

SCIENTIFIC SECTION, AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

ABSTRACT OF MINUTES OF THE SESSIONS HELD IN NEW ORLEANS, SEPTEMBER 7 AND 8, 1921.*

The first session of the Scientific Section, A. Ph. A., was convened by Chairman A. G. DuMez, September 7, at 2:40 P.M.

Dr. Lyman F. Kebler presided during the reading of the

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

We have a goodly number of excellent papers on our program for which I desire to thank the contributors. The reading of these, with their subsequent discussion, and the transaction of routine business will require all of the time at our disposal. I have, therefore, refrained from preparing for you a formal address on some subject of purely scientific interest.

On first thought, I was inclined to disregard customary practice entirely and not address you at all, but on giving the matter further consideration, I concluded that I would be derelict in the fulfilment of the duties of my office if I did not put to some practical use the knowledge of the affairs of this section which has come to me as a result of the opportunity which you have given me to serve you. For this reason, and because I am keenly solicitous of the future welfare of the scientific workers in pharmacy, I am going to bring to your attention a condition with respect to the scope and nature of our activities which appears to me to merit your most serious consideration.

This section of the American Pharmaceutical Association, now known as the Scientific Section, was not organized as a separate unit of the parent body until 1911, although it really had its beginning in the Committee on Scientific Papers created at the meeting held in 1887.

The object in view of bringing into being the present organization, as stated in the address of a former chairman of this section, Prof. A. H. Clark, was to insure progress and to enable us to assume the leadership in the movement for advancement in all lines of scientific investigation pertaining to pharmacy and related subjects. What concerted effort, if any, are we making or have we made in the past, to justify the purpose of our creation so plainly set forth in this brief statement? If the minutes of our meetings can be taken as a reliable criterion, it can safely be stated that we have ignored almost completely our obligations in this respect, except insofar as we have provided for the reading of a number of scientific papers at our annual gatherings and their subsequent publication in the JOURNAL.

To me, this policy of restricting our activities to matters purely of interest in connection with the carrying out of the program for our annual meetings, and disregarding the more general problems confronting professional pharmacy as a whole, is not only a gross neglect of our duty, but is responsible, in no small measure, for the loss of prestige which we as a group of scientific workers have suffered in recent years.

It is my opinion that the creation by the American Chemical Society of a section on pharmaceutical chemistry, with the resulting publication of abstracts of the literature on pharmaceutical subjects in their abstract journal, and, likewise, the comparatively recent appearance of abstracts of articles pertaining to pharmaceutical botany and pharmacognosy in *Botanical Abstracts*, is largely a result of this *laissez faire* policy on our part. One by one, the interests, which are ours by heritage and by virtue of our calling, are passing into the hands of other groups of scientific workers with a resulting loss of prestige to us. At the present time, our importance as a group of scientific workers has diminished to such an extent that the National Research Council has not deemed it necessary to grant us representation thereon. Is it not about time that we make a concerted effort to stem this tide of usurpation of the fields of endeavor which are legitimately ours, and to recover, if possible, some of the lost ground?

I am firmly convinced that an immediate change in our policy with respect to the scope and nature of our activities is an imperative necessity if we desire to raise our standing as workers in the field of science, or even to maintain our present status. To be sure, any action which we as a section may decide to take must be approved by the Association as a whole, but I believe that such action should originate with us and that we should follow it up until it is made effective.

* Papers 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.

The nature of the new work to be undertaken and the manner in which it should be carried out, in case we decide to broaden the scope of our activities, are matters to which I have not given sufficient study to enable me to lay definite plans before you. Certain lines of work have, however, suggested themselves to me as affording possible opportunities for correcting in a measure the conditions just described. These I desire to bring before you at this time with a view of providing a basis for a more thorough and extended study of the situation. They are as follows:

1. A greater interest should be taken by us as a unit in the scientific publications of the Association. We should provide the machinery by which we may render assistance in the improvement of the *JOURNAL*, in the revision of the National Formulary and the compilation of the Year Book. These are our publicity agents and it behooves us to maintain them in a high state of efficiency.

2. There is need for a census of the pharmaceutical research that is being carried on in this country. Such a census when completed should show the nature and extent of the scientific activities of the American pharmacists, pharmaceutical chemists, pharmaceutical botanists, *et al*, and the fields covered by their endeavors. This information would be productive of much good in preventing unnecessary duplication of work, and in suggesting and stimulating new research.

