

## 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to the Association and its branches shall become the property of the Association, with the understanding that they are not to be published in any other publication than those of the Association, except by consent of the Committee on Publication."—By-Laws, Chapter X, Art.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 March meeting of the Baltimore Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was called to order by the President, Robert S. McKinney, in Harris Hall, of the University of Maryland, on March 21, 1917.

Upon motion of Dr. Chas. Caspari, Jr., the motion being duly seconded, the reading of the minutes of the February meeting was omitted.

A letter from the Columbus Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association inviting consideration of the resolutions they had adopted, in which they opposed any increase in the annual dues of the Association and approved the continued publication of the Year Book, was read by the Secretary. It was moved and seconded that the discussion of this letter be postponed until the next meeting.

A request for papers to be read before the Scientific Section during the annual meeting of the A. Ph. A. was received from Dr. W. W. Stockberger, of Washington, D. C., and President McKinney urged the members of the Branch to contribute such papers.

As the Branch considered that the members of Congress are absorbed in dealing with the grave matters that now confront our nation, action was postponed in regard to a letter from the Columbus Branch of the A. Ph. A. denouncing the misuse of the Copyright and Patent Laws of the United States for the exploitation of foreign products, and requesting that the local Branch petition our Representatives in Congress to enact such legislation as would free this country from this foreign exploitation.

Dr. John F. Hancock, whose long and active career brought him in contact with the pioneers of pharmacy in Maryland, then gave some "Reminiscences of the Early Days of Pharmacy in Maryland," including a history of the early life of the Maryland College of Pharmacy. He related how the College of

Pharmacy was first started in 1840, and that after two classes had been graduated, it lapsed and was not reorganized until 1856. He told how the preparation for the entertainment of the American Pharmaceutical Association, which met in Baltimore in 1856, aroused interest in pharmacy in Maryland and caused the reorganization of the Maryland College of Pharmacy. He reminded us that Dr. Van Dyke Stewart was the first professor of pharmacy in the United States, stating that Dr. Stewart received the degree from the University of Maryland in 1844 and was then elected professor of Theoretical and Practical Pharmacy in the Maryland College of Pharmacy. Reference was made to the fact that in 1856, Mr. Israel Graham of Maryland was the pioneer who first experimented with the manufacture of fluidextracts by percolation. He spoke of the great work of William Procter, Jr., a Baltimorean by birth, and also of the work of scores of other pioneers of pharmacy in Maryland.

Dr. Hancock is now compiling a paper for the Historical Section of the American Pharmaceutical Association, dealing with the early history of pharmacy in Maryland, which will probably be presented at its next annual meeting.

The interesting talk given by Dr. Hancock caused several of the other members—Dr. Chas. Caspari, Jr., Mr. John B. Thomas and Mr. Louis Schultze—to speak of their early experiences in pharmacy.

Upon motion of Mr. Jno. B. Thomas, a rising vote of thanks was tendered Dr. Hancock for his excellent presentation of the matter and the meeting was adjourned.

B. OLIVE COLE, *Secretary.*

### CHICAGO.

The Chicago Branch American Pharmaceutical Association met in regular monthly

meeting Friday evening, February 23, at Kuntz-Remmlers, following supper at 6.30.

Mr. L. D. Jones presented a new device for introducing breathing in new born infants afflicted with asphyxia neonatorum or for resuscitating infants or little children with asphyxia from other causes. His talk was well received.

The principal subject of discussion was the report submitted by Dr. J. H. Beal for the committee appointed at the January meeting to consider the matter of Compulsory Health Insurance.

In concluding his report, Dr. Beal stated that this subject of Compulsory Health Insurance was the most deserving of study of any legislation yet placed before the druggist. It is more important than the Food and Drugs Act or the state pharmacy acts. Either it sounds the death-knell of what little drug business remains to the pharmacist or it restores to him a real drug business.

