

with the medical profession through the channels of original *materia medica* research. The work will be coöperative. In the coöperation the universities with their laboratories, hospitals and clinics will take part, and also the commercial laboratories of the great manufacturing houses engaged in the pharmal and pharmaco-chemical industries. Thus the commercial laboratories instead of being a menace to professional pharmal and medical practice will become of great service to the medical and pharmaceutical professions, to the science of medicine and to the cause of humanity.

THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES OF THE A. PH. A.
IN REGARD TO ITS BETTERMENT.

PROF. HENRY P. HYNSON.

The forty and more well organized and active state pharmaceutical associations which are most satisfactorily and efficiently protecting and promoting general pharmaceutic interests in the several states of which each is a part, are a positive pride and especially gratifying to all loyal and ambitious pharmacists.

All these state associations, you may be reminded, have exactly the same comprehensive character of membership. They include all the different phases of pharmacy and the basis of organization and the objects to be obtained are practically the same in all of them. So far as their diversified membership and the work they are doing is concerned, they are also in exact accord with the American Pharmaceutical Association of which they are proudly accepted children.

These state associations are in no way justly subject to adverse criticism, yet, they, like many other good things, should progress naturally, and their usefulness and helpfulness should be steadily extended. Indeed, notwithstanding all that has been accomplished by them, these organizations may be made of still more value to their local constituents and of immensely more assistance, nationally. How?

By giving them equal uniform and exclusive representation in a national body composed of their delegates. This may be done by giving them sole control of the House of Delegates of the A. Ph. A. Why?

Because, owing to the character of their membership, which is catholic, pharmaceutically, and not restricted to any special branch of pharmacy, the A. Ph. A. is the only national body with which they can consistently be connected, and the only one with the objects and work of which they can perfectly harmonize. In fact, they are now practically state divisions of the American Pharmaceutical Association; certainly, they are more possibly so and more nearly so than are any other class of local associations.

What advantages would follow correlating these state associations and more closely attaching them to the A. P. A.? Any one giving a moment's open thought to the subject will see. The assistance and interest of other state associations may be secured to further progressive measures originating in any one of them, if the measure is not strictly local. The accomplishments and the helpful experiences of one may be passed on to the many. The voice of each local association

may be heard by the others on national issues and the greatly desired uniformity of state laws and state measures may be more quickly secured, for instance, state pure food and drug acts, mercury bichloride regulations, poison labeling, weight and measure laws. There will always be interesting and helpful suggestions coming from the local bodies, regarding subjects that have been intelligently discussed "at home."

Representation in a national body will greatly stimulate and encourage these state associations, by giving them an outlet for their views and conclusions regarding national questions. It will give them vastly increased opportunities for action, such opportunities as they are seeking and must have.

To the A. Ph. A., the advantages of this more formal and more orderly connection will be manifold and far-reaching; the establishment of such a House of Delegates will at last make the American Pharmaceutical Association truly the national representative of pan-pharmacy, geographically and otherwise, and pan-pharmacy needs such representation just now to enable it to present a dignified, worthy and effective front when coöperating with other comprehensive representative bodies, such as the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association or the American Chemical Society. Such a house of delegates will undoubtedly increase interest in the parent body and must, of necessity, bring greater loyalty for the A. Ph. A. in all state associations that have become an integral part of it through the House of Delegates. This greater interest will surely add individual members to the A. Ph. A., especially if such membership is made a pre-requisite to the office of delegate. It would be a happy sequel, indeed, if, finally, all members of the state associations should feel, in duty bound, to become members of the mother body, whose House of Delegates is composed solely of their delegates. It is safe to predict that these state associations *will* sooner or later get together just as the state boards have already become correlated. Why should it not be now and with the A. Ph. A.? This would be good for them and for it.

Now, then, what are the difficulties in the way? None, the getting rid of which would not greatly benefit and more consistently place all those involved. The disposal of the delegations that have been taking part in the transactions of the House of Delegates is absolutely all that is in the way of making it a creditably consistent, unusually useful, deservably desirable body.

Ninety-nine organizations appointed delegates and forwarded their credentials to the A. Ph. A. last year. Of these, six were purely local associations of retail druggists, which may have or should find national representation, like other such organizations in the National Association of Retail Druggists. Eleven sending credentials were local branches of the A. Ph. A., which already have full representation in the Council. Two were women's organizations, one of these an auxiliary of a national association, the other a local body; both could find agreeable placement in the Women's Section. Thirty were schools of pharmacy for which splendid national representation is offered in the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties. Three were college alumni associations, which could more properly secure national representation through their respective schools or through the state association of the commonwealth in which their organization is

located. One, only, was a medical school, which is effectively represented, nationally, by the American Association of Medical Schools.

Delegates, representing the Executive Departments of the U. S. Government, the Republic of Cuba and the American Medical Association should, without question, be accorded much more respectful recognition at the General Sessions and should not be placed on an equal footing with the delegates from very small local associations, college alumni associations, local branches, *et cetera*.

