

SECTION ON PRACTICAL PHARMACY AND DISPENSING, AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.*

ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF THE SESSIONS HELD IN CHICAGO, ILL., AUGUST 14
15 AND 16.

FIRST SESSION.

The first session of the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing of the Sixty-sixth Annual Convention, A. Ph. A., was called to order by Chairman J. C. Peacock, at 2:00 o'clock P.M., Wednesday, August 14. The Chairman read the following address:

Address of Chairman J. C. Peacock:

TO THE SECTION ON PRACTICAL PHARMACY AND DISPENSING, A. PH. A., CHICAGO MEETING,
1918:

In opening the sessions of the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing during such stirring times as these it becomes a patriotic duty to our cause to refer to those who, inspired by an earnest devotion to the same sixty-six years ago, came from the various parts of the United States and assembling in Philadelphia, the birthplace of our Nation, laid, as did its founders, the cornerstone of this Association, with a declaration for the right.

These men defined pharmacy to the Nation as a profession entrusted to the dispenser by both physician and community; they insisted that candor only as the true spirit of pharmacy be practiced, and they pledged their efforts to right the wrongs which pharmacy might correct. And there is no finer tribute which we can pay to their appreciation of pharmacy than to remind ourselves that they were in such close contact with the mortar and pestle, and in such immediate fellowship with the public that they saw in pharmacy the personal service to humanity both in the quality of their materials and in the art of dispensing them. They sought to improve both materials and art for the benefit of those they served. As individuals they were each and every one possessed of resource and determination; but they knew that they could learn from one another; they knew the value of united effort, and that through an association the good that each could do would be spread broadcast. And that is why they met. And if we read the deliberations of this first meeting we will be convinced that we have no higher, no more useful purpose to-day; for their object is still our object, and their spirit has always been and must remain the spirit of this Association.

PHARMACY AND THE PUBLIC.

While it is to-day our patriotic duty to pharmacy to refer to these zealous men it is equally incumbent upon us to declare that pharmacy must be further explained for a better comprehension of it by the people of our country, because we are asking our Government to give pharmacy the same consideration in war that it does in peace, for the benefit of the soldier who stakes his life in our defense. Our offer of the service of pharmacy to the soldier is not at all an unusual one, for when attired in the raiment of civil life he has it within easy access, and the Nation, as well as the State, has standardized this service and insists upon it for his and everybody's protection. But when the man is called to arms and takes upon himself the uniform he hopes to glorify; this very safeguard so provided and so insisted upon in civil life is denied him as though then unnecessary. This is neither consistency, justice nor respect for civil law; nor is it efficiency. That there are many pharmacists in the Army is known to all, and even in the face of the fact that they stand trained both as soldiers and pharmacists they are not specially selected to take care of and dispense the medicines needed by their comrades. Indeed, the scantiness with which they are called upon to do so is the result of sheer coincidence, while the neglect to use them for their special adaptation is so grossly apparent as to assume the proportions of a studied avoidance. This condition, fellow-members, makes it necessary to bring pharmacy into the lime-light of public attention, for we need the appreciation of the public to help us help the Nation's warfare by promoting the soldier's welfare. We must therefore advertise

* Papers with discussions thereon will be printed apart from Minutes.

this condition to the public as assiduously as our Nation is advertising its need for money to us in order to make a proper impress of this disregard of civil law which works an injustice on the soldier.

This is why pharmacy needs to be explained and demonstrated in daily practice to the end that the public shall understand it as a service of such serious import as to require legislative regulation, and not merely a word of eight letters appropriated some decades ago by the sign painter to make one drug store look different from another. And this advertising of pharmacy must be persisted in until every voter who has any interest whatsoever in the welfare of a soldier is not only disillusioned regarding any supposed present protection of the latter, but also shall demand that the civil rights of our defenders be not thus annulled.

Having thus devoted our attention to a patriotism demanded by our duty to the soldier and to pharmacy as well, we turn to thoughts pertaining to the progress of pharmacy and to conditions directly affecting the pharmacist.

THE U. S. PHARMACOPOEIA AND NATIONAL FORMULARY.

The best known accomplishment of American pharmacy that is in material form as evidence of its work and progress is the standardized materia medica which it has developed and which is embodied in the United States Pharmacopoeia and the National Formulary.

As our Association has Committees on both and of itself issues the National Formulary, and as these Committees report to this Section, it will not be out of place here to say a few words regarding these two legal standards as the evidence of the progress which pharmacy has made and is now making.

