

## 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to the Association and its branches shall become the property of the Association, with the understanding that they are not to be published in any other publication than those of the Association, except by consent of the Committee on Publication."—By-Laws, Chapter X, Art.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 typewritten, with wide spaces between the lines. Care should be taken to give proper names correctly, and manuscript should be signed by the reporter.

### BALTIMORE

The annual meeting of the Baltimore Branch, American Pharmaceutical Association, was held in the Assembly Hall of Hynson, Westcott & Company's Pharmacy, Wednesday, January 19, 1916.

The secretary-treasurer presented a *résumé* of the year showing the activities of the Branch and containing a statement of its financial condition, which in comparison with previous years was very satisfactory.

He explained that the balance in the treasury was due solely to the courtesy of Messrs. Hynson, Westcott & Company in extending the use of the meeting-room gratis, as the only expenditures were for stationery, multi-graphing, and postage.

He expressed particular appreciation of the activities, interest, and attendance of the pharmacists, and especially mentioned the May meeting, at which they prescribed various cooling, heating, and nourishing preparations for the inner man, and incidentally remarked that their prescriptions did not fall under the ban of the Harrison Act and could be repeated at a future occasion.

The committee appointed to endeavor to arrange for a series of talks by Dr. Caspari on the changes in the new Pharmacopœia reported that inasmuch as he had been indisposed as the result of a grip attack, and also as it would not be issued for several months, the matter had better be postponed to a future date, at which time it was practically certain that he would favor us along these lines.

The committee appointed to consider the advisability of condensing the Branch into a more compact body reported that it was thought best for all the interests concerned for such an organization as the Branch to exist in Baltimore and the other cities, as it

was a body which could embrace any or all of the pharmaceutical interests in its membership, and also because any limitation of its membership would cause it to cease to be a part of the parent association.

The report was considered thoroughly and considerable time was spent in discussing the whole subject of the past, present, and future of the Branch, and the same conclusions as the committee's were reached. It was suggested that if a small number of congenial pharmacists wanted to form such an organization, nothing was to prevent them from doing so.

Notice was given that a resolution would be presented at the next meeting to add to the list of committees a Social Committee, to be composed exclusively of the pharmacists, with Miss Patterson as the first chairwoman.

The annual election resulted in the following officers being elected to serve for the ensuing year: President, Louis Schulze; vice-president and chairman Executive Committee, Charles L. Meyer; secretary-treasurer, Wm. J. Lowry, Jr.; assistant secretary, Miss Olive Cole. Chairmen of committees: Membership, Otto Muelhouse; Professional Relations, Henry P. Hynson; Science and Practice of Pharmacy, Charles C. Neal; Education and Legislation, Henry E. Wich; Social, Anna M. Patterson.

Wm. J. Lowry, Jr., Secretary.

### CHICAGO.

The January meeting of the Chicago Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held Tuesday evening, January 18, 1916.

The treasurer's report indicated receipts during the year of \$62.30, expenditures of \$65.80 and a balance of \$12.75.

As the result of the annual election the of-

ficers and committee chairmen for the ensuing year are the following: President, Hugh Craig; first vice-president, A. H. Clark; second vice-president, John F. Fischnar; third vice-president, Miss Jean Gordon; Council Member, Clyde M. Snow; secretary-treasurer, E. N. Gathercoal, 74 East Twelfth Street. Chairmen of committees: Membership, C. C. Orr; Legislation, James H. Wells; Practice, S. K. Sass; Medical Relations, Dr. Bernard Fantus; Publicity, Thomas Potts.

The principal feature of the evening was an address by Dr. Prentiss McKenzie, who presented an illustrated lecture on the production of biological products. He used moving pictures taken at the H. K. Mulford & Co.'s farm at Glenoble, Pa.

The lecture and pictures were very fine and were well received by the audience of about 75 members and friends.

E. N. GATHERCOAL, Secretary.

#### CINCINNATI.

The regular monthly meeting of the Cincinnati Branch, American Pharmaceutical Association, was held at the Lloyd Library, January 11, 1916.