There now remain but the six national pharmaceutic bodies, each specifically representative of some particular phase of pharmaceutical pursuit; these were N. W. D. A., N. A. R. D., N. A. B. P., A. A. P. C., A. M. M. P., N. A. D. C., and the thirty-six uniform state associations.

It is contended that the *National Associations* representing, nationally, the different phases or divisions of pharmacy should be given recognition at the general sessions, or should be formed into a congress to themselves, where they may equally discuss such matters as are of general interest to such national bodies as a whole.

Attempt has been made, and it is hoped that the attempt has been successful, to show that the already organized fully equipped state associations, which represent localities and not phases, so many as thirty-six of which appointed delegates last year, are the only bodies of the many, which can orderly and equally take part in such a house of delegates, also to show that such a body of delegates would be most helpful to the state associations and equally as helpful to the American Pharmaceutical Association and to American pharmacy as a geographical whole. What is your verdict?

Changes in the By-Laws. The only necessary change required in the By-Laws of the House of Delegates of the A. Ph. A., to accomplish that which is herein suggested, will be a change of Article 1, Chapter 11, which reads as follows:—

“Article 1.—Representation. The membership of the House of Delegates shall consist of three regularly-elected or appointed delegates from the Local Branches of the American Pharmaceutical Association, State and Local Societies, Colleges and Schools of Pharmacy and delegates from the National Association of Retail Druggists, National Wholesale Druggists' Association, American Medical Association, National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, Women's Organization of the National Association of Retail Druggists, National Association of Manufacturers of Medicinal Products, American Chemical Society, Association of National and State Food and Dairy Departments, Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, and from the departments of the Army, Navy and Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, the American Association of Drug Clerks, the credentials of whom shall be approved by the Council; together with the member of the Council, appointed by the chairman of the Council. The President, President-elect, Treasurer, General Secretary and the Chairman and Secretary of the Council shall be members *ex officio*.”

With the greatest possible respect for the incongruous mass of organizations named in the Article, it is thought no harm or discourtesy will be done to any of them and much greater respect will be shown for a number of them, by changing the Article to read:—

“Article 1.—Representation. The membership of the House of Delegates shall

consist of three regularly-elected or appointed delegates from the several state pharmaceutical associations and from associations of a similar character regularly organized in the several territorial and insular possessions of the United States, provided such delegates are members of the American Pharmaceutical Association at the time their credentials are signed."

It will, probably, be desirable to have it understood and stated in the By-Laws that any action of the House of Delegates will be an expression of the sense of the assembled delegates of the state associations, also that the House of Delegates may appoint committees to execute its orders, but that no action of the House of Delegates will be binding upon the A. Ph. A., unless endorsed by the Council.

Messrs. F. H. Freericks, Joseph L. Lemberger, W. C. Anderson and F. M. Apple, members of the Committee appointed, with myself, at Detroit, "to investigate the House of Delegates and see if its usefulness could not be improved," are especially requested to make comment upon the subject in hand and communicate these comments to the other members of the Committee, including the chairman. Members of the House of Delegates and officers and members of the American Pharmaceutical Association are requested to make comments and communicate them to the chairman and other members of the Committee, either directly or through the Pharmaceutical Press. The editors of the Pharmaceutical Press are urgently requested to study the subject and take part in this discussion.

THE PERCENTAGE OF MOISTURE LOST IN THE PREPARATION OF SOME OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL DRUGS.*

EDWIN L. NEWCOMB, P. D.

The following compilation of data, concerning the moisture lost in the drying of vegetable drugs, has been prepared from the record of student work in Pharmacognosy at the University of Minnesota. The drugs were collected during the first few weeks of each college year (September and October). Where washing was necessary to remove adhering soil, care was taken to remove all wash water before weighing the fresh drug. All drugs were dried at a temperature of about 80° C., except where otherwise stated. The drying was continued where artificial heat was employed, until all but two to four *per cent.* of the water was removed. A battery of five iron double-walled, gas-heated ovens were utilized for this purpose (v. 84, pp. 201-214, American Journal of Pharmacy). "Room temperature," as used in this paper, means from 68° to 70° F. This temperature was maintained by automatic thermostat controls.

| | <i>Percentage of Moisture</i> |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Belladonna Folia</i> :— | |
| (a) 1913 Crop, leaves and tops not over 7 mm. dia., with flowers and numerous berries. (Average <i>percentage</i> of moisture lost in 30 samples)..... | 71.00 |
| (b) 1914 Crop, leaves only..... | 82.00 |
| <i>Belladonna Radix</i> :— | |
| (a) 1913 Crop. (Average of 29 samples)..... | 75.00 |
| (b) 1914 Crop. (Average of 2 samples)..... | 73.6 |

* Presented to the Scientific Section, Minn. State Pharm. Assoc., St. Paul, Feb. 10, 1915.