Dr. Bernard Fantus endorsed the report as whole, especially the recommendation that we continue to study the whole subject in a purely judicial frame of mind, and to reach conclusions that shall be as nearly as possible devoid of partisan bias or prejudice growing out of our professional relations to the sick. He considered that it would be a most suicidal policy to antagonize the bill just because it would take the bread and butter from our mouths. The position of the physician, pharmacist and nurse should be definitely assigned and defined in the bill before we can offer intelligent criticism. The interested professions should be prepared to offer suitably drawn sections covering their ideas as to the positions these professions should occupy under the laws.

Many others took part in the discussion, though the general opinion seemed to be that the subject required extensive study and that hasty action on the part of state legislatures to enact such a bill into law should be deprecated and strongly opposed.

It was moved by W. B. Day and seconded by Thos. H. Potts that the report of the committee with recommendations be endorsed and referred to Editor Berle for publication and that a vote of thanks be extended to the chairman and his colleagues for the excellent report.<sup>1</sup>

E. N. GATHERCOAL,  
*Secretary.*

## NASHVILLE.

The regular monthly meeting of the Nashville Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held in joint session with the Nashville Drug Club, March 15, 1917, D. J. Kuhn, presiding. Besides a good turn-out of members, there were representatives present from the Retail Grocers' Association and Retail Furniture Dealers' Association.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Judge J. H. Zarecor spoke on "License and Taxation," explaining the different methods used by the government to raise revenue, among others the collection of taxes from retail merchants for the privilege of doing business in the state. He stated that foreign companies, such as the Larkin Company, were doing business in the state in competition with the local merchants without paying any tax whatever, claiming to be exempted on account of doing an interstate business. According to him, these foreign companies are liable to taxation and some steps should be taken to enforce this law. The question was discussed at some length by M. T. Mallon, of the Grocers' Association; Walter Sanford, of the Furniture Dealers' Association, and Ira B. Clark, D. S. Sanders, S. C. Davis and C. S. Martin. A committee was appointed, consisting of D. S. Sanders, S. C. Davis and D. J. Kuhn, to confer with the Grocers' and Furniture Dealers' Associations in order to take some concerted action against this unfair competition. They were also given the power to fight against the alleged formation of an Ice Trust for the advancement of the price of ice.

Resolutions were read from the Columbus Branch of the A. Ph. A., urging Congress to amend the patent laws, and were unanimously adopted, copies to be sent to the representatives in Congress. Discussions followed on the effect of the expiration of the patent on aspirin and uses and limitations of denatured alcohol. C. S. Martin suggested that if physicians would prescribe alcohol and combine it with some denaturizing substance, no federal or state taxes would be required in order to handle it. W. R. White thought that a small percent of iodine might prove a good agent to denaturize it for antiseptic purposes. E. J. Schott, Ira B. Clark and S. C. Davis were appointed a committee to investigate the subject and visit the Academy of Medicine and discuss it with them.

WILLIAM R. WHITE,  
*Secretary.*

<sup>1</sup> The report was printed in the March number of the JOURNAL, pp. 314-317.

## NEW YORK.

The January 1917 meeting of the New York Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was called to order by President Lascoff in the library of the New York College of Pharmacy on Monday, January 8, at 8.30 P.M.

Twenty-six members were present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read by the Secretary.

The Treasurer's report was accepted with thanks.

Member of the Council, Mr. McElhenie, was not present and no report was rendered.

Chairman McCartney, of the Membership Committee, presented the applications for membership in the parent body of John D. F. Dreyer, 41 John Street; George E. Fitzsimmons, 1045 Lexington Avenue; William E. Gifford, 203 Fulton Street; Charles A. Loring, 145 Front Street, all of New York, and William F. Morgan, 136 Meserole Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y., and Miss M. A. O'Connor, 19 Church Street, White Plains, N. Y., as well as the application of Mr. C. L. Eddy, for membership in the Branch.

The report was accepted with thanks and the Secretary was ordered to forward the six applications to General Secretary Day.

*Committee on Legislation and Education.*—Dr. Anderson being absent, no report was received.

*Committee on Fraternal Relations.*—Chairman Diner explained what was being done by the County Medical Society in preparation for the joint meeting and moved that the Secretary send invitations to all members of the American Pharmaceutical Association and other pharmaceutical organizations, and that the pharmaceutical press be urged to feature the meeting.