Sixty-six years ago the United States Pharmacopoeia was little more than a catalogue of titles and formulae. To-day it is an encyclopaedic volume, the study of which can not be too strongly recommended to practicing pharmacists; for it will prove a revelation to those who were graduated no less than ten years ago, and will awaken in every one a better idea of what is expected of pharmacists to-day. Nor can less be said of the National Formulary, which really is an "extra" U. S. Pharmacopoeia; and, because it is the work and property of our Association, we should feel both proud and duty bound to know its contents and its value.

THE JOURNAL AND THE YEAR BOOK.

And with the thought still in mind that pharmacy is improved in our trust by endeavoring to keep ourselves abreast of its progress, we want to refer to the JOURNAL of our Association as a potent factor in maintaining interest in pharmacy by recording its progress as a first consideration. This high-class periodical may be depended upon to bring each month a message of the true spirit of pharmacy with which it is inspired. Nor do we intend to pass mention here of the Year Book of our Association; a wonderful condensation of the pharmaceutical literature of the world; verily a volume of the "solid extract" of progress in pharmacy. The study of the JOURNAL and the Year Book will constitute what this Association has been so aptly termed—a post-graduate course in pharmacy. Our Association is fortunate indeed to be so ably represented to its members through the efforts of those who have these various duties in hand, and with unstinted enthusiasm may we display to the public these volumes of the progress of pharmacy as proof of the claims which we make for our art.

THE PRACTICE OF PHARMACY AND CONDUCT OF THE DRUG STORE.

The practice of pharmacy itself deserves a word of notice at our hands. The compounding of prescriptions remains as heretofore the best representative of pharmacy in our stores, for the reason that it is most closely associated with the work of the physician. It is the experience of those who have made the test that personal interest in the profession of pharmacy as attested by the care which is given to this department will produce the greatest assurance of one's ability and dependability through service to the public, and will build a prescription and drug trade among appreciative customers, the merits and stability of which will before long be recognized by physicians themselves, and not only command their respect but secure their encouragement and support.

Our Association has a committee on "Closer Affiliation of Pharmacists and Physicians," which might with advantage render a direct report to this Section, even if it did so in addition to the one intended for the General Session. The work of said committee is clearly related to the matters with which this Section has to do and I would, therefore, recommend that this thought be referred for consideration and action.

The scarcity of help is being severely felt by the pharmacist. Many are taxed to the limit of endurance by the combined effects of the work, care and hours of business. The time is propitious for the pharmacist to show his individuality by remembering that his hours to keep open store need not be influenced entirely by another's actions. An hour or a half hour taken from each end of the day will to that extent, at least, help conserve the health and strength of those in the store, as well as supply the encouragement of shorter hours to all. Indeed, one can not keep from seeing that the condition which confronts us makes for a permanently shorter working day for the drug store, as well as for many another vocation. These trying times will also put the loyalty of many to the test as between interest in pharmacy and side-lines. But though pharmacy may suffer because some give over their attention to side-lines and yet retain the name of pharmacy upon which to trade—a thing to be deplored—pharmacy will on the other hand, profit by such desertions to other interests as pass entirely out of its ranks.

Therefore, must pharmacy find within itself that temperament which will not allow it to be downcast because of such circumstances as have been mentioned?

WOMEN IN PHARMACY.

No sooner had enlistment and draft begun to show a depleting effect upon the labor needed for our large industries than women came forward to fill the places vacated. The advent of women into pharmacy some years back was a matter of much concern to those who have never quite understood that their mothers were women. But the doubts of these had already been dispelled before the present crisis arose to brush aside many a cherished notion as to women's work. Pharmacy in all its branches needs industry, care, neatness and devotion. It therefore offers an opportunity to those who have these requirements. As women can supply all of them, they are destined sooner or later, whether in war or peace, to find their way into pharmacy, and the exacting work of the prescription department will be their goal.

CONSERVATION IN PHARMACY.

Regarding the conservation of alcohol, glycerin and sugar by pharmacists we believe, that in so far as actual pharmacy is concerned, the best interest of the public can be served by pharmacists being allowed a sufficient supply of these materials for all pharmaceutical purposes. These actual needs will be found to be small in comparison with the annoyances, disappointments, and irregularities which must certainly arise if such supply is curtailed. There seems little reason why patient, physician or pharmacist should be exposed to the necessity for any other course. But improvement as a true economy may result from an interchange of views on the subject, therefore, a general discussion pertaining to War Emergency Formulae has been scheduled for one of our sessions in order that the opinions and suggestions of all may have consideration.

THE ANTI-NARCOTIC LAW AND ITS ENFORCEMENT.

