

be rendered to chemists would be the establishing of two tables, one at 20° and one at 25°, with relation to the summer season (June to September), the chemist indicating in his report the table he has used. These might be completed by formulas which would allow us to refer determinations made at the ambient temperature to the nearest table.

Yours very truly,
 GEORGES BARIL, M.D., F.C.T.C.,
Secretary of the Faculty of Pure Science.

COPY
 THE GREAT WESTERN SUGAR COMPANY,
 DENVER, COLORADO.

July 27, 1922.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
 BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY,
 WASHINGTON, D. C.

ATTENTION L. F. KEBLER.

GENTLEMEN:

The enclosed inquiry regarding uniform temperature for alcohol determinations has come to us. While I am not a member of the A. O. A. C., I assume you may wish to obtain opinions outside of your membership and I have accordingly answered the questions in the enclosure.

One can hardly deny that there has been a tendency in recent years toward 20° C., as a standard temperature. In fact this has become the uniform basis for all sugar chemistry work. The single exception that I can recall is that we still sell molasses on the basis of Baume at 100° F. in accordance with trade practice. As between adopting a uniform temperature and following the varying standards of trade practice I prefer the former even if it is sometimes a monumental undertaking to change a trade practice.

Yours very truly,
 (Signed) S. J. OSBORNE,
General Chemist.

COPY
 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,
 BUREAU OF STANDARDS,
 WASHINGTON.

July 28, 1922.

MR. L. F. KEBLER, CHAIRMAN,
 A. O. A. C. COMMITTEE ON PHARMACOPOEIAL REVISION,
 BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY,
 WASHINGTON, D. C.

Subject: Alcohol Tables.

DEAR SIR:

1. Your request of July 17 for an expression of opinion on the question of alcohol tables and standard temperatures of determinations received.

2. The Bureau is of the opinion that the A. O. A. C. tables are preferable on account of the temperature basis on which the specific gravities are given. Twenty degrees centigrade is, in our opinion, a very satisfactory temperature for density work in general and we would recommend that temperature in reply to your last question.

Respectfully,
 (Signed) S. W. STRATTON,
Director.

I have always felt that 20° C. is more nearly the average laboratory temperature the year around than either 15.56° or 25°—my experience for more than 20 years confirms it, and there will be less corrections to be made using 20° than at any other temperature. I therefore favor 20° C. as a working temperature.

Sincerely,
 (Signed) S. L. HILTON,
 Washington, D. C.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION,* AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

Legislation the past year was confined largely to alcohol and narcotics although some few odds and ends showed their heads above the surface. Let me touch upon the latter first.

H. R. Resolution 229 introduced by Mr. Kahn sought to secure the absolute suppression of manufacture of opium, cocaine and their derivatives and preparations by securing an inter-

* This report was received and the report and resolutions were adopted. C. L. Eddy said that attention should be called to the growing tendency in the United States toward a bureaucratic form of government. Mr. Eddy referred to a law in New York state of this order which was abolished through the cooperative efforts of pharmacists and physicians. He also referred to a statement made recently in Congress—that "one in fifteen people is an employee of the Government; and these people who hold their jobs are making laws for our damnation."

national conference as an outgrowth of the Disarmament Conference. The latter adjourned without action upon the resolution and it is hence among the defeated bills.

H. R. 65 is an objectionable poison label bill—the kind that shows its head perennially when some Solomon from the high grass feels he has gained that little bit of learning that is admittedly so dangerous—fancy special colored labels and roughened special design bottle, etc. It went to sleep after being introduced and is still asleep.

H. R. 2193—The Jones-Miller bill to regulate the importation and exportation of narcotics. We objected to it but no hearings were granted and it was railroaded through Congress and has become a law. It will not affect the retail pharmacist to any extent.

H. R. 10738, to prohibit transportation of peyote or anhalonium and marihuana or cannabis indica from one state to another, and another bill on controlling the use of cannabis as a narcotic subject to regulations and record keeping have and are being opposed. They may become law. The latest information is that cannabis has been omitted from the bills.

Narcotics.—The work to be done in the narcotic line is to simplify the regulations of the Harrison Act so as to avoid the great amount of record keeping—by an adoption of a triplicate or quadruplicate narcotic blank; that a model state narcotic law be drawn, which should not be a tax law and should simplify the enforcement provisions; that unlawful possession be *prima facie* evidence of guilt; that the narcotic enforcement division be separated from prohibition division; that the retailer be allowed to sell not in excess of 100 average doses as defined by U. S. P. in dry, tablet or liquid form, as an extension of provisions allowing one ounce of solution to be sold on federal order blank; that codeine and apomorphine be exempted; that retailers be permitted to supply a tube of hypodermics without being classed as wholesalers. All the above have been put before the Narcotic Division of the Treasury Department for action as new regulations. The results, however, are far from satisfactory. In fact, instead of granting us any relief the purpose seems to be to make the regulations more rigid—going even so far as to keep records during process of manufacture or use in handling narcotics for preparing products containing them. The narcotic division like the alcohol division is a bureaucracy where unless united effort of the drug interests is brought into play we will have little redress and endless trouble. Medicines and alcohol are more and more being regarded as insidious or dangerous things to be closely controlled and regulated and not as necessary implements with which to combat disease.

