

1. The letter "a."

Using the first letter of the alphabet by way of illustration, much information has been brought together that ought to be conveniently available in pharmaceutical dictionaries, yet such is not the case. A most interesting part of this information is historical, yet many of the uses are modern; indeed, additions to the list are being made constantly.

The papers were accepted with thanks of the Section.

The Committee on Nominations reported the following nominees for officers of the ensuing year:

Chairman, L. K. Darbaker, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Secretary, William F. Sudro, Fargo, N. Dak.

Delegate, Charles J. Grietner, St. Louis, Mo.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Historian cast the unanimous ballot of the Section for the nominees.—Carried.

On motion of Caswell A. Mayo, duly seconded, a rising vote of thanks was tendered the officers.—Carried.

The Section on Historical Pharmacy was then adjourned.

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to the Association and Branches shall become the property of the Association with the understanding that they are not to be published in any other publication prior to their publication in those of the Association, except with the consent of the Council."—Part of Chapter VI, Article VI of the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.

CHICAGO.

The 152nd meeting of the Chicago Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION was held at the University of Illinois, School of Pharmacy Bldg., Friday evening, October 16, 1925, at 8:00 o'clock, Dean W. B. Day presiding.

Secretary Gathercoal read a letter of resignation from President L. E. Warren which was laid on the table with the understanding that Mr. Warren, even though absent from Chicago, would hold the office during the remainder of his term and First Vice-President J. A. Hynes would preside during October and November. President Warren received many words of appreciation for his faithful and conscientious services during the three years in which he has held the office of *President* of the Chicago Branch.

The speaker of the evening, Dr. Arthur D. Holmes, of Boston, Mass., was then introduced by Chairman Day. Dr. Holmes presented a splendid address on the subject of

"Cod Liver Oil," a subject on which he is an authority. Dr. Holmes referred to the antiquity of cod liver oil as a therapeutic agent, stating that it undoubtedly was known in the times of Pliny and has been in constant use as a medicine since then. It was probably prepared in these earlier times by the "rotting" method which, as a rule, produced an offensive oil and which would, therefore, be efficacious—as in those days the more nauseous and disgusting the medicine the more valuable it was therapeutically. A great deal of cod liver oil is still produced by the rotting method but this along with rancid cod liver oil usually finds its way into technical use, particularly in the leather industry. It is known in the trade as "Cod Oil."

He explained in detail the present method of cooking the livers and pressing out the oil; the separation of stearin by chilling and filtering under pressure; and the preservation of the oil by packing in well-filled, small containers or by packing in barrels in which the air has been replaced by inert gases such as

carbon dioxide and nitrogen. Special emphasis was laid upon the fact that cod liver oil practically free from any nauseous or rancid odor or taste could be prepared by using very fresh livers and that for such oil, livers should be removed from the fish not more than a few hours before they are steam-cooked and the oil strained out.

Dr. Holmes devoted his lecture largely to the vitamine content of cod liver oil and to the determination of the vitamine activity. He stated that he kept a constant check on the vitamine "A" content of the oil produced by his firm and that a constant effort was being made to perfect methods for assaying the anti-rachitic vitamine. As to the chemical nature of these vitamins, little is known as yet, though it is established that fats which contain the anti-rachitic vitamine such as lard, butter, egg yolk, and olive oil also contain chloesterol. Chloesterol which has been treated with ultraviolet light cures rickets while non-radiated chloesterol does not. Further when the unsaturated double bond present in chloesterol is saturated it will not cure rickets even when radiated. Human fat is rich in chloesterol; sunlight radiates it. Possibly this unsaturated double bond in chloesterol is the location of anti-rachitic value. Funk, who originally suggested the name "Vitamine," states that the name "Vitamine" should now be applied only to the water soluble forms while "Vitasterol" should be applied to the oil soluble compounds.

Dr. Holmes discussed his experiments regarding a fertility vitamine in cod liver oil but stated that as yet the evidence for the presence of such a vitamine was not conclusive. He experimented with flocks of chickens and found that those flocks fed with cod liver oil in comparison with control flocks not so fed gave a greater number of chicks per hundred eggs. In this experiment the eggs produced by the flock of Rhode Island Reds to which cod liver oil was fed gave 24 more chicks per 100 eggs than did the control flock receiving no oil. The oil-fed White Leghorns gave 16 more chicks from each 100 eggs than the control flock of Leghorns and the Barred Rocks gave 6 more chicks per 100 eggs than did the control flock. All told 27,000 eggs were incubated during the 4 months of the experiment. The results of the experiment might indicate the presence of a fertility vitamine.

At the conclusion of the lecture there was quite a general discussion.