The report and motion were adopted.

*Progress of Pharmacy.*—Dr. Diekman read a very interesting report which led to an animated discussion.

Mr. C. O. Bigelow reported on the narcotic hearing held before the Legislative Committee and Chairman Holzhauser of the Nominating Committee presented the following nominees:

*President*, Joseph L. Mayer; *Vice-President*, F. L. McCartney; *Treasurer*, Joseph Weinstein; *Secretary*, Hugo H. Schaefer; *Member of the Council*, Jeannot Hostmann; *Chairman, Committee on Education and Legislation*, Charles Lehman; *Chairman, Committee on Progress of Pharmacy*, George C. Diekman;

*Chairman, Membership Committee*, Herman Walter; *Chairman, Committee on Fraternal Relations*, Jacob Diner.

The report was adopted and the Committee discharged with thanks.

The Secretary read an invitation to attend the dinner of the Bronx County Pharmaceutical Association and on motion same was placed on file and the members urged to attend.

The resignation presented by Mr. Lorenz Canton was accepted.

The Secretary then read the following communication:

DEAR SIR:

At the last meeting of the Philadelphia Branch, during a discussion on the question, "What Disposition Shall be Made of the Year Book?" the following points were emphasized:

1. The A. Ph. A. gives each member more than his dues will pay for, hence each year there is a deficit. This must be met with an increase in revenue or decrease of expenditures. The former can be brought about only by an increase of dues; the latter, most feasibly either by discontinuing the Year Book, or publishing it in the JOURNAL from time to time.

2. The continuance of the Year Book is absolutely necessary for the progress of American Pharmacy, for it is only by the use of this and allied works that any progress is made. Were it not for this systematized and carefully indexed account of what has been done, information which can now be obtained in a few moments, would only be available after an extended, time-and-patience-consuming search through many journals.

In accordance with this view, the following resolution was proposed and adopted:

RESOLVED, That the Philadelphia Branch go on record as favoring the continuance of the JOURNAL and the Year Book as at present, and that any deficit which might occur be met by an increase in dues; and further, that the Secretary be instructed to send copies of this resolution to the Council and to the Secretaries of the various local branches.

Very truly yours,

(Signed)

J. ED. BREWER,

*Secretary.*

After a very spirited discussion, the following motion made by Professor Army was adopted: That the President appoint a committee of three to study the question raised in the resolutions passed by the Philadelphia Branch,

said committee to report at the next regular meeting and that the Secretary of the Branch notify the secretaries of all branches of this action.

President Lascoff appointed the following to be such a committee: H. V. Army, F. L. McCartney, Jeannot Hostmann.

Mr. C. L. Eddy, who had been proposed for membership in the Branch, was then regularly elected.

*Election of Officers.*—Upon motion, President-elect Charles Holzhauer of the parent association was called upon by President Lascoff to cast a ballot regularly electing the candidates presented by the Nominating Committee. Mr. Holzhauer so voted, and the aforementioned candidates were declared to be duly elected.

Dr. Diner, as Chairman of the delegation to the meeting of the American Metric Association, rendered his report which was accepted with thanks.

The Secretary read his report, bringing out among other points, that 108 members had been elected during the year and that four had resigned, leaving a net membership of 252. This report was ordered filed.

President Lascoff asked Messrs. Turner and Horstman to escort the newly elected officers to their chairs.

A vote of thanks was extended to the outgoing officers and the meeting then adjourned.

JEANNOT HOSTMANN,  
*Secretary.*

A joint meeting of the Medical Society of the County of New York and the New York Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held February 20, 1917, in Hosack Hall, New York Academy of Medicine, 17 West 43rd Street.

The meeting was opened at 8.45 P.M. by Dr. J. Bentley Squier, President of the Medical Society of the County of New York, in the chair.

About fifty members were present.

*Scientific Program.*

"The Modern Trend of Professional Pharmacy," by George C. Diekman, M.D.

"The Physician's Vital Need," by Jacob Diner, M.D.