More than three years have elapsed since the enforcement of the Harrison Act, a sufficient time in which to observe its operation with regard to its effect on the practice of pharmacy. Few, if any, consider it perfect, but it has been accepted as a satisfactory first step in a worthy effort. It is the opinion of some that its existence will hasten the obsolescence of some of the compound opiates of the National Formulary, more especially those of such strength as require the special form of prescription. Such a result should encourage prescription writing, for if a physician decides upon the use of an opiate he will likely determine the dose and also state his preference as to what is to accompany it. It can scarcely be said that the operation of the Harrison Act has worked any hardship upon the pharmacist that has not been compensated for by an increased sense of appreciation, both by the public and the physician. And although a loose observance on the part of the pharmacist might at times apparently conciliate patient or physician, still, aside from every other consideration, self-respect demands a strict adherence, and confidence accrues only in him who will not intentionally deviate from the conditions imposed. We fail to see where any considerable volume of business of a desirable nature can be lost to the pharmacist either because of the law itself or through his strict adherence to its requirements. Nor can we conceive that any law which seeks to regulate the use of opiates with a view to restricting them to intelligent use will do other than help the practice of pharmacy.

It is unfortunate that we do not specifically have as inspectors under this law individuals who have had pharmaceutical training, that they may feel the spirit of the law, and by thus

appreciating the conditions under which it operates, help pharmacy toward what is possible in its improvement. Inspectors, without such training, may not comprehend the intent and technicalities and thus make of inspection a purely perfunctory service.

J. C. PEACOCK,
Chairman.

On motion of H. P. Hynson the address was referred to a committee of three, empowered to take up for consideration the different subjects touched upon by the Chairman, and submit them at the proper time in connection with other papers, or submit them independently if necessary, in some appropriate place in the program, so that the Chairman's views may be brought to the attention of the Association. Mr. Hynson also made the specific recommendation in support of the Chairman's suggestion that the Association be requested to send the report of the Special Committee on The Relationship of Physicians and Pharmacists to this Section.

The following papers were then read, discussed, and referred for publication: "A Plea for a Closer Study of our Pharmaceutical Preparations in the Light of Criticism of the Medical Profession," by L. E. Sayre.

"A Proper College of Pharmacy Course that is of Interest to the Commercial Druggist," by Edward Spease.

"Spirit of Peppermint, U. S. P.," by E. F. Kelly.

"Therapeutical Standards, Past and Present," by Edward Kremers.

"Carbon Tetrachloride as a Solvent for Fats," by J. P. Snyder.

"On the Keeping Qualities of Dakin's Solution," by Irwin A. Becker.

"The Practical Pharmacist from the Manufacturer's Standpoint," by R. C. White.

"Note on Tincture of Cinchona Compound," by F. W. Nitardy. The paper was read by the Secretary.

The first session of the Section on Practical Pharmacy was then adjourned.

SECOND SESSION.

The second session of the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing was called to order by the Chairman at 2:30 P.M., Thursday, August 15.

Mrs. J. M. Kenaston read a paper entitled "The Pharmacist's Objectives." It was referred for publication after discussion.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

SECTION ON PRACTICAL PHARMACY AND DISPENSING.

Your Committee is seriously impressed by the most appropriate and comprehensive character of Chairman Peacock's address which shows creditable familiarity with actual conditions in the practice of pharmacy and offers practical and promising suggestions that will, undoubtedly, be helpful to those seeking a reasonable advancement of pharmacy and to those endeavoring to correct current abuses; the address is commended to both classes of reformers for serious study. It is also believed by this Committee that it would be wise for the schools of pharmacy to encourage the study of this and similar discussions by students of pharmacy, that they will be better able to confront conditions they will meet in their coming practice.

Especial attention is called to the Chairman's remarks on a number of pertinent subjects, and the suggestion is made that a careful general discussion of these be had by this section if time can be found for doing so. Such a discussion would probably result in finding a mode of handling the questions that would result happily to all concerned.

The subjects suggested in the Chairman's Address are as follows:

"The higher inspiration for pharmaceutical action."

"A better appreciation of true pharmaceutical practice by the public and, especially, by Government officials and by State and National legislators."

"Coöperation between physicians and pharmacists."

"A fairer understanding by the laity of the creditable work done by pharmacists in the making of our National Standards for medicines."

"Shorter hours and the conservation of help in pharmacy."

"The enforcement of the National Narcotic law and the character of inspectors required."

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY P. HYNSON,

(Signed) CURT P. WIMMER,

L. E. SAYRE.

The report was accepted and the recommendations contained therein were endorsed, and the Secretary was instructed to send a copy of this report to the succeeding officers of the Section.

W. L. Scoville then presented the report of the Committee on National Formulary. This report was referred to the Council. (See Committee Reports.)

The chairmen of the Committees on U. S. Pharmacopoeia and A. Ph. A. Recipe Book were unable to be present, and no reports were submitted.

The following papers were read:

"Pharmaceutica! War Babies," by C. P. Wimmer.

"Percentage Solutions," by H. L. Thompson.