C. P. Van Shaack described cod liver oil extraction as witnessed on his recent visit to Norway and the Lofoten Islands.

F. H. Borchardt referred to some recent importations of Norwegian oil which was protected from oxidation by nitrogen.

L. E. Warren inquired about cod liver oil extracts, especially as to the claim that they contain many thousand times the vitamine strength of cod liver oil. Dr. Holmes maintained that all of the therapeutic value of cod liver oil was not contained in these extracts and, while conscientious and honest efforts had been made to develop medicinal preparations of cod liver oil in tablet form, many of such preparations were pure fakes.

Regarding the inquiry as to the vitamine "A" assay of cod liver oil in the new U. S. P. he stated that in the first place the assay was only optional and therefore had no legal status. While this assay calls for a standard of 50 units, real good cod liver oil will assay at least 3000 units and a very poor oil will show 500 units.

A very hearty vote of thanks was extended to Dr. Holmes for his excellent address and especially for his patience in answering the many inquiries put to him.

Just before adjournment, Prof. A. H. Clark most pleasantly presented to the retiring president, on behalf of the Branch, a gift of remembrance in the form of a leather brief case. President Warren expressed his great appreciation of the gift.

E. N. GATHERCOAL, *Secretary*.

DETROIT.

The first meeting of the Detroit Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION for the coming year was held Friday, October 9. An excellent chicken dinner preceded the meeting.

The regular meeting was called to order by President L. W. Rowe, who briefly outlined his plans for the coming year. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by the Secretary and approved. In the absence of Mr. Ingram the reading of the financial report was dispensed with.

President Rowe then read a report from the JOURNAL announcing the awarding of the Fairchild Scholarship to a Detroit pharmacy student.

The speaker of the evening was Dr. T. F. Stephenson, who gave a popular talk on the

Progress of Science during the last twenty-five years and how it has affected Medicine and Pharmacy. He enumerated the many advances in the sciences which have been of great service. The silver salts, vaccines, X-Ray, and the numerous other discoveries of late years were explained by him. He referred to the success of vaccine in combating typhoid in the World War as a striking example of what science had done for humanity. Dr. Stephenson said that the building of the Panama Canal was made possible because of medical progress; while credit must be given all who participated in the wonderful achievement, conquering typhoid made its success possible. The French with their wealth and brilliant engineers were unable to construct the canal because at that time typhoid vaccine was unknown.

Dr. Stephenson answered many questions put to him by the assembly. Mr. Seltzer moved a rising vote of thanks to the speaker which was unanimously given.

BERNARD A. BIALK, *Secretary*.

PHILADELPHIA.

The Philadelphia Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION held its initial meeting of the year on Tuesday evening, October 13, at the P. A. R. D. Building. President Mortimer M. Smith presided.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The following fourteen proposals for membership were then reported:

T. C. Chidester, C. T. DeLorme, Z. Girzel, N. Green, E. N. Jensen, A. T. Kashuba, J. R. Lindsey, J. S. Mas, D. McConnell, N. Miles, Miss Herma Rohn, Peter S. Rohn, H. Segel, Harry Smuckler.

On vote of the Branch the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot electing the applicants to membership.

A motion was passed that the President and Secretary write to the individuals who took part in preparing and presenting the pharmaceutical exhibit for the A. M. A. convention held at Atlantic City in June, and thank them for their splendid work and for the interest shown in making the exhibit a success.

Due to the fact that the P. A. R. D. had a banquet scheduled for Tuesday evening, November 10th, the regular night of the November meeting, a motion was passed to postpone the November meeting to the night of November 17th.

Inasmuch as the summer of 1926 will bring the convention of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION to Philadelphia, it was the general opinion that plans should be made at once to prepare for the event. Therefore a motion was passed that the President appoint a permanent committee to arrange the details of the A. P. H. A. Convention at Philadelphia in 1926, the Local Secretary to be Chairman of the Committee and the Committee to be given the power to add others to its membership.

The President called on Ambrose Hunsberger to give a few words on "Pharmacy Week." Mr. Hunsberger likened the week to election night when every one is anxiously waiting for the returns; for, as he said, the country was taking a vote on the status of pharmacy and we were anxiously waiting to see if the professional side of pharmacy was to receive recognition. He was greatly encouraged by all the reports of activities and he spoke particularly about having received letters from far and wide asking for information about Pharmacy Week and that he was impressed by the deep sincerity shown in each case. Mr. Hunsberger pointed to Robert J. Ruth, the "father" of Pharmacy Week, and the President called on him for remarks.