"Stemming the Tide," by Walter A. Bastedo, M.D.

"Facing the Future," by Daniel S. Dougherty, M.D.

The following resolutions were presented by

Dr. Dougherty and discussed by Dr. Weiskopf:

WHEREAS, Professional pharmacy, judged by what we have heard tonight, seems to be in a condition to be much deplored; and

WHEREAS, Pharmacy and pharmacists are essential to the practitioner of medicine and his co-operation essential to the welfare of the pharmacists; and

WHEREAS, The suggestions presented for the correction of the existing evils seem to be practical and promising; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That a committee of six be appointed, three by the President of the Medical Society of the County of New York and three by the President of the New York Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association, to study the subject and devise ways and means to place pharmacy on a proper basis and establish a closer co-relation between the pharmacist and physician.

This committee to report at such time and place and in such manner as may be determined by the Presidents of the respective bodies.

On motion duly made and seconded, the resolutions were adopted.

HUGO H. SCHAEFER,  
*Secretary.*

The March 1917 meeting of the New York Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was called to order by President Mayer in the library of the New York College of Pharmacy, on Monday, the 12th, at 8.30 P.M. Fifty-one members were present.

The minutes of the January and February meetings were read and approved.

A motion was made, seconded and carried that the President be authorized to appoint a committee of three to co-operate with a similar committee of the Medical Society of the County of New York in accordance with the resolution adopted at the February meeting.

President Mayer appointed the following members to constitute this committee: Jacob Diner, J. H. Reh fuss, Robert G. Lehman.

The Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

After some discussion, upon motion duly seconded and passed, the Treasurer was authorized to drop from the membership list of the Local Branch at his and the Secretary's discretion, such members who owed dues for over two years.

Mr. Latham volunteered to personally interview members who were delinquent in paying dues and try to collect same.

*Member of the Council.*—Professor Hostmann's report was accepted with thanks.

Chairman Walter, of the *Membership Committee*, presented the applications for membership in the parent association of Jacob Feldman, 321 Pleasant Avenue; Miss Fanchon Hart, 115 West 68th Street; Theodore R. L. Loud, 270 Ft. Washington Avenue; Julius Ginsberg, 333 East 16th Street, care Herman; Jack N. Casavis, 115 West 68th Street; Charles T. Dill, 167 West 143rd Street, all of New York, and Robert G. Kissick, 199 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.; H. H. Sherwood, 39th Street and 2nd Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

The report was accepted with thanks and the Secretary was ordered to forward the eight applications to General Secretary Day.

*Committee on Education and Legislation.*—Mr. Mayo being absent, no report was received.

*Committee on Fraternal Relations.*—Dr. Diner's lengthy report on the February Joint Meeting was accepted.

*Special Committees.*—The special committee headed by Dr. Arny appointed to study the question raised by the resolution of the Philadelphia Branch reported in great detail. Appended to the report were the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, That the New York Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association does not favor an increase in the dues of the Association as favored by the Philadelphia Branch, since it feels that such increase in dues will tend to drive away much of the membership gained during the past few years;

RESOLVED, That this Branch does not favor the abolition of either the JOURNAL or the Year Book for the same reason that it does not favor an increase in dues;

RESOLVED, That we feel the financial problems confronting the Association should be solved by increasing the membership of the Association and the advertising patronage of the JOURNAL and we stand ready in the future as in the past to aid the Association in these directions;

RESOLVED, That if economy is absolutely essential, this economy should be accomplished by curtailments of the expenses of the JOURNAL.

RESOLVED, That a copy of these resolutions and of this report be sent to the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Association, to the Chairman of the Council, to the Chairman of the Committee on Publication,

and to the secretary of each local branch of the Association.

After considerable discussion, the report was accepted with the thanks of the Branch and the resolutions were adopted as embodied in the report.

*Communications.*—The Secretary read a communication from Mr. Charles Lehman, stating that it would not be possible for him to accept the chairmanship of the Committee on Education and Legislation to which he had been duly elected at the January meeting. President Mayer then appointed Mr. Mayo to fill this position.