A conference of the A. M. A. Committee on Narcotic Drug Control under Dr. Emerson in New York decided that a model narcotic law should not be a tax law; that it should control the distribution of narcotic drugs and should closely follow and in no way conflict with the provisions of the federal law. Its enforcement provisions should be simple and it must be an expression of the police power of the state; that unnecessary duplication of records under federal and state laws should be eliminated so that the state accept the records kept under the Harrison Act and that the state regulations should not conflict with the Harrison Act. It named a committee to draft such a model law with Dr. J. H. Beal as chairman.

If we hope to get relief from narcotic control which is expensive to the state and nation and accomplishes little if any good and makes handling of narcotics unremunerative and extremely annoying, and the same applies to alcohol and its preparations, we must do two things—consolidate our legislative efforts by consolidating our pharmaceutical associations and we must pass at this meeting a resolution stating our objections to the endless and needless regulations and record keeping requirements and send a copy of it to the Secretary of the Treasury and the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. I submit as part of this report at its close such a resolution.

Alcohol.—Our main problem in the past year was and is alcohol. It is unfortunate that the Volstead Act has made the purveyors of alcohol and alcoholic stimulants the drug trade of the country because there is so much in the way of abuse possible and so much in the way of regulation and control necessary, both troublesome and at times annoying to the pharmacist. Two features loom up large in alcohol legislation this year. The first is the effort to increase the federal alcohol tax from 2.20 to 6.40 per proof gallon. The tax was formerly 1.10 per proof gallon and was doubled to 2.20 per proof gallon as the result of the Volstead Act. The proposed increase was almost to sextuple the preprohibition tax. This would have necessitated the use of huge sums of money by the drug trade and would have compelled the borrowing of sums estimated at one hundred millions from banks in order to finance the payment of this terrific tax. Taxing a beverage which is a luxury is one thing but taxing a necessity is quite another thing. When

corn was selling at a normal price before 1912 alcohol cost about 20c a gallon to produce. The federal tax upon it then was about 2.10 per wine gallon (or 1.05 per proof gallon) which was about 1000% tax. When corn rose in price and alcohol cost about 30c per wine gallon to produce as it does now, then the above tax represented about a 700% tax. At the present rate of 2.20 per proof gallon or 4.20 per wine gallon the tax represents about a 1400% tax. If the 6.40 per proof gallon or 12.50 per wine gallon tax had carried the tax would have represented a tax of about 4000%. It seems unfair and unjust to load down a legitimate industry, using alcohol as a necessity and one of its most essential raw materials without which sickness could not be combatted successfully and humanity would suffer most by its absence, with a present 1400% tax. When one realizes that Messrs. Volstead and Wayne Wheeler tried to make this tax 4000% so as to pave the way for the total elimination of alcohol for any use, one appreciates that it is fanaticism and not reason that determines their actions. The extremists in prohibition aim and openly state as their aim the entire elimination of alcohol and the passage of laws preventing its manufacture and use. This irrational and extreme viewpoint is based upon ignorance or bullheadedness or both and is one of the things that is going to defeat prohibition ultimately. Alcohol is the only solvent available for extracting and preserving drugs and their products that is acceptable from every standpoint and will in all probability never be replaced for the preparation of drug preparations and the manufacture of chemicals. The world cannot do without medicines and medicines cannot be made without alcohol. It required a hard fight to prevent the increased alcohol tax from being passed but we succeeded by continuous and strenuous effort in convincing the more sensible and open-minded members of Congress that it was unwise legislation and we had to call in the banking interests to help us for it would have called for the use of very much money at a time when this was needed and there were enough frozen credits everywhere without adding "frozen" alcohol to the list. The next move came from interests who tried and are still trying to have so-called premedicated alcohol made legal for use in internal as well as external preparations. The reason is perfectly clear. If they can save the alcohol tax upon alcohol used in their preparations it will mean greatly increased profits for them and is feasible for them as they make only one or a few preparations and they can readily premedicate their alcohol. Premedication means denaturing the alcohol with the ingredient for which it is to be used in the finished product. For the pharmacist, however, this means elimination as a dispenser or compounder as well as user of alcohol in any form; for it requires five gallons as a minimum amount to be withdrawn and if a separate five gallons for every use is needed, he simply can neither afford nor can he find space to keep the needed stock of premedicated alcohol. It was at the December meeting of the National Drug Trade Conference that the scheme providing for premedicated alcohol came up in the form of resolutions to have the Conference endorse the plan of having this specially denatured alcohol, gilded by the name of premedicated alcohol, recognized as fit and desirable for internal as well as external use. The men that drafted the resolutions maintained that they had induced the solicitor of the Treasury Department to send an opinion to the Secretary of the Treasury stating that the Volstead Act could be interpreted to include the use of denatured alcohol for internal use as well as external use. Your Chairman as A. Ph. A. delegate to the National Drug Trade Conference took a determined stand against the resolution at the December meeting and said for the first time in the history of the Conference the interests represented distinctly and decidedly clashed. It was clear to see that such a use of tax-free alcohol meant millions of dollars net gain for proprietary manufacturers and your Chairman told them if they could put this through it would be a great success for their clients and credit for them; *but* such resolution would spell disaster for the retail pharmacist and as the Conference was instituted largely if not entirely for his benefit such resolution must not pass. Several other delegates supported your Chairman including Prof. Beal and Prof. E. F. Kelly and the resolution was defeated. The danger of the premedicated alcohol is passed for the time being although it threatened to develop into something from December until April. But now we have information that the Assistant Commissioner of Internal Revenue has decided that it is impracticable and undesirable. So alcohol for the present at least seems in *statu quo* although the paid agents of the Anti-Saloon League (now misnamed since saloons no longer exist and probably never will again) are eternally vigilant and active and will surely spring something new almost any time to disturb pharmacy.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) A. R. L. DOHME, *Chairman*, R. P. FISCHELIS,
A. G. DUMÉZ, E. G. EBERLE.

