

- "Pharmaceutical Problems Presented by the Dakin Products," by Frank B. Kirby.  
 "The Chemistry of the Volatile Oil of Milfoil," by Roland E. Kremers.  
 "Why Castile Soap Should be Dropped from the Pharmacopoeia," by E. V. Kyscr.  
 "Proposed Vegetable Drug Deletions," by A. Richard Bliss, Jr.  
 "Botanical Codes of Nomenclature in the U. S. P.," by H. H. Rusby.  
 "Official Standards for Botanical Drugs," by C. W. Ballard.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EBERT PRIZE.

The Committee on Ebert Prize, F. R. Eldred, *Chairman*, W. I. Scoville and W. F. Rudd, reported that the prize had been awarded to Dr. George D. Beal, of the University of Illinois, for work done on immiscible solvents in connection with their use in alkaloidal assaying. The Committee also recommended that an announcement of the award of the prize be made at the 1st general session of the Association in the future. It was voted to receive the report and adopt the recommendations.

The Committee on the Chairman's Address then reported. (See First Session of the Section.)

The Nominating Committee presented the names of the following as nominees of the Section for the ensuing year:

*Chairman*, A. G. DuMez, Washington, D. C.

*First Vice-Chairman*, Joseph I. Mayer, Brooklyn, N. Y.

*Second Vice-Chairman*, Frantz F. Berg, Brooklyn, N. Y.

*Secretary*, Heber W. Youngken, Philadelphia, Pa.

The nominees were elected and thereafter installed.

The meeting of the Scientific Section was then adjourned.

SECTION ON PRACTICAL PHARMACY AND DISPENSING, AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF THE SESSIONS HELD IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, MAY 7 AND 10, 1920.\*

The first session of the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing was called to order by Chairman Edsel A. Ruddiman, May 7, at 2.00 P.M.

F. W. Nitardy presided during the reading of the Chairman's address:

ADDRESS OF CHAIRMAN EÐSEL A. RUDDIMAN.

Practical pharmacy and dispensing is the beneficiary of all other departments of pharmacy. Historical, scientific, educational, legislative, and commercial all contribute to its good and practical pharmacy embraces them all. The Chairman of this Section, therefore, has the privilege of considering any of these branches.

In this address nothing new is offered, but it is desired to add a little more weight if possible to some of the problems which are pressing for solution.

THE PHARMACOPOEIA.

It is but fitting that reference be made to the fact that we are celebrating the completion of one hundred years since the United States Pharmacopoeia first made its appearance. Although many changes and great improvements have been made since the first edition, the writers of that first pharmacopoeia are to be honored for their wisdom and sagacity.

Many of the papers presented to this Association this year deal with suggested improvements. May we hope that the Committee of Revision will act wisely, will not revise simply to make a change, will not make a change unless some defect is really remedied. The Pharmacopoeia at present is a book of which we are justly proud.

TREND OF PHARMACY.

Is the professional work of the pharmacist on the increase or decrease? This is a disputed question if prescriptions are considered. That professional work is on the decrease when making

\* Papers and reports with discussions will, hereafter, be printed apart from the minutes. It is understood, unless otherwise stated, that the papers were referred to the Publication Committee.

preparations is considered is generally acknowledged. One of the most potent causes of this decrease is found in the last two pharmacopoeias. The revisers have seen fit to incorporate a large number of assay processes for drugs, chemicals and preparations. For financial reasons the retailer cannot now make many of the preparations which he formerly made because the added expense of assaying a small amount is as great as in assaying a large amount. The standardizing of preparations is throwing the making of them into the hands of the large manufacturer. That standards should be made and lived up to is undoubtedly right and it is to the credit of pharmacists that they demand that goods which they dispense shall be the best and shall be uniform in strength although by so doing they cut off a large proportion of their professional work.

Now what can the retailer adopt in the line of professional work to take the place of manufacturing? What can the colleges of pharmacy teach in place of this? These are questions which are not easily answered and ones for which I have not seen satisfactory answers given. It has been suggested that the pharmacist should be trained to make clinical examinations and X-ray photos for physicians. But there is not enough of such work to justify many stores in a town in putting in the necessary apparatus and in attempting this. We must look further for an answer and a solution should be earnestly sought by the best minds in pharmacy.