A number of other communications were ordered accepted without being read.

*New Business.*—Dr. Diner reported the death of Dr. William C. Alpers and moved that, in view of the fact that he was the first President of the local Branch, and an active leader in pharmacy, a committee of three be appointed to draw up suitable resolutions. This was seconded and duly carried. President Mayer appointed the following as members of such a committee: Dr. Diner, Dr. Weinstein, Mr. Latham.

Dr. Coblenz read a very interesting paper on "The Chemicals of the New Pharmacopoeia," dwelling chiefly upon the tests of the U. S. P. IX.

Mr. Rippetoe then read a paper on the same subject. He brought out a number of interesting facts and inconsistencies in the new Pharmacopoeia.

The discussion following the reading of these papers was lead by Professor LaWall. He answered a number of points brought out by the two preceding speakers and also explained why certain changes had been made in the revision. Considerable further discussion followed.

A motion was made and carried that the three speakers be accorded a rising vote of thanks by the Branch.

Upon motion, it was then voted to adjourn, subject to the call of the chair.

HUGO H. SCHAEFER, *Secretary.*

#### NORTHWESTERN.

The Northwestern Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association met in conjunction with the Scientific and Practical Section of the Minnesota State Pharmaceutical Association at 2.00 P.M., February 14, in the Hotel Saint Paul, St. Paul, Minn. Dean F. J. Wulling, chairman of the scientific section

of the State Association, and President of the American Pharmaceutical Association, convened the meeting.

The following program of the scientific section was carried out:

1. A symposium on the U. S. P. IX was opened and closed by C. H. Bollinger, and on the N. F. IV opened and closed by F. A. Upsher Smith. A number of pharmacists took part in the discussion.
2. "Prescription Pricing," by Robert L. Morland.
3. "Duty of the Public to the Pharmacist," by R. J. Messing.
4. "Prescriptions and Prescription Compounding," by H. Martin Johnson.
5. "Report of the Committee on Adulteration," by Professor Gustave Bachman.
6. "Fractional Percolation," by O. J. Blosmo.
7. (a) "The 1916 Results of Medicinal Plant Cultivation for Educational Purposes at the College of Pharmacy, University of Minnesota.
- (b) "A New Source of Supply for Ergot."
- (c) "The JOURNAL and the Year Book of the A. Ph. A.," by Dr. E. L. Newcomb.
8. "Report of Committee on College of Pharmacy," by Chairman A. J. Kline.

At the conclusion of the program the Branch held a business meeting, at which time the following officers were elected for the coming year:

*President*, Mr. Truman Griffin, Minneapolis; *Vice-President*, C. H. Bollinger, St. Paul; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Chas. H. Rogers, Minneapolis; *Executive Committee*, F. A. U. Smith, Chairman, St. Paul; F. M. Parker, St. Paul; W. S. Smetana, Hopkins; E. A. Tupper, Minneapolis.

C. H. ROGERS, *Secretary*.

#### SAN FRANCISCO.

The San Francisco Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association met March 8, 1917, at 416 Hayes Street. In the absence of President Lengfield, Vice-President Jennie M. White presided. Communications from the Columbus Branch on "Copyright and Patent Laws" and on "An Assumed Deficit in the National Organization" were read. Definite action was deferred until the April meeting.

The informal discussion centered on a recently published article on the "Preparation of Dakin's Solution." It is claimed that the unsatisfactory results obtained in various

hospitals has been attributed to an incorrect formula and to faulty technic. A clear, concise and accurate method is given by Dr. A. Carrel in the December issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association. Many other references were quoted.

The manufacture of tablets by the pharmacist was made the subject for the evening. The object of the discussion was to point out the importance of equipment of this kind—one or two tablet moulds and a small tablet machine. With these and a certain amount of experience a pharmacist should be able to utilize stock on hand in addition to supplying unobtainable ready-made tablets. The work is interesting and should be a part of every prescription pharmacy.

The Branch will meet again on Thursday evening, April 12, 1917. The place of meeting has not been definitely decided, but plans are being made to meet permanently in the City of Paris Building.