3. The recent war has clearly demonstrated the value of pure research. American pharmacists have not engaged in work of this nature to any great extent in the past. An effort should, therefore, be made to stimulate a true research spirit in our schools and colleges of pharmacy. Whether this can best be accomplished by establishing centers for specific lines of research, the awarding of substantial prizes, or by some other means, I am unable to state.

4. Some provision should be made whereby we may be assured of adequate representation in the development of any scientific movement or project which legitimately falls within the field of our activities. I have in mind such projects as the formation of the National Research Council and the location of the National Botanical Gardens in Washington, D. C.

In the foregoing brief remarks, I have attempted to picture for you a condition with respect to our welfare as scientists which should be remedied. That this condition does exist and that our present policy of neglect is in some measure responsible for it you will no doubt concur in; the remedy to be applied as suggested by me, you may not be so willing to accept. At any rate, I believe that you will agree with me that the matter is of sufficient importance to warrant further consideration. I, therefore, recommend that a committee be appointed by the Chair to study thoroughly the whole situation and to report their conclusions at our next annual meeting.

(Signed) A. G. DUMÉZ.

The address of the Chairman was referred to a committee consisting of E. L. Newcomb, W. F. Rudd and Linwood A. Brown.

The above-named committee reported at the final session of the Section, but for convenient reference the report is placed here.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

Your committee has carefully considered the splendid address of the Chairman and submits the following recommendations, which it is believed will promote scientific work among pharmacists.

1. That the Scientific Section adopt the policy of sending out not less than two questionnaire letters each year to ascertain the nature and extent of scientific work being carried on by pharmacists.

2. That the Section urge all workers to carry on at least one piece of constructive work dealing with scientific pharmacy.

3. That the Section urge scientific workers in pharmacy to use the *JOURNAL* of the Association as a medium for the publication of their papers.

4. That the Section, through correspondence, compile and publish in the *JOURNAL* data representing comments, criticisms and suggestions on the National Formulary.

5. That the Section prepare a census of scientific pharmaceutical research work in progress, same to be classified and published in the *JOURNAL*.

6. That the Section endeavor to ascertain the nature and scope of new scientific movements

in which the American Pharmaceutical Association should interest itself or take active part from their inception.

(Signed) E. L. NEWCOMB,*
W. F. RUDD.

Motion was made by J. H. Beal and seconded by Paul S. Pittenger to receive the report and adopt the recommendations.

H. V. Army stated that the Committee on Research desired to be in close touch with the Scientific Section, and that the recommendations of the report concur with the policy of the Committee on Research; the chairman of the Section should be in close touch with the Committee on Research. He moved that the Scientific Section recommend to the Association that steps be taken to make the Chairman an ex-officio member of the Research Committee; this was seconded by E. L. Newcomb. The report was then adopted.

Chairman W. F. Rudd, of the Committee on Ebert Prize, stated that the award had been made to Dr. Albert Schneider for his paper entitled: "A General Method for Making Quantitative Microanalyses of Vegetable Drugs and Related Substances."¹

The other members of the Committee are Charles B. Jordan and C. O. Ewing, and the report of the Committee was unanimous; it was received and announcement made in General Session of the A. Ph. A.

The report of the Committee on Quality of Medicinal Products was presented by Chairman Arno Viehoever. It was received and referred to the Committee on Publication. (The report, with discussion, will appear in a later issue of the JOURNAL under Committee Reports.)

The Chairman appointed the following members to constitute the Nominating Committee: H. Engelhardt, Paul S. Pittenger and F. E. Bibbins.

The following papers were read and discussed:

"Standards of Purity for Crude Drugs and Spices," by Arno Viehoever.

"Some Interesting Substitutes for Crude Drugs and Spices," by Arno Viehoever and J. F. Clevenger.

"Observations on Muira-Puama," by Heber W. Youngken.

"The Use of Pollen Grains in the Identification of Plants and Crude Drugs," by Arno Viehoever.

"A Report on the Zamia Starch Situation," by J. F. Clevenger.

"California Bees," by L. F. Kebler.

"Note on Emodin Content of Aromatic Fluidextract of Cascara Sagrada," by E. O. Eaton.

"Temperature Regulator," by Paul S. Pittenger.

The Section was then adjourned.

SECOND SESSION, SEPTEMBER 8, 10 A.M.

