missionary field.

Mr. Louis Werner took for his subject "Should sodium peroxide be used in the manufacture of H_2O_2 ?" He gave an exhaustive explanation of the various commercial methods of producing solution of peroxide hydrogen, giving the reasons for the production of cheap grades of this preparation, and stated, among other things, that one of the most important methods is that of burning metallic sodium in a stream of pure oxygen, or air free from nitrogen and carbon dioxide. This operation is best carried out in aluminum vessels and the gases must be thoroughly dried.

He described another commercial process conducted by burning slices of sodium resting upon trays of aluminum in a tubular vessel. In this it comes in contact with a current of air, which has been freed from carbon dioxide, and is maintained at a temperature between 300° to 400° . The oxide formed when thrown into water decomposes in part, in consequence of the heat developed, and gives sodium hydrate and oxygen. By careful cooling much of it can be dissolved. As metallic sodium, made by the electrolytic process is rather inexpensive, this forms a very desirable commercial method of manufacture.

Another process depends upon the ignition of sodium hydroxide, sodium oxide or sodium nitrate in an atmosphere of oxygen. This process is varied sometimes by dropping metallic sodium into fused sodium nitrate.

In order to make hydrogen peroxide from sodium peroxide, it is merely necessary to dissolve the sodium peroxide in ice cold water and neutralize with hydrochloric or sulphuric acid.

In making the solution of the peroxide, if the temperature is allowed to rise, the peroxide is decomposed by water, giving oxygen and sodium hydroxide.

In this process the peroxide solution is contaminated with sodium chloride. In order to avoid the presence of sodium salts, which would cause the non-volatile residue to exceed that allowed by the U. S. P., hydroflu-

silicic acid is used, which forms an insoluble sodium salt.

Another method is first to treat an ice-cold solution of sodium peroxide with hydrofluoric acid. This solution is then treated with aluminum fluoride, which forms an insoluble double salt with the sodium fluoride.

Another method is to treat the ice-cold solution of sodium peroxide with dilute sulphuric acid, and then subject the mixture to fractional distillation, *in vacuo*. In this way the H_2O_2 is distilled off from the sodium sulphate and can later be diluted to the strength desired.

Mr. Werner's admirable paper was favorably commented upon.

Mr. Otto Katz, to whom had been assigned the subject "Dosage and Effects of Aconitine," said in part that DuQuesnal first obtained Aconitine in crystalline form in 1871, but Geiger and Hesse had applied the name Aconitine in 1833 to an amorphous base, obtained from the root of *Aconitum Napellus*.

After describing the physical and chemical properties of this most powerful drug, he passed to the dosage, giving the same as from $1/200$ to $1/100$ of a grain. He cites, however, a case where two grains have been given with no untoward effect, while $1/100$ grain has caused death, which shows the uncertainty of dosage and the extreme care which must be employed in dispensing this powerful poison. He also calls attention to the local use of Aconitine, as in the form of oleate aconitine, and warned against the use of same, especially upon abraded surfaces. After moderate toxic doses the prominent symptoms are great disturbance of the respiration, muscular weakness, vascular depression and finally death, with or without convulsions. Given to a rabbit by injection of $1/6$ to a $1/4$ gr. the animal commences to jump vertically in a very peculiar manner. These movements grow less and less powerful and are finally replaced by severe convulsions, during which the animal lies prostrate on its side. In the dog, however, the muscles have remained without a quiver during all stages of the poisoning. The convulsions are an inconstant symptom, dependent upon the peculiarities of the individual or species, as well as the amount injected. Dilatation of the pupil very frequently occurs, if it be not indeed a constant phenomenon.

The symptoms, which are induced by small therapeutic doses of aconitine in man, are re-

duction of the force and frequency of the circulation, a sense of muscular inertia and weakness and a slight tingling in the extremities or in the hips.

If the dose administered be large, all these symptoms are, of course, intensified.

Mr. Katz treated his subject in a very exhaustive manner, and gained the thorough appreciation of his auditors.

A general discussion ensued regarding the various papers submitted during the evening, in which Mr. C. A. Apmeyer, Mr. Chas. G. Merrell, Mr. Louis Werner and others took part. CHAS. A. APMEYER, Secretary.

The Pharmacist and the Law

ABSTRACT OF JUDICIAL DECISIONS.

MISBRANDING—ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS—DRUG DERIVATIVES. Certain packages of Antikamnia Tablets, Antikamnia and Codeine Tablets, and Antikamnia and Quinine Tablets were confiscated and condemned for alleged misbranding under the Federal Food and Drugs Act. The owner petitioned to be made a defendant in the libel, which was done, and the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia affirmed a decree of the Supreme Court of the District, dismissing the libel. The United States Supreme Court has reversed this decision and remanded the cause with directions to overrule the exceptions to the libel. The labels on the packages bore the statement that the tablets contained no acetanilide, antifebrine, antipyrine, morphine, opium, codeine, heroin, cocaine, alpha or beta eucaine, arsenic, strychnine, chloroform, cannabis indica, or chloral hydrate, and stated the number of grains of acetphenetidin, which, the owners contended, was a sufficient compliance with section 8 of the Federal Food and Drugs Act. The ground of condemnation alleged was that the packages contained a large quantity and proportion of acetphenetidin, which, it was alleged, is a derivative of acetanilide, and that under the provisions of the act and of the regulations made thereunder, it was provided and required that the label on each package should bear a statement that the acetphene-

tidin contained therein is a derivative of acetanilide; which the labels on the packages did not do. It was also alleged that the packages were misbranded in that the labels thereon were false and misleading, for the reason that they bore the statement that no acetanilide is contained therein, and that the statement imports and signifies that there is no quality of any derivative of acetanilide contained in the drug. The owner's exceptions averred that the act does not provide that there should be added to any derivative of any of the substances contained therein the name of the parent substance, and the act cannot be added to or enlarged by requiring the company to add to the name of a known article, the fact that the article is a derivative of any of the substances mentioned in the act. It was also averred that the statement on the labels that no acetanilide was contained in the packages was not false and misleading, but true.

Food Inspection Decision No. 112, issued January 27, 1910, by the Department of Agriculture, quotes section 8 of the act, and states that the Attorney General, in an opinion rendered January 15, 1909, held that a rule or regulation requiring the name of the specified substance to follow that of the derivative would be in harmony with the general purpose of the act, and an appropriate method by which to give effect to its provisions. In conformity to this opinion, Regulation 28 of the Rules and Regulations for the Enforcement of the Food and Drugs Act was amended as follows: "Acetanilide (antifebrine, phenylacetamide). Derivatives—Acetphenetidine * * * (g). In declaring the quantity or proportion of any of the specified substances the names by which they are designated in the act shall be used, and in declaring the quantity or proportion of the derivatives of any of the specified substances, in addition to the trade name of the derivative, the name of the specified substance shall also be stated so as to indicate clearly that the product is a derivative of the particular specified substance."

Section 3 of the Federal Pure Food and Drugs Act gives the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, power to "make uniform rules and regulations for carrying out the provisions of the act, and the power to collect specimens of food and drugs offered in interstate and foreign com-