After disposing of the routine business, President Charles G. Merrell introduced the speaker of the evening, Dr. Edward B. Reemelin, Professor of Chemistry, University of Cincinnati, who chose as his subject "Modern Trend of Biochemistry." The doctor pointed out the fact that the subject of biochemistry should be of especial interest to the pharmacist in view of the continuous chemical disturbances taking place in the human economy. "We look at life with a broader view through biochemistry, specializing the chemistry of the various products of life."

The lecturer mentioned the important rôle salt plays in the animal existence, not only as the deer hunts the "salt-lick," but he cited that the ancient people often accepted salt in place of gold and silver in their barter.

He called attention to the first synthetic production of urea by Dr. Wöhler in 1828, which totally upset the older views of animal life; he gave prominence to the excellent work done by Liebig, Fischer, and others to further our knowledge of this branch of chemistry; he spoke of the process of digestion, the same being one of hydrolysis, dehydrolysis, and again hydrating, finally forming colloidal solutions; of the action of strong

alkalies destroying the enzymes, and why pepsin and hydrochloric acid are both necessary in digestion; how uric acid, when not eliminated, causes disease; how all changes taking place in the body may be considered colloidal changes, and many other valuable and instructive points.

The doctor was heartily thanked by the members, after which a general discussion took place.

CHARLES A. APMEYER, Secretary.

#### DETROIT.

The January meeting of the Detroit Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held at the laboratory of Frederick Stearns & Company, Friday evening, the 21st.

President Scoville called the meeting together at 8:30 P.M., about forty being present.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. Joseph Abrahams, his subject being "Toilet Soaps."

Mr. Abrahams read a history of toilet soaps from the time they were first used down to the present. He also gave a description of the ingredients and processes used in their manufacture. A miniature working model of a soap plant was then put in operation and the soap displayed in its various forms until finally completed.

A very interesting discussion followed.

On motion of Mr. Hall a vote of thanks was passed to Frederick Stearns & Company and Mr. Abrahams for kindness extended to the Branch.

A. A. WHEELER, Secretary.

#### NASHVILLE.

The regular meeting of the Nashville Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held in the Music Room of the Nashville Y. M. C. A. Building, Thursday afternoon, January 27, in joint session with the Nashville Drug Club, President E. F. Trollering in the chair.

A report of the nominating committee showed that a ballot containing three nominees for each office had been mailed to each member of the Branch.

On motion, a committee composed of F. L. Smith, Dr. J. R. McDaniels, and W. R. White was appointed to canvass the ballot and report the result at the next meeting.

Mr. E. A. Gilliland, sales manager of The Spurlock-Neal Company, was a guest of the meeting and delightfully entertained the

members with a talk on the all-absorbing question of price fluctuation.

He began by telling of the unusual condition prevailing in the quinine market. The greater part of the cinchona bark, he said, comes from Java and is controlled by a Dutch syndicate which has an agreement with the manufacturers of the alkaloid to deliver only a certain amount of the bark each year. It is sold in Amsterdam and in London at auction, and is distributed to the different countries, the larger part going to Germany. Our recent unusual export demands from Italy, South America, and England sent the price skyward. The high price induced many who held stocks to throw them on the market, which caused the price to recede somewhat. Stocks of the larger houses are now limited, and any unusual demand is likely to cause another advance.

Antipyrine, potash salts, and many other imported German chemicals are high and scarce on account of the supply being cut off by the Allies. The recent high price of mercury is caused by the embargo placed on it by England, it being used in making fulminate of mercury, an explosive; by the Mexican disturbance, and by the closing of the Panama Canal. Some has been shipped through Mexico by rail, but has been delayed by the freight congestion at Galveston.

Some belladonna has been received, but it is still high.

The supply of castor oil in the United States is about exhausted. The castor beans come from India, and the scarcity of tonnage, the high freight and insurance rates, and the extra tax placed on them by the British India Government have caused the supply to be almost cut off. It will probably be March or April before relief will come.