Mr. Ruth outlined his vision of Pharmacy Week as it has come to him and told of the many program features in Philadelphia during the week: Broadcasting through four different stations during the week—by Dr. Braisted, Professors LaWall, Sturmer and Griffith; luncheon talks before the following clubs, Kiwanis, Optimist, Chamber of Commerce, Lions, Engineers, City, and Exchange Club; Editorials prepared for the five leading papers of the city; a special window of the Botanical Gardens of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, in one of the Chestnut Street shop windows—this window was decorated by one of Philadelphia's leading florists and twenty-two different living plant specimens, properly labeled and marked, were shown; scores of windows in the stores throughout the city carefully planned for the week.

Mr. Ruth told of the many splendid things Dr. Frederick B. Kilmer and the Johnson and Johnson Company have done to make this week a national success and said that, without a doubt, Pharmacy Week would not have had such a splendid showing this year if it hadn't been for this cooperation.

The following resolution was then passed:

"That the Secretary be instructed to convey to Dr. F. B. Kilmer the thanks of the members of the Philadelphia Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION for his splendid assistance, through the agency of Johnson and Johnson, toward making the nation-wide observance of Pharmacy Week a success."

Dean Charles H. LaWall next gave the members of the Branch a most interesting talk on "Spices and Flavoring Extracts." He carried them back to the time when Columbus set sail in his quest for spices which resulted in the discovery of America, and Magellan, in a similar quest, circumnavigated the globe; then, through the years and years of bloodshed when the Portuguese, Spaniards and

Dutch fought for the supremacy and control of the spice trade, when spices were worth their weight in gold. He referred, particularly, to the manner in which pharmacists of to-day can regain their control of the sale of spices—through their superior knowledge of the spice industry, the selection, method of preservation, etc. The talk was well illustrated throughout by lantern slides. A rising vote of thanks was given to the speaker.

Charles S. Hervo, a former member of the Branch, now chemist and production manager of Furst McNess Co., Freeport, Ill., was present and added many points of interest about spices.

ADLEY B. NICHOLS, *Secretary*.

ONLY TWO CANDIDATES FOR THE HALL OF FAME WERE ELECTED.

John Paul Jones and Edwin Booth were elected to places in the Hall of Fame. Evidently the qualifications for the honor are of an order that keeps many, who are very highly regarded, from receiving such distinction. The elections are held every five years; twelve only can be elected at any one election; there are 107 electors and sixty-five votes are necessary for a choice.

The name of Dr. Lyman Spalding, "Father of the U. S. Pharmacopœia," failed to receive strong support as a possible nominee, but hope is expressed that his name and services will be better known to the laity by the time the next election is held. Such men as William Penn, Henry D. Thoreau, Benjamin Rush, John Jay, Cyrus W. Field, Noah Webster, etc., were among the nominees, but failed to receive a sufficient number of ballots to place them in the distinguished class.

Pharmacists should educate the people relative to what the Pharmacopœia means to them and, thereby, promote the possibilities of having the "Father of the U. S. Pharmacopœia" given place in Hall of Fame.

CENTENARY OF MICHEL, EUGENE CHEVREUL'S FIRST PATENT.

The centenary of Chevreul's first patent was commemorated in connection with the fifth congress of Industrial Chemistry; the program of the event was arranged by the Société de Chemie Industrielle for October 11, and held in the laboratory where the celebrated chemist made his more important discoveries. The patent referred to was taken

out jointly with Gay-Lussac, soon after Chevreul became attached to Gabelin's factory as chemist. It may not be known generally that the latter lived to be 103 years of age; Gay-Lussac died 75 years ago.

WEDGWOOD MORTARS.

The presentation of a wedgwood mortar is noted in the minutes of the Section on Historical Pharmacy. We are under obligations to Professor Lloyd and his secretary, Miss Edith Wycoff, for a sketch of Josiah Wedgwood, from "Josiah Wedgwood, F.R.S., His Personal History," by Samuel Smiles. The following paragraph relates to mortars and pestles:

"Most important of all was the new composition for mortars, which Wedgwood with his complete knowledge of clay contrived for the use of the apothecaries of Great Britain and indeed of all the world. He had been accustomed to supply Dr. Priestley with crucibles and retorts before he left Leeds, and they were now in considerable demand by philosophers and chemists in this and foreign countries; but the introduction and general use of his mortars came later in life.¹ At first the surface of the mortar blistered, but by constant experiments he entirely obviated this great defect. By the use of Cornish clay he was enabled to make the entire mortar and pestle perfect. Wedgwood's invention was taken up to the Apothecaries' Hall and from the tests which they withstood there his mortars and pestles acquired a fame which has lasted to the present day."

¹ The first mortars were made in 1779 by Wedgwood, but it was some time before he perfected them.