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**Baroni's reaction in neutral glass for pharma-
ceutical use***Boll. chim.-farm.*, 65 (1926), 65; through
Pharm. J., 117 (1926), 399CLINICAL AND DIAGNOSTIC
METHODS.

Brown, H.

Determination of uric acid in blood*J. Biol. Chem.*, 68 (1926), 123; through *Pharm.*
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**Microchemical determination of calcium in
urine***Jap. J. Med. Sci.*, 2 (1924), 18; through *Pharm.*
J., 117 (1926), 399POPULARIZING PREPARATIONS OF THE U. S. PHARMACOPŒIA AND
NATIONAL FORMULARY.*

BY J. H. WEBSTER.

The Tenth Revision of the United States Pharmacopœia and the Fifth Revision of the National Formulary are before us, the result of several years' labor on the part of their respective revision committees.

The value of these two standard works to Medicine and Pharmacy need not be dwelt upon before this audience, except to remind us that many of the best minds in Medicine and Pharmacy, as represented by the Revision Committees, have coöperated and produced these books of standard drugs and preparations, which represent the best that our Materia Medica of to-day offers. The question now arises, what are we pharmacists going to do with them? Of course, they continue to serve as our standards in teaching, manufacturing and prescription departments, but should we let it go at that?

That the official preparations are more or less neglected seems to be a fact; what then, may we do to correct this unfortunate situation?

The value and usefulness of the official preparations should be more vigorously brought to the attention of the medical profession and their use promoted and encouraged, lest they be overlooked or forgotten by the busy practitioner. Or, we

* Read before Section on Commercial Interests, A. PH. A., Philadelphia meeting, 1926.

might even copy some of the methods employed by our enthusiastic specialty manufacturers in advertising and detail work.

Many pharmacists believe there is a certain responsibility devolving upon the craft to spread the knowledge of these works to the physicians and pharmacists of the country for the benefit of the Public, Medicine and Pharmacy.

The idea has been preached for years by the National Association of Retail Druggists that the retail druggist do his part by submitting samples to his physicians and, either by personal visit or letter, discuss the virtues of the various U. S. P. and N. F. preparations. In a few sections, pharmacists, aided by the organized efforts of their local associations, have done this with corresponding success; reports indicate that individual druggists in the smaller towns, who have been regular and persistent in their efforts along this line, have created a high regard among their doctors for the preparations. This, however, is not by any means as general as it might be.

The suggestion is also offered that a most probable source of results is with the graduating classes of the medical schools throughout the country. By properly bringing before these groups of coming doctors the history and contents of the U. S. P. and N. F., they at least start out informed on the subject; whereas now, we understand, very few of the medical colleges include this subject in their curriculum. All of this will require organized and continued effort; but it is a matter of such importance to Pharmacy that it would be worth a good deal of effort to accomplish the end.

To furnish something definite to work with, the N. A. R. D. is issuing a revision of the booklet entitled "Some Important U. S. P. and N. F. Preparations," which will be furnished at cost to druggists inclined to advertise to doctors. This booklet, a condensed manual of therapeutics, includes references to practically all of the drugs and preparations of the U. S. P. and N. F., and should prove a very useful reference book for the prescriber. Here we are up against the question of distribution, a point which involves arousing the interest of the druggists of the country. It seems to me that there is a wonderful opportunity for the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and the National Association of Retail Druggists to cooperate in this proposition of popularizing the official preparations; and this paper is submitted with the hope that some practical plan may be worked out to accomplish this.

ABSTRACT OF DISCUSSION.

In discussing the paper by Mr. Webster, **Chairman Hunsberger** said he obtained good results by following the methods of the N. A. R. D. for promoting the N. F. He thought that it would be advantageous to have propaganda prepared for a campaign to popularize the N. F. among physicians and pharmacists, by a joint committee of the A. P. H. A. and the N. A. R. D., working along the lines of the joint committee on "Pharmacy Week."