The price of carbolic acid will come down soon, he predicted. Much is being made here now, but it is sold on contract and shipped out of the United States. Many complaints are received about the offensive odor of the acid made here.

Some recent rulings on the Harrison law were read and discussed and copies of the rulings distributed to the members.

Dr. J. O. Burge entertained the members by reading an article recently written by Mr. W. H. Cousins.

After several good talks showing the advantages in joining the American Pharmaceutical Association the meeting adjourned.

WILLIAM R. WHITE, Secretary.

Minutes of the regular meeting of the New York Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association, held at the New York College of Pharmacy Building, January 10, 1916. Called to order by President Lascoff at 8:45 P.M.

The minutes of the December meeting were read and ordered adopted.

Treasurer Weinstein's report was received with thanks.

Member of the Council Mr. McElhenie rendered a report covering Council matters in general.

Dr. Diekman, chairman of the Committee on Progress of Pharmacy, read a very interesting and lengthy report, consisting of abstracts covering many important subjects.

No reports were received from the Committees on Legislation and Education, Membership, or Fraternal Relations, as the chairmen of the respective committees were not present.

H. V. Arny, chairman of the Committee on Nominations, reported as follows: For president, J. Leon Lascoff; vice-president, J. C. Gallagher; secretary, Jeannot Hostmann; treasurer, J. Weinstein; chairman of the Committee on Legislation and Education, Dr. Wm. C. Anderson; Progress of Pharmacy, Dr. George C. Diekman; Membership, Dr. Frank L. McCartney; Fraternal Relations, Dr. Jacob Diner.

The report of the committee was received and the committee was discharged with thanks.

Several communications from the General Secretary regarding resignations of members were read and referred to the Membership Committee, as was also a letter from Mr. William H. Smith.

Applications for membership were received from William A. Smith, 188 East 93rd Street, New York, and Herman Walter, 213 Second Avenue, New York, and they were ordered forwarded to the General Secretary.

Mr. McElhenie, upon being called to the chair by President Lascoff, was directed to cast a ballot for the nominees as per the committee's report. After declaring the respective candidates elected he called Dr. H. V. Arny to the chair to act as installing officer.

President Lascoff appointed the following as a committee to cooperate with Local Secretary Holzhauer for the Atlantic City Meeting: Dr. Henry C. Lovis, chairman; Thomas

F. Main, John C. Gallagher, Jacob Diner, and Jeannot Hostmann.

Dr. Robert P. Fischelis, of the Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia, then read a very interesting paper, entitled "The Teaching of Commercial Pharmacy." The president called upon Mr. Charles Holzhauser to open the discussion, and he was followed by many of the members, all of whom agreed that the question was one of vital importance. Dr. Diekman insisted that there was no doubt that the commercial side deserved more attention, but that it should not receive it by taking time away from the teaching of theoretical pharmacy.

The very spirited discussion was carried on for about one hour, and the speaker was then given a rising vote of thanks.

Mr. Emil Roller now entertained the members with a few remarks on the birthday of Dr. Hermann Hager, and presented to the Branch a photograph of this illustrious pharmacist. The Secretary was ordered to send the donor a letter expressing the thanks of the members.

The Secretary was ordered to send a telegram of felicitation to Editor Eberle, to whom the Philadelphia Branch was tendering a welcome dinner on January 14.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned at 11:15.

JEANNOT HOSTMANN, Secretary.

#### PHILADELPHIA.

Pharmaceutical Philadelphia, on the evening of January 11, opened wide her arms and extended a most hearty welcome to Eugene G. Eberle and the Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association, of which he is the editor. It was a welcome through which ran an undercurrent of satisfaction that Philadelphia was chosen as the home of the publication of the premier pharmaceutical organization of the country.

