

sublimation, calcination. But his voluminous writings contained so much which was mystical and obscure, that Samuel Johnson was led to believe that the word gibberish had been derived from the name of this famous alchemist.

"Joseph Balsamo, better known in history as Cagliostro, an Italian of the 18th century, a man of mystery, of magic, and an expounder of the occult.

"These spirits have appeared to remind you of their almost forgotten existence, and to demonstrate that instruction and entertainment have a common meeting ground."

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The shades assembled then proceeded to do things. They waved their wands, and colors appeared on white surfaces. Liquids blushed and paled, turned blue or purple, as with cold. Flames of fire were projected toward the audience; strange odors developed; explosions happened, seemingly without cause. Events followed in rapid succession. Nor did the shades condescend to lift the veil of mystery, or indeed to turn on the bright light provided by the genius of the great modern wizard, Edison, until the programme had been brought to a close.

When the shades had divested themselves of their somber gowns and makeup, it was disclosed that Hermes Trismegistus was none other than Prof. C. H. LaWall, Paracelsus stood forth as Prof. F. P. Stroup, Geber was Ivor Griffith, instructor in pharmacy, Albertus Magnus, Ralph R. Foran, instructor in Technical Chemistry, Roger Bacon, Edward J. Hughes, instructor in Chemistry, and Joseph Balsamo, Joseph W. E. Harrisson, of the class of 1916, and now serving as the secretary of the Philadelphia Branch.

It was to these men that the audience extended a hearty vote of thanks for a most enjoyable evening. J. W. STURMER.

#### JANUARY MEETING.

The regular monthly meeting of the Philadelphia Branch of the American Pharmaceu-

tical Association was held at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, Tuesday evening, January 11, 1921, President Goodhart presiding.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and approved and new members elected, a report of the result of the vote sheets sent out on deletions and additions to the National Formulary, was received. Numerous communications expressing a variety of views on the National Formulary were received. After a discussion of the matter Prof. Charles LaWall moved that all communications and data received should be forwarded to Chairman W. L. Scoville of the National Formulary Revision Committee.

Dr. Ivor Griffith then opened the scientific features of the evening with a paper entitled, "Seriological Tests as Diagnostic Aids." By interspersing with his Welsh wit he presented the subject in such a manner that it was of interest to all, and also very clearly showed the advantages derived from such tests.

"A More Practical Assay Process for Some Zinc Salts of the U. S. P.," by George Éwe and Fred. Gloor was then presented by Mr. Éwe. Mr. Éwe pointed out the fallacy of determining the purity of zinc salts by the estimation of their acid radical. He advocated the estimation of the zinc by titration with a standard solution of potassium ferrocyanide, results being much quicker and the method more easily handled than the present U. S. P. method.

Prof. LaWall discussed the paper, after which both contributors of the evening were given a vote of thanks.

At the December meeting of the Branch the resignation of Secretary Elmer H. Hessler was received, due to his leaving the city. Mr. Hessler was commended for the very efficient and hearty services he had rendered the Branch. J. W. E. Harrisson was then nominated and elected to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Hessler. J. W. E. HARRISSON, *Secretary*.

## COUNCIL BUSINESS

### A. PH. A. COUNCIL LETTER NO. 12.

(Abstract.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 18, 1921.

53. *Representation on Advisory Council of the National Botanic Garden (Items 45 to 49).*

*Result of vote.* Motion No. 49, a motion authorizing the Council of the American Pharmaceutical Association to inform Mr. J. G. Langdon of the Fine Arts Commission at Washington that the American Pharmaceutical Association would be pleased to be represented

on the Board of Control or Advisory Council of the National Botanic Gardens, has received a majority of affirmative votes.

Mr. Langdon on being informed by your Secretary of this action replied under date of January 7, 1921, as follows:

"I am glad to get your letter showing the disposition of your association in the matter of Botanic Garden coöperation. The method of handling the work of the Botanic Garden by the aid of an Advisory Council has met with opposition among those backing the movement. I am of the opinion, therefore, that the time is not yet ripe to push this end of it very vigorously but that it will be better to wait until the Congress acts in the matter of securing the land before we stir it up again. Some of those interested have an idea that it would be best to hire a young and alert botanist and give him full reign to do as he pleases in developing the garden. There are others of us, and we are still in the majority, who think that if allied interests are to be best served in a national garden some sort of representation by those interests must be had.

