

Menstruum changed:—850 cc. of alcohol and 150 cc. of water replaces alcohol (95%) as the menstruum.

Residual tests are eliminated as they become of questionable value in determining the strength of the tincture, especially if the use of more than one variety of Ginger is permissible.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE LOCAL BRANCHES

"All papers presented to the Association and Branches shall become the property of the Association with the understanding that they are not to be published in any other publication prior to their publication in those of the Association, except with the consent of the Board of Directors."—Part of Chapter VI, Article VI of the By-Laws.

Article IV of Chapter VII reads: "Each local branch having not less than 50 dues-paid members of the Association, holding not less than six meetings annually with an attendance of not less than 9 members at each meeting, and the proceedings of which shall have been submitted to the JOURNAL for publication, may elect one representative to the House of Delegates."

Reports of the meetings of the Local Branches should be mailed to the Editor on the day following the meeting, if possible. Minutes should be typewritten, with wide spaces between the lines. Care should be taken to give proper names correctly, and manuscript should be signed by the reporter.

### BALTIMORE.

The Baltimore Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association and the other pharmaceutical associations of Maryland joined with various civic and charitable institutions and associations, and held a Memorial Meeting in honor of the late Dr. John F. Hancock, in the amphitheatre of the University of Maryland, on December 6, 1923, 8:15 P.M. President Engelhardt of the Baltimore Branch of the A. Ph. A. presided.

The Baltimore Branch had for its speaker, John B. Thomas; the ex-presidents of the A. Ph. A. had Geo. M. Beringer of Camden, N. J.; and the present officers of the A. Ph. A. were represented by the president, H. V. Army of New York City.

Chas. E. Meyer spoke for the Maryland Pharmaceutical Association; R. E. L. Williamson for the Baltimore Retail Druggists Association; John C. Muth for the Drug Exchange Bureau of the Merchants and Manufacturers Association; and Melvin Strassburger for the Wedgewood Club.

Dr. D. M. R. Culbreth represented the School of Pharmacy of the University of Maryland, and Dr. Timothy O. Heatwole the University of Maryland. Dean Chas. H. LaWall spoke for the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science.

Brother Paul of the St. Mary's Industrial School read resolutions which were offered by his institution; as did also Ex-Senator Clarence W. Perkins for the Free Summer Excursion Society.

Dr. F. W. Bressler represented the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty, and Dr. D. W. Cathell spoke for the Baltimore Eastern Dispensary.

The secretary read letters and telegrams from pharmacists from distant parts of the country expressing regret that they could not attend the Memorial Meeting.

Each speaker, as well as the written messages, extolled the pleasing personality, the high character and many virtues of the deceased. Few men have been blessed with the long, useful, public life; the happy home life; pleasant associates in their chosen profession, and the honored memory as was Dr. Hancock. The pharmaceutical, civic and charitable institutions honored themselves in honoring his memory.

B. OLIVE COLE, *Secretary-Treasurer.*

### CHICAGO.

The 138th regular meeting was called to order by President Warren at the University of Illinois School of Pharmacy Building at 8:30 P.M. on December 7, 1923, with more than 100 in attendance.

President Warren made several announcements, including that of the Nominating Committee which was directed to report nominations for the officers of the Branch, including the Committee Chairman at the January meeting. President Warren also welcomed the fifty-five members that have been added to the American Pharmaceutical Association and the Chicago Branch since

October 1 of this year. Then the evening was devoted to a splendid entertainment offered by the members of the Lambda Kappa Sigma sorority, followed by a very pleasant social time and supper.

E. N. GATHERCOAL, *Secretary.*

#### CINCINNATI.

The December meeting of the Cincinnati Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association which was held on December 11 was devoted to discussion of laws and their relation to the druggist. Charles Ehlers, president of the Ohio State Board of Pharmacy, spoke of the work being done by the Board in their efforts to prevent the sale of poisons by unregistered dealers.

One exception to this is the sale of denatured alcohol which may be sold by garages, etc. He showed copies of a printed warning which had been sent out to such dealers, cautioning them against the advertising or sale of this product under the simple name "Alcohol" and warning them that when sold it must be labeled "poison." He said that the deaths from denatured alcohol in Ohio exceeded those in any other State, a fact which he attributed to the failure on the part of these dealers to label this "poison." He warned the druggist against the growing practice of telephoning prescriptions from one branch to another to have them filled, stating that this practice is illegal if the prescription contains narcotic drugs and is also illegal unless the transmitter as well as the receiver is a registered pharmacist.

William L. Brittain, formerly State drug inspector, gave an interesting summary of his experiences, pointing out some of the danger points in the laws and regulations under the State law. He accentuated the fact that the Ohio State law differs in several important particulars from the Federal law. One of these was that under the Ohio State law any product bearing the name of any U. S. P. or N. F. preparation must conform to those standards. The Federal law permits variation if the variation appears on the label. He particularly criticized the use of petrolatum base in zinc oxide ointment as being objectionable from a therapeutic standpoint.

E. H. Grant, formerly of the U. S. Bureau of Chemistry, told some interesting experiences which occurred during his service as chief of the laboratory in Porto Rico where he had to contend with a dual standard, most of the physicians using the "French Codex."

The secretary was instructed to extend to the families of Charles A. Apmeyer, former secretary of the Branch, and Otto E. Betz, former member, the sympathy of the Branch in their recent bereavement.