Representatives of every pharmaceutical organization in the city and state, as well as of the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, were assembled about the banquet board at the Hotel Rittenhouse to tell of their appreciation of the new honor that had come to the city, already so rich in pharmaceutical history, and of their pleasure in having with them again the man who, since he said goodbye to his Alma Mater here away back in the eighties, had done so much for pharmacy and its representatives.

Mr. Eberle, who with Mrs. Eberle and their niece, Mrs. Galbraith, were the guests of the evening, was quite overwhelmed by the warmth of greeting by these old and new friends. Not alone were these felicitations from the representatives of pharmacy, for equally hearty was the welcome of the representatives of medicine and of the business and commercial life of the city. Friends and organizations in other cities by letter and by telegram conveyed their well-wishes.

The dinner and reception were arranged by a committee of the Philadelphia Branch, and the attendance was most representative of the interests with which Editor Eberle will be associated in his work here.

Following the dinner, a brief business session was held by the Branch, in the course of which Charles Holzhauser, of Newark, N. J., local secretary for the 1916 Convention of the American Pharmaceutical Association at Atlantic City, suggested that the New York and the Philadelphia Branches of the parent organization, with the New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association, take separate days for entertainment features rather than to try to unite in arranging that portion of the program. He was of the opinion that bringing the ladies to Philadelphia on one day for a tour of its places of historical interest, and then having the men come up on another day to visit some of the manufacturing plants identified with the drug trade, would be most gratifying to the visitors as Philadelphia's portion of the entertainment. When he suggested the appointment of a committee of five, with the local president an *ex-officio* member, to cooperate in the furtherance of these suggestions, a motion to that effect was carried unanimously.

Samuel C. Henry, the president of the Philadelphia Branch, acted as toastmaster, and in his opening remarks spoke of the gratification of the Philadelphia pharmacists that their city had been made the home of the Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association, and described the present occasion as a big family gathering at which those present wished to express some of the thoughts that lie upon their hearts and to express appreciation of the honor that has come to the local pharmacists and to Philadelphia.

The office of the Journal has been established in the rooms of the Philadelphia Drug Exchange, and the first speaker, John Ferguson, president of that time-honored or-

ganization, spoke in a humorous vein of the many new evidences of hustle and energy that were apparent since Editor Eberle had been installed there on January 1. On behalf of his organization, which includes the manufacturing and wholesale interests of the city and vicinity, Mr. Fergusson extended a most hearty welcome, and expressed the hope that in its new atmosphere and surroundings the Journal and its field of usefulness would be broadened and enhanced in value, and that the guest of the evening would be spared to direct its progress for many years to come.

In speaking for the Chamber of Commerce, Howard B. French, who is the president of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, declared that during the forty-nine years he had been connected with pharmacy he had found the representatives of the profession proverbially modest. He said that they, like Philadelphia, were entitled to stand in the foremost rank. In conveying the welcome of the city through the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. French stated that it was "the greatest city on God's earth, and there is more home comfort to the square inch in our city than on any other spot on the globe." He spoke of the proposed plan to have the delegates at the 1916 convention visit this city, and pledged the coöperation of the Chamber of Commerce, which, with its 5000 members, "is the strongest commercial organization in the world."

Dr. S. Solis Cohen, of Jefferson Medical College, and Dr. Henry Beates, Jr., of the University of Pennsylvania, agreed that both the medical and pharmaceutical professions would be strengthened by this valuable acquisition to Philadelphia's institutions.

The toastmaster facetiously introduced the next speaker, Joseph P. Remington, as the "oldest living pharmacist and the man who founded the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy." Professor Remington referred with pride to the fact that there were eight members of the Board of Revision of the United States Pharmacopœia present. In referring to the assistance which that committee, of which he is the chairman, had received from other organizations, he mentioned particularly the National Association of Retail Druggists and its accomplishments along propaganda lines. He spoke of his long acquaintance with Mr. Eberle, dating from the time the latter was a student in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, and in closing shook hands with his former pupil and said: "I have a particular pleasure in welcoming

you back to the city of which, I know, you have many pleasing recollections."