#### EDUCATION.

The education of pharmacists and would-be pharmacists is being widely discussed and there is still great opportunity for improvement. But it is the education of the public that I wish to stress. The public needs to be educated to the fact that the pharmacist must be a trained professional man; that on him rests responsibilities as great as, if not greater than, those resting on the physician. The physician may make an error in diagnosing or in prescribing and often kind Nature comes along and does her healing work regardless. But if the pharmacist makes an error it may result in the speedy death of the patient. This is no myth or idle talk as can be proved by the experience of chemists doing general analytical work.

The public should also be instructed about the laws which govern the practice of pharmacy. In some states, if the people realized how poorly they are being protected, there would be some changes made at the next meeting of the law makers.

#### PUBLICITY.

How can this education be brought about? Every retailer can help and much can be done through the daily newspapers and popular magazines. It has been urged that a central publicity committee be appointed whose duties among other things will be to prepare and disseminate information for the public regarding pharmacy. I understand such a committee has been appointed and that it tentatively styles itself the Drug Trade Board of Public Information. Such a committee would have in its hands a power to do an infinite good. Pharmacy has had enough of "just as good" or "retail liquor dealer" publicity. What is wanted now is publicity of the right kind. Let us get busy and place ourselves in the proper light before the public.

#### PREREQUISITE LAWS.

This same publicity committee can do much towards getting prerequisite laws. It should be organized as thoroughly as some of the campaign committees were for raising money during the war. Every state should have a prerequisite law and the time is not far distant when this will be a reality.

Even though the prescription work is but a small part of the work and income of the pharmacist, his responsibility is just as great. I have had brought to me for analysis several cases in which death or serious results have occurred on account of errors in filling prescriptions. An attempt was made to discover whether the men making the errors were college graduates or not and so far as could be determined none of them were.

Again it is a wrong to the young man himself, as well as to the public, to register him without a college training. To do this is to give him the idea that he is prepared for life's work when he is not and realization of this fact will come too late to be corrected.

#### SHORTER HOURS AND STRIKES.

Shorter hours and Sunday closing have been discussed so much for the last quarter of a century that there seems little left to be said. But until it is settled and settled rightly, it will

ever be a subject of controversy, and action is what is needed now. In my opinion the long day is the root of nearly all of the ills from which pharmacy is suffering and not until this evil is corrected will pharmacy assert itself and become what it should. The most potent cause for the disorganization, for the failure of the pharmacist to organize, is the effect produced by long days of close confinement. Cut the day down to eight or ten hours and life will take on a new interest. That the day can be shortened without injury to business has been proved repeatedly by those who have tried it. The shortening of the hours will also raise the status of the pharmacist in the mind of the public who now look on him as a general servant to do its bidding. As has been said by a member of this Association: "The public condemns and rightly so, the railroad that compels the engineers of the passenger coaches to work sixteen hours a day, and if the public knew of the long weary watches of the pharmacist, knew of the errors of omission and of commission, it would not ask for reform; it would demand it."

A new danger has arisen from failure to shorten the day. So far it has not been serious but unless it be recognized and remedied, no one can tell the depths to which it may plunge pharmacy. I refer to the organization of drug clerks for the enforcement of their demands for better conditions by adopting labor union methods. Fortunately the two or three strikes or attempted strikes have resulted in failure. But is not the history of labor unions similar to this, weak at first but through failure to have their rights corrected have become powerful? We are glad the strikes failed and also that there were but few registered men among those striking. Nevertheless this is the straw which shows which way the wind is blowing. It is the little fire which may become a conflagration. Let us recognize it, look it straight in the face and correct it before it gets beyond our control.

Unfortunately there are some men who can see nothing but money in working sixteen hours a day for seven days in the week. They lose sight of the fact that without health and happiness money is of but little value. They lose sight of the fact that they are taking a long chance on making a costly error if their minds are befogged by over work. On account of this class of men it is difficult for pharmacists to come to an agreement. Resort to the passage of laws may be necessary and in those states where such laws have been enacted the results seem to be satisfactory to the clerks at least. But proprietors and clerks should get together to inaugurate the law and not leave it to politicians. Though no law can be passed to prevent the proprietor from working as long as he wishes, he should be all the more impressed with the fact that rest and recreation are as essential for him as for his employee. War and want of fuel shortened the hours for a season and probably would have left beneficial results if the "Flu" had not come along and put shorter hours to flight.