RESOLUTIONS ON NARCOTICS AND ALCOHOL.

WHEREAS it is the unanimous opinion of the drug trade of this country that narcotic drugs and alcohol are essential and absolutely necessary parts of the legitimate drug business and probably the most important elements used in the successful combatting of disease, and

WHEREAS alcohol as a solvent to (1) extract the virtues of crude drugs, (2) preserve the thus extracted principles thereof, and (3) to manufacture chemicals used in medicine and when so used is only used in so far as its solvent and preservative qualities are concerned and employed, and

WHEREAS the attitude of the federal and state governments appears to be and apparently is to endeavor to attach to their use a series of regulations and keeping of records which make their use practically impossible and certainly extremely irksome and expensive, and

WHEREAS it is our experience that the narcotics actually obtained for illegitimate use and the alcoholic beverages and alcohol actually used illegitimately are not obtained by slipping through the records or the dealings of the drug trade or by the conniving of the same but by the theft and smuggling for narcotics and boot-legging for alcoholic products; all common law violations; and

WHEREAS these records appear to us from years of experience in recording and keeping same to be ineffective and without justifiable existence and furthermore cannot ever be expected to be and as a matter of fact practically never are accurate and correct; now therefore be it

Resolved by the American Pharmaceutical Association in annual meeting assembled that the Secretary of the Treasury and the Commissioner of Internal Revenue be requested to grant a hearing of the united drug interests of the country as represented by the National Drug Trade Conference some time during the month of October or November 1922 so that these interests may present to the said officials of the government their actual experiences and such recommendations bearing upon the handling and use of narcotic drugs and alcohol as they may prepare in form of a brief with arguments upon same at said hearing, and be it further

Resolved that should the government after due consideration deem it inadvisable to grant the drug trade the asked-for hearing, the drug trade hereby decide to take its case to Congress for the relief it seeks, and be it further

Resolved that copies of these resolutions be sent to the Secretary of the Treasury and the Commissioner of Internal Revenue and be given general publicity in the press of this country.

NARCOTIC RECORD RULING
POSTPONED.

The following announcement has been made by the Internal Revenue Bureau:

Treasury Decision 3342, approved June 7, 1922, shall take effect January 1, 1923, instead of July 1, 1922, as stated in the last sentence thereof. The separate additional entries of all narcotic drugs in process of manufacture or repacking on July 1, 1922, will accordingly not be required in the return rendered for the month of July 1922, as stated in the second paragraph of article 84, Regulations 35, revised, as revised by said decision, but there must be reported on line of the summary,

Form 810, of the return rendered for the month of January 1923, all narcotic drugs in process of manufacture or repacking on January 1, 1923.

Importers, manufacturers, producers and compounders who have arranged to comply with the provisions of T. D. 3342, as amended by T. D. 3372, approved July 19, 1922, beginning with the return for October 1922 may render their October and subsequent returns accordingly. In such cases it will not be necessary for them to show by a separate additional entry the quantities of narcotics in the process of manufacture or repacking on January 1, 1923.

T. D. 3372, approved July 19, 1922, is hereby revoked.