Dr. Julius W. Sturmer, dean of the Department of Pharmacy of the Medico-Chirurgical College, told of the warm welcome and coöperation that had been extended to him when, a few years ago, he, like Mr. Eberle, had come to Philadelphia to take up educational work. Mentioning the physical resemblance between the guest of the evening and himself, he referred humorously to an occasion when he was mistaken for the editor of the Journal. He declared, therefore, that in welcoming his distinguished friends he did so with particular pleasure and a sense of possible reflected glory.

Dr. John R. Minehart, dean of the Department of Pharmacy of Temple University, urged that educators in pharmaceutical colleges be impressed with the debt that pharmacy owes the American Pharmaceutical Association, and that they carry that impression along to the students in their classes.

And then came an ovation for Editor Eberle as Toastmaster Henry formally introduced him to this gathering of warm friends. Declaring that the pangs due to the severing of the ties that had bound him to his good friends in Texas for thirty years were partly softened by the pleasure of being welcomed so warmly by his friends in Philadelphia, he said in part:

"We have come here not because we wished to, but because the Association said it was my duty. I hope I did not make a mistake and that I will be able to fulfil all of the wishes of the Association. The Journal needs the help of every member of the Association. And I feel that with the help that you have so generously proffered me, the membership of the Association should be greatly increased everywhere, but particularly in and about Philadelphia. I have in mind a few changes in the Journal, some of which will be made in the forthcoming issue. I hope they will be welcome."

He closed with a plea for continued advice and assistance for himself and his work from his Philadelphia friends, to whom he felt so close by meeting them that night.

The meeting closed with the reading of communications conveying to Editor Eberle the well-wishes in the new field from Professor Otto Raubenheimer, of Brooklyn; Mr. and Mrs. John G. Godding, of Boston, Mass.; Joseph L. Lemberger, of Lebanon, Pa.; Caswell A. Mayo, of New York, and the New York Pharmaceutical Association.

## PITTSBURGH.

The January meeting of the Pittsburgh Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held Friday, the 21st.

The feature of the program was a paper on "Tuberculins," which proved one of the most thoroughly instructive treatises on that topic and the disease which they are intended to combat that has ever been written. It was contributed by Dr. Leasure K. Darbaker, of the Chair of Bacteriology of the Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy. Dr. Darbaker said in part:

"Tuberculosis was, without doubt, recognized and described by the early writers of medicine, but at that time it was known only under the general name, 'consumption'—a name that to the present day is still in common use. This name was given the disease from the fact that patients dying from it have certain symptoms, such as loss of weight, good appetite, morning cough, night-sweats, and, although in apparent good health, going down slowly and easily to certain death—each sufferer always hopeful to the latest minute of life. Upon opening the bodies of these patients nodules or tubercles were found in the various affected parts; hence this name.

"Tuberculosis is a simple infection, caused by the *Tubercle streptothrix*, and is rarely fatal. The body, in protecting itself, forms a wall around the invading organism; hence the tubercle.

"Consumption is a complex infection in which the various streptococci and staphylococci are associated with the tubercle organism. The streptococci and staphylococci attack and tear down by liquefaction the walled-up tubercles, and this is the material coughed up by the pulmonary consumptive. It is a consuming disease which, unless properly treated in time, always causes death.

"Koch claimed that the bovine type organism could not infect man, and this was the general belief previous to 1901, when Smith and others conclusively proved that, although the tuberculosis of cattle and that of man were caused by different organisms, yet the type of one could and would infect the other. It is now known that practically all the human tuberculosis of the abdominal cavity, intestines, bones, skin, and glands is an infection caused by the bovine type organism.

"The pulmonary type of infection is the most common. It is caused by the human

type organism and is acquired by the inhalation of the organisms in dried sputum. Tuberculosis is not inherited, but as the babe is in constant association with the tuberculous mother, who will throw out in one day millions of organisms by coughing, which organisms are carried a distance of five or more feet (instances are frequent where they are carried as many as seventeen feet), the babe, having weak lungs, readily acquires the disease.