P. Henry Utech said it was evident that better and greater coöperation between pharmacists and physicians is desirable.

The Pennsylvania Association was represented at the last meeting of the State Medical Society and at previous conventions. It so happened, he said, that at the last meeting it was his good fortune and privilege to attend the meeting and he was given the opportunity of speaking relative to the newer preparations. In grouping fifty or more of these in a display, they had followed the "Epitome" of the American Medical Association. It was gratifying, he said, to note the interest of the doctors in these preparations and also their lack of knowledge relative to them. This work proved to be of unusual value throughout the entire State and in his

opinion the doctors who were present spread the information among those in their own sections who did not attend the meeting. It would be an easy matter to interview these doctors and re-impress them relative to the preparations which they had seen displayed at their annual meeting. Less than \$100.00 had been spent and the results were well worth while.

Chairman Hunsberger said that the lesson from Mr. Webster's paper suggests that each pharmacist secure a copy of the "Epitome" and take this along when he interviews local physicians.

Emil Roller said that the pharmacists in New York had to contend with a large number of detail men who visited the physicians and left samples with them. These preparations the physician dispensed. Not only does this interfere with the work of the pharmacist, but it may do injury to the physician's practice by leading the patients to self medication.

W. Bruce Philip called attention to the members that some manufacturers were putting out preparations under U. S. P. and N. F. names that are deficient as far as strength is concerned and sometimes as to solvent. He referred, among other preparations, to non-alcoholic elixir for simple elixir and half-strength elixir I. Q. and S. In his opinion a strong stand ought to be taken against such practice. It is true that these preparations have labels which indicate that they differ from the U. S. P. and N. F. formulas, but the physician and the patient are apt to overlook this information. He had visited quite a number of drug stores and found that even the druggists were not aware of the fact. **Mr. Stanbury** inquired whether such things could be legally done in this country. **Mr. Philip** advised that such preparations could be sold provided the label stated the difference in strength. However, the fact that the preparation was less expensive because of content the salesman could offer them at a lower price than obtained for the U. S. P. or the N. F. article. **Mr. Stanbury** stated that in Canada a B. P. preparation must conform in every respect to the strength of that formula.

Dr. Stanbury referred to the bootleg druggist. He said that he was practically extinct in Canada. That the Pharmacy Act had been amended so that after the second offense his license is automatically suspended for a year and can only be restored by giving State evidence that he would observe the law. A license fee is required to keep alcohol on the premises. He expressed appreciation of the reception accorded him by the members.

Chairman Hunsberger stated that it was a pleasure to have **Secretary Stanbury** attend the convention. Referring to the treatment meted out to the bootleg druggist in Canada, he said, "It is a harsh but a deserved treatment." In his opinion, we in this country are a little too lenient in handling matters of that kind.

With reference to the labels which had been spoken of he remarked that he had a startling experience within a year—relative to a tincture of digitalis which, supposedly, was three times the official strength. If it really was three times the strength of the U. S. P., it is apparent that the preparation is dangerous. A preparation should be in accord with the implied or designated standard.

P. Henry Utech said he was trying to evolve a resolution that might cover the requirement. The resolution might disapprove of the practice of manufacturing firms in offering for sale pharmaceutical preparations that in a way are substitutes for U. S. P. and N. F. preparations. **Chairman Hunsberger** said that the resolution might state that such preparations be no stronger nor weaker than those of the standards. He called attention to the fact that three members of the Committee on Resolutions were in the room and they might take up the matter for the purpose of formulating a resolution. **Mr. Utech** so moved; this was seconded and carried.

SOME NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF THE PROPRIETARY ASSOCIATION.*

BY ERVIN F. KEMP.

In the presentation of a "history" it is probably necessary that some figures and dates, as well as some names, be given; though the true history of a commercial trade association is not so concerned with dates and names and figures as it is with motives and accomplishments.

* Section on Historical Pharmacy, A. Ph. A., Philadelphia meeting, 1926.