Dr. Frank Cain and John T. Jennie of the committee of the joint meeting with the Ohio Valley Druggists' Association made a report on progress, and the committee was continued.

#### UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

The third monthly meeting of the University of North Carolina Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association for the year 1923-24 was held in Davie Hall, Tuesday evening, November 27. Thirty-five members were present. Since the last meeting eight new members have affiliated with the organization.

After the business session Professor E. V. Kyser presented an illustrated lecture on the "Production of Carborundum and Abrasives." The lecture was illustrated with lantern slides and samples of raw materials entering into the manufacture of carborundum and the various finished articles obtained from this material. Professor Kyser pointed out that this industry owed its development to the utilization of hydro-electric power, and that of the 700,000 H. P. developed at Niagara Falls the Carborundum Co. was equipped to use 25,000 H. P. continuously. Continuing his address the speaker stated that "carborundum" was created by Dr. Edward G. Acheson in 1891. There is a romantic story to the effect that Dr. Acheson was trying to bring true the story of the alchemist—that is, to make a diamond—but this he denies. He says he was looking for an abrasive material superior to emery, corundum, and the other natural materials then in use. The first experiments produced a sufficient amount of the carborundum to fill an ounce vial and at this time this was the world's supply. Tiffany, the famous jeweler of New York, bought the first amount at the rate of forty cents per karat and used it as a substitute for diamond dust, in roughing diamonds, polishing sapphires, emeralds and other precious stones. Since then the uses of carborundum have become almost universal as an abrasive and nearly every manufactured article for the comfort of man has at some point in its manufacture come in contact with carborundum in some form.

The members of the Branch are deeply

indebted to the Carborundum Company of America for the gift of the slides and samples for illustration, and are very appreciative of their interest in the organization.

After Professor Kyser's address Dr. Frank C. Vilbrandt, associate professor of chemistry, spoke on the "Chemical Industries of North Carolina." He stated that a survey of the industries of the State shows that a large number are chemical and that these industries grouped as a whole are next to cotton and tobacco in capital invested, estimated plant valuation, yearly production values, payroll and wage earners. Dr. Vilbrandt further said, "In valuation, production, and investment the chemical industries are a close second to tobacco, in which industry North Carolina excels the world. The 361 plants have a capital investment of \$119,646,000, an estimated

plant valuation of \$87,770,000, an annual production value of \$206,640,000 with 11,338 wage earners drawing a yearly payroll of \$10,589,000. The industries included in this survey are fertilizer, cottonseed oil, tanning, paper and pulp, ceramics, ice, dyeing and mercerizing, chemical ore production, drugs, rubber, pine products, and gas and coal tars. Data from the Aluminum Company of America at Badcn, N. C., and the municipal water filtration plants were not available. The cotton mills applying chemical treatment to their products such as the bleacheries, printing and dyeing plants in connection with the big cotton mills include these data in the cotton mill data. If all the chemical data could be grouped together the chemical industry would show itself second only to cotton."

C. R. WHITEHEAD, *Secretary*.

#### AN IMPROVED METHOD FOR THE ASSAY OF MERCURIAL OINTMENT U. S. P. AND BLUE OINTMENT U. S. P.

By D. M. COPLEY.

The present official method, while accurate and reliable in itself, is not well suited for use in a Control Laboratory, where time is an important factor and where several lots may be held in process awaiting a chemist's report. The author therefore developed a more rapid method which proved to be equally accurate. He replaces petroleum benzene by anhydrous ether and xylol which leave a practically fat-free mercury residue and render the treatment with dilute hydrochloric acid unnecessary.

#### NARCOTICS MISSING FROM ARMY STOCKS.

Simultaneously with an investigation into affairs of the United States Veterans' Bureau which has brought out charges that Col. Charles R. Forbes while head of the bureau had suggested "trafficking in narcotics" stored at the bureau's supply depot at Perryville, Md., it is reported that the Bureau of Internal Revenue has launched an inquiry into the whereabouts of large quantities of narcotic drugs, \$5,000,000 worth of which were stored there during the Forbes administration but now reported to have disappeared.

Discussion in connection with the investigation recalls that large quantities of narcotics were reported stored at Perryville some time ago, when it was said that members of

the Federal Narcotics Control Board held the theory that those stocks would constitute a reserve from which narcotics could be drawn in case of a future emergency in the United States which could thus be met without authorizing largely increased imports of narcotics into this country. Representatives of the drug trades say frankly they would like to know whether the Perryville stocks were disposed of through sale, disappearance or otherwise. The fact might have a bearing on the situation as regards supply, license and imports, for the country, it is suggested.—*Oil, Paint & Drug Reporter*.

#### DIETHYLPHTHALATE II.

By J. A. HANDY AND L. F. HOYT.

The authors present in this paper additional data on the properties of diethylphthalate and the results of a careful study of the methods recommended for its detection.

Among other results they found that diethylphthalate has a restraining influence on the growth of bacteria, while the disinfecting power of the ester is comparatively small. In the pharmacological experiments they administered *per ora* about 75 milligrams of the pure ester per kilo of body weight to an adult cat, and repeated this dose twice at intervals of 48 hours.

No appreciable physiological disturbance was noted, the only effects being to somewhat diminish the appetite and increase the sluggishness of the animal, which became, however, entirely normal within 3 to 4 days after the last dose was administered.