"In practically all autopsies tubercles or healed lesions are found, showing that all, or nearly all, persons have at some time had a tuberculous infection."

After a lengthy and somewhat complicated account of the numerous methods that have been introduced for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis, Dr. Darbaker mentioned the several types of tuberculins in use, and stated that it is thought by some authorities that tuberculin produces an inflammatory reaction around the tuberculous areas which may cause the dissemination of the organisms.

"All tuberculin injections are dangerous, and on several occasions physicians have made the bold statement that 'they have helped many patients to the Great Beyond by the administration of tuberculins.' Probably the therapeutic value of tuberculin depends upon the formation of antibodies which are produced throughout the whole animal body, while the antibodies produced by the disease are only produced by the tissues directly involved. Dr. Sahli states that 'tuberculin treatment is not an active immunization pushed to its fullest limits, but rather is a stimulant to the natural functions of the body.'" Dr. Darbaker concluded his paper with the statement: "We are still experimenting; we are not dealing with a specific; we are striving for the extermination of one of the world's greatest scourges; it matters but little how this may be accomplished. Up to the present day it will not cure alone, but with proper care and surroundings tuberculins may have aided and hastened some cures."

Preceding Dr. Darbaker's lecture, the Branch elected officers as follows: President, George W. Kutscher; vice-presidents, Peter G. Walter, Leasure K. Darbaker, Jesse J. Doyle; secretary, Benajmin E. Pritchard; treasurer, P. Henry Utech.

The Secretary directed attention to the valuable and instructive character of the

literature concerning drugs that is being sent out by the United States Department of Health, and advised the members to have their names enrolled with the Department for the purpose of regularly receiving the little publications as they are issued.

B. E. PRITCHARD, Secretary.

#### SAN FRANCISCO.

The San Francisco Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association met on the evening of January 11, in the office of the Pacific Pharmacist. After roll-call and the reading of the minutes of the December meeting, reports of standing committees were heard. Several communications asking information about the time and place of the Branch meetings were read, and these prove that an interest is being aroused among many of our dormant members. The membership committee reported progress.

Owing to the fact that the County Medical Society meets every Tuesday evening it was deemed advisable to change the meeting night to the second Thursday. The report of the treasurer showed no disbursements and a neat surplus.

A demonstration of "neat package finishing" was given by President Lengfeld. So often the products of a pharmacy are judged by their outward appearances and the speaker impressed the importance of extreme neatness in package finishing. Various containers were made, and this part of the program proved very delightful.

Articles from several pharmaceutical journals were read in abstract. Candy medication, as suggested by Dr. Fantus in a recent journal of the American Medical Association, was favorably discussed.

The Branch will meet again on February 10, at 723 Pacific Building. The sealing of soft gelatin capsules will be demonstrated. Mrs. R. E. White is in charge of the evening's program.

CLARISSA M. ROEHR, Secretary.

#### CITY OF WASHINGTON.

The January meeting of the City of Washington Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held at the National College of Pharmacy on the evening of January 26, 1916.

Messrs. Kebler, Palkin, and Ewing presented a paper in which they reported the

results of a comprehensive investigation on the keeping qualities of spirit of nitrous ether. The study was undertaken to determine the influence of a variety of factors on the decomposition of nitrous ether. Among the factors under observation were the presence of water, the effects of refrigeration, exposure to air, exposure to light, and the selective effect of keeping under varying conditions.

Using the commercially available concentrated nitrous ether it was found that this product itself was comparatively stable, and that diluted solutions of it in official alcohol and in anhydrous alcohol keep very well under all ordinary conditions for at least six months. Even at the end of 18 months no very marked deterioration could be shown in preparations kept with ordinary precaution.

The conclusions reached were that there was absolutely no demonstrable excuse for the very poor quality of spirit of nitrous ether frequently met with.

