

COMMITTEE REPORTS

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO SOLICIT AMERICAN AID FOR CHILDREN OF GERMAN APOTHECARIES.

It will be remembered that a special committee, representing both the American Pharmaceutical Association and the National Association of Retail Druggists, was organized last winter to solicit American aid for the needy, in some cases fatherless, children of German apothecaries.

Pharmacists in this country responded promptly and liberally to the appeal published by the committee and food packages began going forward in March to the children whose names had previously been obtained from the German Pharmaceutical Society. During recent weeks the committee has been receiving letters of thanks from the mothers of the children who are recipients of the packages, letters which tell, better than anything that the committee might say now in thanking those who have contributed to the relief fund, how urgently those food packages were needed—and how gratefully they have been received.

Frau Ulrich writes:

"What great joy and excitement was caused by the receipt of your abundant food package! Many, many thanks to the kind donors who have thought of us in our great need. . . . My husband is paralyzed from a stroke which he suffered one year ago and in consequence is not able to work. So we are penniless with our two children four and fourteen years old. The only means we have come from the sale of our household goods and from some friends helping us. Your kind and rich donation relieved me from the hardest worries for some time. I wish from the bottom of my heart that the good colleagues of my husband will be blessed for their kindness in thinking of their poor fellow workers on the other side of the ocean."

Frau Apotheker Rausch writes:

"I thank you very much for your kind words and the rich package. As the proverb says, 'When need is greatest, God's help is nearest.' There are always good people in the world and you belong to them. All the good things came just for Easter. . . . Now the little one, eleven months old, can drink as much milk as he wants to for some time. You made us so happy."

There are many such letters, all expressing appreciation for the food packages, all showing that the need for them was very real.

The third shipment of food packages was sent late in May. Through the generosity of those who subscribed to the fund it has been possible to send to the children, at a time when their need was greatest, more than two tons of flour, 1500 pounds of rice, 600 pounds of sugar, 1500 one-pound cans of condensed milk and other food supplies so necessary to the growing child.

American pharmacists serving on the committee included H. V. Arny, president of the A. Ph. A.; John H. Webster, president of the N. A. R. D.; H. C. Christensen, A. R. L. Dohme, Jacob Diner; Clarence O. Bigelow, treasurer, 106 Sixth Avenue, New York City; and Clyde L. Eddy, chairman.

THE NEW PHARMACOPŒIA WILL NOT BE READY FOR SOME TIME.

The annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the United States Pharmacopœial Convention was held at the Hotel Washington, Washington, D. C., May 2.

The report made by Chairman E. Fullerton Cook, of the Committee of Revision, was one of progress. The U. S. P. X is still in the process of manufacture and the Board authorized conferences by Revision members on some of the important subjects not yet decided. Arrangements are being made for the reading of final proofs by a number of experts in order to eliminate past errors in so far as is humanly possible. Six sets of abstracts of proposed changes from the U. S. P. IX have been published in the *JOURNAL OF THE A. PH. A.* This is done in order to enable those who are to use the Pharmacopœia to study the changes and communicate with the chairman of the Committee of Revision, in case any objections are to be made. Chairman Cook called attention to the International Pharmaceutical Federation and the work being done to unify the pharmacopœias of the world. It is likely that the National Research Council will appoint a

committee on pharmacopœial work. In closing his report, Chairman Cook paid a tribute to the memory of the late Dr. J. M. Francis who was a very useful member of the Committee of Revision. He exhibited a copy of the Chinese Translation of the U. S. P. IX, made by permission of the Board.

Chairman of the Board Dr. James H. Beal made a report covering the administrative affairs during the past fiscal year. The Board of Trustees represents the Decennial Convention during a period of ten years and controls all financial and other business affairs.

The Secretary of the Board, Dr. Henry M. Whelpley, made a verbal report followed by a detailed statement, covering the transactions of his office, and, particularly, the sales of pharmacopœias, which have now reached a total of almost 80,000 for the Ninth Revision. Of the Spanish translation, nearly 2000 copies have been sold.

The Treasurer of the Convention, Samuel L. Hilton, reported as custodian of the funds, showing that sufficient money would be on hand to cover the expense of printing the new Pharmacopœia. This favorable condition has not occurred at the time of the printing of any previous revision of the Pharmacopœia.

The Board had previously called for bids for the printing of the U. S. P. X. They were opened at the meeting and the award for both the English and the Spanish translation was made to the J. B. Lippincott Company of Philadelphia, which firm has been printing the Pharmacopœia for nearly half a century. It will probably require about a year for the Pharmacopœia to pass through the press and the Board of Trustees will fix a date when the Pharmacopœia will become official, some months following the time it is placed on sale. The first printing will consist of from twenty-five to fifty thousand copies in order to supply the demand of the entire country without delay. The Board cannot at this time approximate the date of publication. The U. S. P. IX was placed on the market in 1916, making the new Pharmacopœia due ten years later or in 1926.

The Pharmacopœia is copyrighted and, in order to make use of even portions of the text for comment, permission must be given by the Board of Trustees. A committee consisting of Chairman Beal, Secretary Whelpley and Dr. George H. Simmons, was appointed to report on a plan of handling applications for use of the U. S. P. X text. The charge for the use of U. S. P. IX text varies from a few dollars to a few thousand dollars. The Board of Trustees consists of Dr. James H. Beal of Urbana, Ill., chairman; Dr. Henry M. Whelpley of St. Louis, secretary; Prof. E. Fullerton Cook of Philadelphia, *ex officio* member as chairman of the Committee of Revision; Dr. Reid Hunt of Boston, Mass., *ex officio* member as president of the U. S. P. Convention; Dr. S. Solis Cohen of Philadelphia; Dr. George H. Simmons of Chicago; Dean Frederick J. Wulling of Minneapolis, Minn.

The 1925 annual meeting will be held the first Friday in May of that year. Thus far in this decennial period the Board has not found it necessary to hold any special meetings.

HENRY M. WHELPLEY, *Secretary*.

ST. LOUIS, MO.,
MAY 7, 1924.

SAFEGUARDING DRUGS DISCUSSED.

Safeguarding the nation's drug supply is the joint responsibility of the officials charged with the enforcement of the Federal food and drugs act and the drug manufacturers, Dr. W. W. Skinner, assistant chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, United States Department of Agriculture, told a convention of the American Drug Manufacturers' Association, on April 9, in New York City.

Speaking to the subject, "The Relation of the Bureau of Chemistry to the Drug Industry," Dr. Skinner pointed out that the drug manufacturers in coöperating with the Bureau

of Chemistry in raising the standards of purity for drugs and in checking misbranding and adulteration were not only serving the interests of their customers but were also helping to free the manufacturers of standard products from competition with adulterated, debased products.

Other work of the Bureau of Chemistry of interest to drug manufacturers outlined by Dr. Skinner was the production of new chemicals from so-called waste products; the development of accurate methods of analysis for drug products is another problem of joint interest to the drug control official and to the drug manufacturer.