

Retail Druggists, American Conference Pharmaceutical Faculties, National Association of Boards of Pharmacy.

Organization. It is well to publish each year the list of those who attended the organization meeting and accompany the same with a few words about the first meeting.

Minor Points. Many things will occur to the secretary who studies to make the annual report useful and convenient for the members. I might mention the following: Give date of organization and date of incorporation; state the date to which the list of members is corrected; print life members in bold face type and explain the meaning of the same; use a star to indicate each one who was present at the annual meeting; at the end of the list give the total number of members. Of course, the committees, delegates and lists of ex-officers as well as dates and places of past meetings should be given in a prominent place.

I have suggested on previous occasions that the secretaries of the state associations who attend A. Ph. A. meetings meet in a formal manner and discuss subjects of mutual interest. Such conferences would result in secretaries becoming more efficient officers.

NEW SOURCE OF POTASSIUM SALTS.

At present Germany controls practically the world's supply of potassium salts, which are more needed by the farmer than by the druggist, so that the report of a new source of supply of potassium will be welcome to all. Recent work by the field experts of the Department of Agriculture has proven that the United States has an almost inexhaustible supply of potassium in the kelp beds of the Pacific coast, and high yields of this indispensable metal have been obtained by them from what was hitherto considered a nuisance to bathers and fishermen. Kelp, a marine growth, has long been used as one of the sources of iodine until the discovery of the brine wells of western New York, Michigan and other lake states, but only recently have the properties of the vast kelp beds of the California coast been thoroughly investigated. These beds are of enormous extent, some of the plants reaching a growth of a hundred feet in length, and tests have shown that dried kelp will yield from 20 to 25 per cent. of potassium chloride when treated by proper methods, and the byproducts, iodine, etc., may possibly be made to pay the cost of the extraction of the potassium salts. This particular variety of seaweed seems to have a selective power of absorption for potassium salts, rejecting the sodium salts in sea water in preference to the much smaller proportion of potassium salts contained therein, and the potassium so absorbed by the living plant can be very readily extracted in the form of potassium chloride or other salts. In order to prevent the wasteful exploitation of this newly discovered wealth steps are being taken to preserve the present kelp beds and to provide for future growth and supply.—*American Druggist.*