The problems involved were further discussed by Messrs. Flemer, Kalusowski, Bradbury, Wilbert, Kebler, and Palkin, and the point was made that the druggist, being responsible for the products sold or dispensed by him, should assure himself from time to time that the spirit of nitrous ether on his shelves complies with the requirements of the Pharmacopœia.

The need for including whisky in the Pharmacopœia was discussed at some length in connection with the following preamble and resolutions, which, after a free discussion, were unanimously adopted:

"WHEREAS, It is proposed to delete whisky and brandy from the Pharmacopœia of the United States of America, because of the difficulties involved in devising equitable standards and readily applied tests; and

"WHEREAS, The standards and tests heretofore included in the Pharmacopœia did not guarantee an article of unquestioned purity; and

"WHEREAS, It is practically impossible to control or to determine the purity of whisky or brandy by chemical means alone; and

"WHEREAS, The Government of the United States (for whisky) and the Government of France (for brandy) provide adequate means for securing these products of unquestionable purity and readily-controlled quality; now therefore be it

"Resolved, That we, the members of the

City of Washington Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association, recommend that American pharmacists who are willing or anxious to supply whisky or brandy of good quality for medicinal purposes become acquainted with the existing provisions for securing these products of unquestionable identity and of reasonable purity; and be it further

*Resolved*, That we, the members of the City of Washington Branch, endorse the proposed deletion of so-called standards for whisky and brandy from the Pharmacopœia of the United States of America."

Mr. Bradbury, in opening the discussion, said it would be interesting to know who really was the instigator of the agitation to include whisky and brandy in the Pharmacopœia. He felt sure that such a move did not come from the legitimate drug trade, as in sections of the country, like the District of Columbia, where druggists were not allowed to sell whisky, the drug trade would be loath to have the responsibility for the sale and distribution of whisky forced back on its hands.

Mr. Richardson said that from his experience prescriptions for whisky are extremely rare and would certainly not warrant the including of whisky or brandy in the Pharmacopœia.

Dr. Harvey W. Wiley reviewed the recent six-year controversy over whisky in the Pharmacopœia, and expressed himself as being heartily in favor of the resolutions as presented. He asserted that the requirements included in the U. S. P. VIII and the requirements, as outlined in a recent number of the Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association, which had been proposed for inclusion in the U. S. P. IX would not suffice to detect adulterated or sophisticated whisky or brandy.

For the retail druggist who is willing to handle absolutely pure whisky or brandy for medicinal purposes the provisions made by law are ample. Dr. Wiley expressed the belief that the nature of these provisions might

be explained so as to point out to well-meaning pharmacists how they might safeguard themselves and their customers. For whisky the double-stamp or bottled-in-bond product is guaranteed by the United States Government to comply with the statement made on the strip label over the cork of the bottle.

While it is true that this label does not in any way guarantee the composition of the original distilled spirits, there are economic reasons for accepting the label as a guarantee of quality. It would not be likely to pay a distiller to have money tied up in a bonded warehouse unless he were reasonably sure of finding a ready market for his product when it is ready for sale.

For brandy the provisions made by the French Government in connection with the now well-known white certificate, or "*Acquite Blanc*," are even more comprehensive. This certificate guarantees a genuine product made from a good quality of wine, and this is, so far as Dr. Wiley knows, the only form of brandy fit for human use. American brandies, so far as known, are vile concoctions made from fermented mixtures of sugar and pomace or the distillation of so-called "sick wines," many of them very sick and unfit for use.

With these additional suggestions as to how the retail druggist can secure a good quality of whisky and brandy, Dr. Wiley thought the resolutions quoted above would be timely and of value to the drug trade, particularly in view of the fact that he had just learned from the chairman of the U. S. P. Committee of Revision that the proposition to reconsider the vote to delete whisky and brandy had been voted down by a decided majority of the members of the committee, despite the fact that several members who had previously voted for deletion had also voted for reconsideration. This vote, he believes, definitely disposes of whisky in the Pharmacopœia, and the publication of the U. S. P. IX will now proceed unhampered by vexatious questions of policy.

S. L. HILTON, Secretary.

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