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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATION METHODS OF THE A. PH. A.\*

Your committee appointed to study the nomination methods of other associations and bring in a report embodying recommendations for such changes as in our opinion are deemed advisable, have performed the duty assigned them and also have considered matters referred to them through the Executive Committee of the Council, and herewith submit the following:

There are several distinct methods of nominating or of electing officers of organizations similar to ours.

The *first* method is to have both nomination and election take place at the annual meeting, nominations being made by some particular body to whom is assigned that responsibility, elections being subsequently held by the members actually present at the annual meeting.

This was the method formerly followed by our own Association and is still retained by the National Association of Retail Druggists and until recently by the American Public Health Association, who discarded it last year on the ground of its being unsatisfactory.

\* This report is printed now so as to give time for consideration by the members to this important subject prior to the 1920 A. Ph. A. meeting. The Committee invites suggestions.

The second method is for nomination or election or both to be placed in the hands of the Council or House of Delegates or some similar representative body. This method is now followed by the American Public Health Association, the American Medical Association, and by the American Chemical Society, so far as elections are concerned, but not as to nominations.

The *third* method is to have the entire membership take part by means of a mail ballot in nominations or elections or both.

This is the method followed by the American Chemical Society for nominations and by our American Pharmaceutical Association for elections, but by no national scientific organization for both.

No method seems to be entirely satisfactory but there are certain fundamental points to be considered before deciding which combination of methods will be most effective and satisfactory for our own Association.

Your committee is of the opinion that the Association which permits the largest proportion of its membership to assist in the selection of its officers is best fulfilling its requirements as a representative body, in which there is likely to be the minimum of criticism of the association being run by cliques or groups.

There are two ways in which this responsibility sharing can be arranged. First, by the mail ballot, which permits every member of the Association to have a voice whether he is able to attend the meeting or not, and second, the annual meeting method which permits those who actually take the greatest amount of interest and do the greater part of the constructive work of the organization to have a voice in its government.

It would seem to your committee that a combination of these two methods would work to the best advantage of the Association and to the members as well. The method of nominating, therefore, should be placed in the hands of the entire Association by mail ballot, as is done by the American Chemical Society. Each member of the Association receives a blank upon which he may fill in the name of one person for each of the officers to be elected. These ballots must be returned by a certain time and are counted by the Secretary and a board of tellers. The subsequent election in the American Chemical Society is by the Council who choose from the four candidates receiving the highest number of votes for each office.

It would seem that the three highest would be more in harmony with our present procedure, and we therefore recommend that the Executive Committee be authorized to make such changes in the by-laws as to permit this change in our nomination methods, and we suggest that the nominations be made in this manner, at least three months prior to the annual meeting of the Association.

We further suggest that the elections be held at the annual meeting at one of the general sessions, to be specified in the by-laws and announced upon the programme, and that the candidates to be voted on be the three candidates for each office receiving the highest number of votes in the nominating ballot.

We recommend that the Executive Committee be authorized to make such changes in the by-laws as to permit this change in the election methods and that these changes be proposed and voted upon at the present meeting so as to become effective in 1921 for the first time.

We have furnished an advance copy of this report to the Executive Committee and also to the General Secretary, for the purpose of enabling the first named body to make the necessary proposed changes in the by-laws and to the Secretary in order that our report may be sent to the membership at large in advance of the meeting, so that full publicity may be given to the proposed changes and every opportunity afforded for discussion before final action is taken.

One of the disadvantages of our present election method is the strategic advantage gained by position on a printed list. It is believed that this criticism applies only to mail ballots and that no change in this respect need be made for an election to be held at the annual meeting, where discussions and conferences precede the election and there is every opportunity for the participants in the election to familiarize themselves with the merits of the respective candidates.

We believe that the present procedure should be continued, however, of announcing in connection with the nominees' names, their geographic habitat and occupation, and that any details for simplifying the mechanical features of the nomination and election be left to the General Secretary, who may consult with the other officers if he deems it advisable.

(Signed) CHARLES H. LAWALL,  
WM. C. ANDERSON,  
C. O. BIGELOW.