To have drug clerks adopt and apply the methods of labor unions in resorting to strikes to get their demands would be unbearable. Would we be having the strikes in the industrial world to-day, or would the unions ever have become as strong and arrogant, if their demands had been met as they should have been? We must formulate some plan by which the drug clerk will have a working day similar to other clerks, some plan by which the near strike will not become a reality. We must make pharmacy so attractive that we will get into the ranks the very best of the young men.

On motion the address was accepted for publication.

Chairman W. L. Scoville presented the report of the National Formulary Committee. (To be printed, with discussions, under Committee Reports.)

The following papers were read:

"Some Criticisms of the Pharmacopoeia," by C. B. Jordan.

"Manufacturing by the Retailer," by F. W. Nitardy.

"Suppositories," by J. U. Lloyd. (See June issue, JOURNAL A. PH. A.)

"Surgical Dressings," by Elmer H. Hessler.

"Fluidextract of Ipecac" (see June issue JOURNAL A. PH. A.), by Frantz F. Berg.

"Tincture of Vanilla," by K. A. Bartlett.

The following nominations for officers of the ensuing year were made: For *Chairman*, Ivor Griffith, Philadelphia; *Secretary*, H. M. Faser, University, Miss. *Associates*, D. F. Jones, of Watertown, S. Dak., and Ernest R. Jones, of Detroit, Mich.

## SECOND SESSION.

The second session of the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, A. Ph. A., was called to order by Chairman E. A. Ruddiman, May 10, at 2.30 P. M. The reading of the minutes was dispensed with, and the reading of papers continued, as follows:

"Some Pharmaceutical Preparations," by H. M. Faser.

"Drug Clerks' Unions and Strikes," by John Culley.

"Eight Hour Working Day in Pharmacy," by Cornelius Osseward.

"Clinical Laboratory Work and Clinical Pathology," by H. J. Goeckel.

"Clinical and Pathological Laboratories," by H. J. Goeckel.

"A Certain Prescription," by L. E. Sayre.

"A Prescription Clinic," conducted by Ivor Griffith and A. Nichols.

"Experiences in the Manufacture and Standardization of Dakin's Solution," by A. J. Sells.

"A New Suppository Device (see June issue, JOURNAL A. PH. A.), by Caswell A. Mayo.

"Suggestions, Recommendations and Reasons for a Higher Standard for Creosote U. S. P.," by L. Wallis Gibbons.

"Suggestions to U. S. P. Revision Committee," by Wm. Gray.

The following papers were read by title and referred to the Publication Committee:

"Suggestions for the New Pharmacopoeia" (see June issue, JOURNAL A. PH. A.), by J. Leon Lascoff.

"Autogenous Vaccines," by S. B. Higgins.

The authors of the Prescription Clinic were requested to continue this valuable symposium as a regular unit of each year's program.

The following were elected officers for the ensuing year: *Chairman*, Ivor Griffith, Philadelphia; *Secretary*, H. M. Faser, University, Miss. *Associates*, D. F. Jones, Watertown, S. Dak., and E. R. Jones, of Detroit, Mich.

The Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing was then adjourned.

(Reports of the other Sections and House of Delegates will appear in the August issue.)

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#### PRODUCTION OF CANDELILLA WAX IN MEXICO.

While some candelilla wax is produced in Texas, most of the supply comes from Monterey, Mexico. The plant is a weed of that section and there are several small factories in Monterey engaged in making the wax. A recent U. S. Government Consular Report states that the largest factory produces about 700 pounds daily. The method of extraction and purification is described as follows: After the shrub is pulled out of the earth it is placed in wooden tanks of water which is heated to the boiling point. At the moment of boiling a certain proportion of sulphuric acid is put in the tanks. As soon as the acid comes in contact with the wax it comes to the surface and is collected and put in receptacles until it congeals; it is then put in another tank where steam is used to dissolve the wax, adding sulphuric acid a second time. The wax is then in a refined state and is allowed to harden in certain moulds

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#### SOLUBLE LEAD IN THE GLAZE OF CASSEROLES.

In a recent issue of the *Experiment Station Record*, there is abstracted a report on certain experiments made by H. Masters, with several types of earthenware casseroles, of French make, glazed only on the inside; and which showed that, in some cases, a considerable amount of lead can be extracted from the glaze not only by the action of 4 percent acetic acid but (and this is important) also by the action of dilute solutions of organic acid; namely, 1 percent acetic, citric or malic acid. It is further stated that glazed earthenware casseroles should, before being used, be treated with dilute acetic acid, which is kept at boiling temperature for an hour or more in the dish.

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