IN CONCLUSION.

It is very evident that the great accomplishments of the Committee fall in the first third of its history under the Chairmanship of Mr. Beringer and with the great incentive of the introduction of drug standards into the National Formulary.

The ideals of Dr. Beal, in his original address leading to the formation of the Committee, were apparently not a sufficient inducement to bring out the best and most strenuous efforts of capable men for the accomplishment of the great work that Dr. Beal set before the ASSOCIATION.

The work of the Committee under Chairman Beringer, comprising between 200 and 300 well-prepared monographs, was most remarkable. Not only was this work remarkable in *volume*, but the fact that most of it was *new* work and not merely a review of previously existing monographs, makes it even more striking.

It seems quite evident, then, from this history of the Committee, that some further inducement must be found to stimulate the members of the Committee to the accomplishment of the work that lies before them.

There are at least four other well-recognized agencies at work on standards for drugs and medicines; *viz.*, the U. S. P. Revision Committee, the N. F. Revision Committee, the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the A. M. A. ("New and Non-Official Remedies") and the Association Official Agricultural Chemists whose standards partake of an official nature.

It is very certain that the A. PH. A. Committee on Standards of Drugs and Chemical Products cannot and does not wish to supplant any one of the standardizing bodies mentioned above. Is there an opportunity for this committee to serve pharmacy? Can we function to such purpose as will deserve recognition, and so as to be an incentive?

Your Chairman submits this report to the President of the ASSOCIATION, and the members of the Committee with the request that it be given careful study and that an early response be had from each recipient. Please do not neglect this report but send in an answer embodying your opinions as promptly as possible.

E. N. GATHERCOAL, *Chairman.*

Chicago, March 12, 1929.

(To be continued)

CORRESPONDENCE

SOLUTION OF MAGNESIUM CITRATE.

It seems desirable to call your attention to a recent letter from the Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration concerning some of the Solution of Magnesium Citrate now offered to the pharmaceutical trade. If you will kindly help to give publicity to this situation many pharmacists will be on their guard against, and refuse to encourage, this dishonorable practice.

Dr. P. B. Dunbar, Assistant Chief writes:

> Our investigations of magnesium citrate solution have revealed that in a considerable number of instances manufacturers are supplying this article in packages containing less than 350 cc. (12 fluidounces). We find packages of $11^1/_2$ fluidounces, 11 fluidounces and even less on the market. The article, as you no doubt know, is highly competitive, so that the margin of profit is quite narrow. This no doubt is an incentive to reduce the volume contained in the individual bottles.
>
> The proviso in Section 7 of the Federal Food and Drugs Act would, of course, permit the manufacture and sale of magnesium citrate solution differing in quantity of contents as well as in other respects from the official standard for strength, quality and purity. It would be necessary only for the manufacturer to state upon the label in a plain and conspicuous manner that the article does not meet the Pharmacopœial requirements and to set forth the respects in which it differs from the official standard.

(Signed) E. FULLERTON COOK, *Chairman,*
Committee on Revision, U. S. Pharmacopœia X.

March 19, 1929.