CLARISSA M. ROEHR, *Secretary*.

#### PHILADELPHIA.

The February meeting of the Philadelphia Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held at Temple University. The assay processes, both chemical and biological, of the U. S. P. IX, were discussed. The speakers of the evening were Professors C. E. Vanderkleed, Charles H. LaWall and Doctors William A. Pearson and Paul S. Pittenger.

A discussion of the subject of the assay processes of the U. S. P. IX was opened by C. E. Vanderkleed who called attention to the advantages of the maximum and minimum standard provision of the new Pharmacopoeia over the old absolute standards of the 8th revision. The tendency of the new U. S. P. assay directions to be less empirical and to leave more to the intelligent judgment of the operator was praised. He pointed out that the number of assayed and standardized preparations of vegetable drugs was not increased in the U. S. P. IX but that by the process of cross referencing, space for the description of assay processes has been saved and the methods made somewhat more nearly uniform. He heartily approved of the adoption of the "saw-dust" method for several of the preparations and expressed the opinion that some other preparations particularly those of Hyoscyamus might well have been added to the list of those assayed by the saw-

dust method. He commented upon the return to a total alkaloid standard for the preparations of Nux Vomica and indicated a preference of Methyl Red as an indicator for use in the titration of most vegetable alkaloids. Professor LaWall said that a consideration of the inorganic chemicals of the U. S. P. would be incomplete without a study of the guiding statements in the preface of the U. S. P. IX. Among the general principles adopted by the Convention in May 1910, to be followed by the Revision Committee, the most important one was on page xxxii of the preface in which it says that "The Purity Rubric, which limits the percentage of innocuous impurities, as introduced into the Eighth Revision, should be continued, and tests and requirements should be appended to each article carrying a purity rubric."

In the U. S. P. VIII, which must be looked upon as the foundation for the U. S. P. IX, a foundation wisely and skilfully built, for the most part, many substances had been described with purity rubrics, with no method of assay or other means of knowing whether the articles complied with the requirements. Among these may be mentioned alum, ammonium benzoate, calcium carbonate, lead acetate, phosphorus, potassium nitrate, sulphur, sodium phosphate and zinc sulphate, to give an idea of the wideness of the range.

For all of these substances for which a suitable assay process was available, it was provided. In those cases where none could be found nor devised, the rubric was dropped and the quality of the article protected by limiting tests. This has been done in the case of phosphorus, for example. In all of the other cases mentioned, and indeed, with one or two exceptions, the rubric has been continued and a suitable assay process provided.

Another important paragraph in the preface which has an influence upon the interpretation of results of examination of chemical substances is that on page xlv: "Standards of purity and strength prescribed in the text of this Pharmacopoeia are intended solely to apply to substances which are used for medicinal purposes or in determining the identity and purity of such substances."

Also on page xlvi are important paragraphs elucidating and explaining the purity rubric fully, referring to the range of strength provided for chemicals containing water of crystallization and requiring that the official assay process only be used for substances described in the book.

In the chemical tests the careful observer will notice that a definite plan of arrangement has been consistently followed. First, the physical characters are described, then follow identification tests, later the tests for prohibited impurities or limiting tests for those permitted and finally the assay process for determining the percentage of purity.

In connection with the details of the quantitative tests it will be seen that several important changes have been made in the handling of the directions for carrying out the processes. It is assumed that the person who carries out the tests has had sufficient elementary training to render unnecessary the inclusion of detailed directions for calculating the results.

Another important change in the interests of accurate results was made in, that instead of requiring the weighing of an exact specified quantity, which is always difficult and sometimes impossible on account of alterations during weighing, it is directed to take an amount approximating the desired quantity and weigh it accurately. There was great difficulty in getting this simple plan approved by the General Committee, as those not engaged in chemical work could not understand the points involved and thought that anybody ought to be able to weigh out exactly a gramme of anything without any trouble.