"I would, therefore, think that it is best for you to delay formal action in the matter until after the exact means of control has been determined upon.

"I hope to inform you later on as to what disposition Congress has taken in the matter."

54. *Budget of appropriations for 1921—Result of vote.* Motion No. 51, a motion to approve the budget for 1921 as prepared by the Finance Committee, has received a majority of affirmative votes.

55. *Election of active members—Result of vote.* Motion No. 52 (Applications Nos. 290 to 340, inclusive, for active membership) has received a majority of affirmative votes.

56. *Report on the finances of the Journal.* On recommendation of Secretary Day and Caswell A. Mayo, the following excerpt from a letter written by Editor Eberle to Prof. Day under date of January 4, 1921, and corrected in a subsequent letter written the 5th instant, is given for the information of members of the Council:

"Last year the receipts of the JOURNAL amounted to \$6,114.69, divided as follows: Advertising, \$5,229.50; Journal subscriptions, \$360.70; Reprints (small amount from type cuts), \$524.49. The total expenses, not including the Editor's salary, of last year, amounted to \$7,635.80. The advertising earned and not paid at the end of 1919 amounted to \$573.90.

The receipts for this year amount to

\$9,003.95, divided as follows: Advertising, \$7,742.62; Journal subscriptions, \$547.36; Reprints (small amount from type cuts), \$713.97. The total expenses, not including the Editor's salary, for this year, amounted to \$10,298.72.

The number of reading pages at end of 1919 was 1124, index pages 16; end of 1920, 1216, index pages 20. Number of Journals printed in 1919, 38,200; in 1920, 42,500; increase in 1920, 4,100.

The receipts from advertising increased \$2,513.12; subscriptions, \$186.66; Reprints, etc., \$189.48; total increase, \$2,889.26; increase in expenses, \$2,662.92.

Making deduction from increased receipts, it will be seen that the net Journal expenses for 1920 were \$226.34 less than in 1919, not taking into consideration that we have a larger uncollected amount due, printed 4,100 more copies in 1920, and also 100 more reading pages."

57. *Election of active members.* You are requested to vote on the following applications for active membership:

No. 341, Wesley John Robinson, 1816 Eighth St., Peru, Ill.; No. 342, Ralph M. Stevenson, 100 John St., New York, N. Y.; No. 343, Morris Grossman, 130 N. Center St., Orange, N. J., S. and S. membership; No. 344, George Horn, 711 W. 69th St., Chicago, Ill. No. 345, Jo Stotlar, 2327 Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill.; No. 346, Barney Kite, 2559 W. North Ave., Chicago, Ill.; No. 347, Martial B. Casteix, 339 Bourbon St., New Orleans, La.; No. 348, Benjamin J. Glick, 3756 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill.; No. 349, Stanislav M. Kolar, 3644 South Seeley Ave., Chicago, Ill., S. and S. membership; No. 350, Mark Eldon Neville, Cor. Washington and Genesee, Waukegan, Ill., S. and S. membership; No. 351, Edwin Walter Chrysler, 3498 S. Broadway, Englewood, Colo.; No. 352, Geo. S. Borovik, 4805 Armitage Ave., Chicago, Ill.; No. 353, Joseph Janda, 2809 S. Hamlin Ave., Chicago, Ill.; No. 354, Benjamin Friedlander, 1647 S. Clifton Pk. Ave., Chicago, Ill., S. and S. membership; No. 355, Morris Ginsburg, 2630 Iowa St., Chicago, Ill.; No. 356, Arthur E. Breslin, 724 S. Jeff Davis Parkway, New Orleans, La.; No. 357, Athol L. Waggoner, 4026 W. Adams St., Chicago, Ill., S. and S. membership; No. 358, Alexander Schmeier, 500 W. 176th St., New York, N. Y.; No. 359, Augusta Litvin, 2438 Second Ave., New York, N. Y.; No. 360, Alexander Doctors, 133 Strong St., Corona, Long Island, N. Y., No. 361, Dan Mitchell, P. O. Box 913, Mobile, Ala.

A. G. DUMÉZ, *Secretary.*