

in legislative bodies, or in conference with authorities, on the part of the drug trade; delay or indefiniteness weakens the cause.

The resolutions adopted not only evidence coördinated endeavor, but will impress those addressed with the sincerity of the purposes of the organizations. Some of the actions taken will add force to presentations made by associations represented in the Conference—the emphatic protest against forfeiture bonds may be cited and also the resolutions opposing the “as is” standard in some of the sales of medical supplies. Other resolutions are entitled to like endorsement, but the purpose of this comment is to give optimistic expression relative to the work of the Conference.

Coördinated effort is becoming a greater force and is an essential organization quality. The work of President S. C. Henry deserved the thanks voted him by the Conference; all the organizations will agree to that, cognizant also of the important services rendered by their delegates; doubtless, they are willing to serve, but at this season a word of appreciation seems timely. E. G. E.

### BENZYL MANDELATE—A NOTE.

BY DANIEL BASE.\*

It has been shown by Macht<sup>1</sup> that mandelic acid in certain salts and esters possesses distinct antispasmodic properties similar to those of benzyl benzoate and benzaldehyde. It was thought that the benzyl ester of mandelic acid might possess some interesting pharmacologic action and, accordingly, it was prepared for study.

Benzyl mandelate was obtained by the action of benzyl chloride on sodium mandelate:  $C_6H_5CHOHCOONa + ClCH_2C_6H_5 = C_6H_5CHOHCOOCH_2C_6H_5 + NaCl$

It forms white, micaceous, glistening scales, melting at 93° C. (uncor.), which are nearly insoluble in cold water, readily soluble in alcohol, ether, chloroform and benzene. The pharmacological action of benzyl mandelate will be made known later.

### PENNSYLVANIA PHYSICIANS PREPARE FOR LEGISLATION.

A letter has been issued to the medical profession defining the stand to be taken on legislative matters. They favor:—

“All legislation to be proposed by the State Department of Health calculated to improve the prevention and control of all disease; better hygienic and sanitary regulations regarding milk, water supply, foods, etc.

“Coördination of all boards relating to the healing art instead of having these very important functions scattered about, as now, in several boards and bureaus when they should function under one head. By this method all those having to do with the healing art can present their claims to the State Legislature with a solid front.”

They oppose:

“Any movement calculated to curtail the vivisection of animals for scientific research and study.

“Any bills preventing vaccination and the use of antitoxins and serums.

“Granting to any cults separate examining boards unless the educational qualifications are of a minimum equal to those already existing.

“Any legislation providing for compulsory state health insurance or subsidized state medicine.”

Other legislative items of interest to pharmacists will be found in the report of the transactions of the National Drug Trade Conference under Societies and Colleges of this issue of the *JOURNAL*.

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<sup>1</sup> Macht, *JOUR. A. PH. A.*, 11, 897, 1922.