Another important change in the policy of the U. S. P., affecting many chemical substances, is the one permitting a range of strengths where an absolute invariable strength was required in former editions. For instance, in the U. S. P. VIII, diluted hydrochloric acid was required to contain exactly 10 percent HCl. Now it is required to contain not less than 9.5 percent nor more than 10.5 percent HCl. This is in the interest of the retail pharmacist wherever it occurs, as it specifies legally the leeway, variation or tolerance that should guide an official in authorizing a prosecution for an article not in compliance with the official requirements. Formerly this was a matter of personal opinion, and on this account injustice was frequently done to pharmacists by drug commissioners who had no knowledge of pharmacy.

One of the evils we still have with us is due to the apathy or ignorance of the retail pharmacist. It is the continued acceptance and use for official purposes, *i. e.*, use in prescription work and in making U. S. P. preparations, of chemicals sold under such ambiguous titles as "dried and powdered," where ex-

siccated salts are ordered or meant and chemicals deviating in some way from the requirements of the U. S. P. and sold with the qualification "For technical use." Many chemicals, thus designated, and deviating markedly in some particular from the requirements of the U. S. P., are used heedlessly or carelessly for pharmaceutical work. Pharmacists should be alert and further their own interests and that of their patrons by unhesitatingly rejecting all such goods unless they are actually to be used for technical purposes, as designated.

Doctors Paul S. Pittenger and William A. Pearson spoke on the biologic assays of the Pharmacopoeia and the various assays were discussed with emphasis on the weak points which they considered present in the proposed methods. The fact was brought out that the U. S. P. methods in many instances lacked the details which workers in practical laboratories have found essential in order to obtain accurate results, and, therefore, do not show as well as they might the degree of efficiency to which biologic assay methods have been developed.

On Tuesday evening, March 13, the monthly meeting of the Philadelphia Branch was held in the chemistry lecture room of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy with Dr. Julius Sturmer in the chair.

The routine business included the submitting before the body of two letters from the Columbus Branch, one referring to the Year Book decision of the local Branch and the other embodying a number of resolutions bearing on a revision of the Patent laws, both letters being turned over to the respective committees for further consideration. The feature of the evening was the lecture by Professor Henry Kraemer, an exceedingly interesting and enlightening topic, dealing with "The Microscope in the Hands of the Pharmacist," and the subject was presented with the speaker's usual dexterity in handling such a theme. A fine display of Kraemer-made and Kraemer-colored slides added much to the value as well as to the interest of the

paper. After further discussion of Professor Kraemer's subject, participated in by Dr. Sturmer, Prof. LaWall and Apothecary Hunsberger, a short paper on the new antiseptic solutions, Dakin's and modifications thereof, was read by Editor Eberle, of the JOURNAL, and commented on by Sister Mueller, Professors LaWall and Kraemer, Apothecary Hunsberger and others. Dr. Thum, of the German Hospital, had expected to be present to deliver a paper on these new ideas in wound cleansing but was prevented from attending through death in his family, and is expected to bring the matter up for further discussion at the next Branch meeting.

The following officers for the coming year were placed before the Branch by the Committee on Nominations and were unanimously elected:

*President*, Ambrose Hunsberger; *First Vice-President*, J. R. Minehart; *Second Vice-President*, Quintus Hoch; *Secretary and Treasurer*, Ivor Griffith; *Committee on Practical Pharmacology*, J. C. Peacock, *Chairman*, E. Fullerton Cook and W. W. McNeary; *Committee on Fraternal Relations*, J. R. Minehart, *Chairman*, F. E. Stewart and W. L. Cliffe; *Committee on Membership*, R. P. Fischelis, *Chairman*, J. W. England and J. Atlee Dean.

IVOR GRIFFITH, *Secretary*.

#### CITY OF WASHINGTON.

The February meeting of the Washington Branch was devoted to a discussion of the disposition to be made of the Year Book and a committee was appointed to consider the matter and render a report at the March meeting. A communication from the Columbus Branch was discussed by Mr. Hilton and members of the Association and the Secretary was instructed to notify the Columbus Branch that no action could be taken in response to their communication as the matter in hand was not subject to any rule of the Council, but had been recommended by the Association as a whole.

H. C. FULLER, *Secretary*.