"Analysis of Milk of Magnesia," by R. W. Terry.

The Secretary then read a note from Professor J. U. Lloyd, who was unable to remain for this session. It follows:

"TO THE SECTION ON PRACTICAL PHARMACY AND DISPENSING:

My paper on 'Solvents in Pharmacy' continues the subject introduced last year. The newly introduced feature comprises descriptions of the meniscus that forms between separated liquids, the same being portrayed by illustrations.

This paper is not subject to condensation, is too precise concerning details to be read at length before the Section, and is therefore presented by title.

(Signed) JOHN URI LLOYD."

In order to open a discussion on the subject of War Emergency Formulas, a paper by Bertha Mueller, entitled "Notes and Suggestions on the Use of Glycerin in Official Preparations," was read by the Chairman.

A paper entitled "Continuous Percolation under Reduced Pressure," by J. G. Beard, was read by C. M. Snow. The following papers were read by title:

"The Druggist as a Public Notary," by Emil Roller.

"Laboratory Notes," by T. D. McElhenie.

"Some Views on Practical Pharmacy," by E. T. Hahn.

"A Combination Prescription Check, Cash Slip, Charge Slip and Working Record," by C. Osseward.

"Some Pharmaceutical Notes," by W. R. White.

Nominations for officers for the ensuing year were made, after which the second session was adjourned.

THIRD SESSION.

The third session was called to order by Chairman J. C. Peacock at 9 o'clock A.M., Friday, August 16.

The first paper was entitled "The Preparation of Tinctures by the Dilution of Fluidextracts." It was presented by Edward Davy. Then followed a "Prescription Clinic," by Charles H. LaWall. Both the paper and the Clinic elicited much discussion.

The Secretary then read a paper by F. L. Stone, entitled "Can a Retail Druggist Continue as a Manufacturer?" The following papers were then presented by title:

"A Utilization which Conserves," by J. C. Peacock.

"Lime, Lime Water and Lime Water Tablets," by R. W. Terry.

"The Use of Logarithms and Antilogarithms in Pharmaceutical Assaying," by H. L. Thompson.

"The N. F. Petroxolins and Paralle Preparations," by H. A. Langenhan and G. J. Noll.

"Sterilized Distilled Water," by E. F. Cook and L. Gershenfeld.

"An Experiment on Compound Tincture of Benzoin," by J. C. and B. L. DeG. Peacock.

"Absence of Inspection under the Harrison Act," by J. C. Peacock.

This concluded the papers, all of which were referred for publication. Further nominations were called for, and after balloting on the names of those presented as candidates as associate members on the Committee, the officers for the ensuing year were reported to be as follows:

Chairman, R. W. Terry, Groveport, Ohio.

Secretary, Edward Davy, Columbus, Ohio.

Associate Members, William Gray and Irwin A. Becker, both of Chicago, Ill.

The new officers were installed. The retiring Chairman thanked his colleagues for their help, and the third session was adjourned by the newly-elected Chairman, Robert W. Terry.

CONTINUOUS PERCOLATION UNDER REDUCED PRESSURE— REPORT No. 1.*

BY J. G. BEARD.

This will be a preliminary report on the progress I have made to date on a new (or at least modified) process for percolating fluidextracts.

This process consists essentially of extracting drugs in the preparation of fluidextracts through the use of a specially designed percolater that keeps the drug constantly in contact with fresh menstruum but not new menstruum. It may be thought of as a modified form of Soxhlet extraction.

The apparatus involved consists of four parts: A generator which is a glass distilling flask having an upright side-arm tube to permit introduction of a thermometer and a mercury gauge for measuring pressure; a percolator shaped like the Oldberg form but having a lateral tube opening into the percolator above the top of the drug and also entering below the lower portion of the drug, the object being to allow vapors from the generator to pass around the powder to be extracted and reach the condenser; a double Soxhlet condenser to be used as in reflux operations; and a tube from the top of the condenser leading to a vacuum pump. All of these parts are connected together perpendicularly by means of tightly fitting rubber stoppers.

The process is conducted as follows:

The drug from which the fluidextract is to be made is macerated for sixty hours with enough menstruum to render it distinctly and uniformly damp. At the expiration of this time the drug is placed in the percolator, which has been provided with a pledget of cotton, in a succession of layers, moderately packing the drug after the addition of each layer. An amount of menstruum exactly equalling the volume of fluidextract to be made is placed in the generating flask. The parts of the apparatus are then tightly connected together by means of rubber stoppers. Low heat is applied to the generating flask from a constant level water bath, and when the thermometer registers a temperature of approximately 30° C. the vacuum pump is started. The heat and suction are carefully continued until such a pressure and temperature are obtained

* Read before Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, A. Ph. A., Chicago meeting, 1918.