The second session of the Scientific Section, A. Ph. A., was called to order by Chairman A. G. DuMez. The reading of the minutes of the first session was dispensed with.

The following papers were read and discussed:

"Modified Methyl Orange Indicator in Titrating Phosphoric Acid and Phosphates," by Frank X. Moerk.

"The Influence of Inhibiting Flowering on the Formation of Alkaloids in the Daturas," by A. F. Sievers.

"Alkaloids in Rhizomes and Roots of Ipecac," by Arno Viehoever and Clare O. Ewing.

"A Revision of the Proximate Composition of Rhamnus Frangula," by George D. Beal and John A. Gunton.

"The Extraction of Licorice," by Wilbur L. Scoville.

"Influence of Acid in the Extraction of Cinchona," by Wilbur L. Scoville.

"Investigation of Purified Siliceous Earth," by W. G. Crockett.

"Effect of Sterilization on Solutions of Cocaine and Procaine," by Paul S. Pittenger.

"The Need for a New Formula for Infusion of Digitalis," by A. R. Bliss.

* E. L. Newcomb announced that the other member of the committee, Linwood A. Brown, had gone over the report and had given his general approval, but had returned home and, therefore, was not present to attach his signature.

¹ See THIS JOURNAL, December 1920, pp. 1140-1153.

"Estimation of Nitroglycerin in Tablets and Spirit of Nitroglycerin," by R. I. Grantham. The second session of the Scientific Section was then adjourned.

THIRD SESSION, SEPTEMBER 8, 9:30 P.M.

The third session was opened by Chairman A. G. DuMez. Reading of minutes was dispensed with.

The papers that had not been read, on account of the absence of the authors, were read by title and referred to the Publication Committee; they are:

"A Microscopical Comparison of Some Official Herbs and Their Substitutes," by Fanchon Hart.

"Scientific Literature for Commercial Purposes," by R. P. Fischelis.

"Pharmaceutical Chemistry as Applied to Food and Food Accessories," by L. E. Sayre.

"Dehydrated Products in Commerce and the Sciences," by Louis Gershenfeld.

"A Quick Assay Method for the Determination of Ascaridol in Chenopodium Oil," by E. K. Nelson.

"The Use of the Polariscope in Drug Analysis," by A. G. Murray.

"The U. S. P. Test for Acetone in Alcohol," by J. W. E. Harrison.

"The Herapathite Test for Quinine," by C. H. Stephenson and George L. Keenan.

"The Alkaloidal Standard of Fluidextract of Ipecac, U. S. P.," by F. F. Berg.

H. V. Army presided during the reading of the report of the Committee on Chairman's Address. (See report following Chairman's address.)

The report of the Nominating Committee was read and the ballot spread; the following were declared elected:

Chairman, Heber W. Youngken, Philadelphia, Pa.

First Vice-Chairman, J. P. Snyder, Norwich, N. Y.

Second Vice-Chairman, Caswell A. Mayo, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Secretary, Arno Viehoever, Washington, D. C.

The officers-elect were installed. Chairman Youngken thanked the members for their expression of confidence and asked for coöperation. Secretary Viehoever expressed his appreciation. Fearful that there might be only a few contributions to the program on account of other related conventions, he solicited papers and was encouraged by eight responses; he cited this result to show how a little effort will interest others in the Section.

H. V. Army presented the motion, referred to under Report of Committee on Chairman's Address, whereby a recommendation to the Association was endorsed to take steps to make the Chairman of the Scientific Section an ex-officio member of the Research Committee.

The Section then adjourned.

SECTION ON PRACTICAL PHARMACY AND DISPENSING, AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF THE SESSIONS HELD IN NEW ORLEANS, SEPTEMBER 7 AND 9, 1921.*

Owing to the absence of Chairman Ivor Griffith, on account of serious illness, Secretary H. M. Faser presided and William Gray was named Secretary pro tem.

Chairman Wilbur L. Scoville presented the

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL FORMULARY COMMITTEE.

Since the last meeting of the Association the National Formulary Committee has held two conferences. The first in June 1920 at Longport, N. J., and the second in June 1921 at Atlantic City. These conferences have accomplished much for the next edition of the National Formulary both for its character and in reducing the time of revision. Questions are much more satisfactorily settled in conference than by mail, and judgments are more sound. Personal contact and direct discussion make for keener discernment and well-grounded decisions.

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