COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF DRUGS AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

BULLETIN I—1928–29.

BY. E. N. GATHERCOAL, *Chairman.*

Upon assuming the chairmanship of the Committee on Standards of Drugs and Chemical Products, an impulse led me to a short study of the history of this Committee during the twenty years of its existence. Its origin, personnel, activities and accomplishments have proved of such interest to me that I have compiled the items noted and have laid the whole before President Jones of the A. PH. A., as well as the membership of the Committee, Editor Eberle and Secretary Kelly.

The Committee was first known as the Committee on Standards of Non-Official Drugs and Chemical Products. Later, the word "Non-Official" was dropped from the title. These names have been shortened to "Committee on Unofficial Standards and the Committee on Standards."

ORIGIN OF THE COMMITTEE.

At a meeting of the Council of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION in 1908 at Hot Springs, Arkansas, Dr. J. H. Beal presented a Resolution (Exhibit "A" in the Appendix) and moved its adoption, that the A. PH. A. form a committee to be known as the Committee on Standards of Non-Official Drugs and Chemical Products and consisting of fifteen members to be elected by the Council. This motion was approved and the Committee was elected at a subsequent meeting of the Council at Hot Springs.

CHAIRMEN OF THE COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE PERSONNEL.

George M. Beringer was appointed chairman of the Committee in 1908 and served until his resignation was accepted by the Council at the Atlantic City meeting in September 1916. Dr. J. A. Koch subsequently was elected by the Council to serve as chairman of this committee and fulfilled that office until his resignation in February 1921. In July 1921, Dr. B. L. Murray was elected chairman and served until September 1928. Thus the twenty years of service of this committee has been directed by three chairmen, each serving, approximately, the same number of years.

It is to be noted that of the fifteen members of the Committee elected by the Council in 1908, four, namely, Messrs. Beringer, Koch, Puckner and Raubenheimer, have served for the full twenty years. Thomas P. Cook served until his death, in 1911, and John M. Francis for seventeen years until his death, in 1924. Geo. M. Beringer died in 1928 in his twenty-first year of service. Messrs. J. A. Koch and Otto Raubenheimer are still members of the Committee. George D. Rosengarten has served 19 years and Henry Kraemer for 16 years until his death, in 1924. From 1917 to 1924 inclusive, there was no change in the personnel of the Committee. In 1925, President Holton reappointed but 12 members of the Committee. Messrs. Francis and Kraemer had died, in 1924, and Messrs. Beringer and Eldred are here considered as retaining their places on the Committee. The full membership of sixteen was restored in 1926. The full roster (Exhibit "B" in the Appendix) of the Committee for the twenty years embraces 37 very prominent names in the recent history of the A. PH. A.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Chairman Beringer's first report was made at the 1909 meeting. A brief summary of the report, stating the purpose of the Committee and the resolutions authorizing its appointment, is as follows: "To prepare from existing sources of information a tentative list of the principal drugs, chemicals and medicinal preparations not recognized by the U. S. P., with a suitable system of nomenclature for the same, and to adopt suitable limits of strength and purity therefor."

The Committee presented a tentative list which included 37 drugs of animal origin, 27 of mineral origin, more than 500 of vegetable origin, over 200 pharmaceutical preparations and

about 600 chemicals. It is admitted, in the report and in the discussion, that the list is entirely too voluminous. No monographs nor standards were submitted; however, certain principles and methods were worked out by the Committee for its guidance and the permanent continuance of its work, which were, later, adopted by the Council, and may be summarized as follows:

The Chairman shall conduct the business of the Committee through bulletins which shall be issued, if practicable, semi-monthly. All business shall be presented in the form of written motions which, after a suitable time for discussion, shall be balloted upon by mail and, ordinarily, the majority of the votes cast shall decide the question. Products adopted by vote shall be assigned to individual members for report and recommendation. Titles, purity rubric and methods of testing shall follow the style of the U. S. P. monographs and other rules governing proprietary products, medicinal uses and doses; chemical formulas and molecular weights, botanical nomenclature, etc., are included. (See PROC. A. PH. A. (1909), 501–520 incl.)

The second report by Chairman Beringer, made in 1910 at the Richmond meeting, stated that six bulletins had been published during the year; a meeting of the Committee had been held at Richmond and a selection of articles to be standardized had been made by the Committee. The preparation of a number of tentative standards had also been accomplished. This report also discusses the results, (p. 515) regarding coöperation between the Committee of Pharmacy and Chemistry of the A. M. A. and the Committee of Non-Official Standards of the A. PH. A. Messrs. Beringer, Caspari and Francis were reëlected to the Committee; C. A. Dye was elected in place of Geo. B. Kauffman, resigned, and H. H. Rusby was elected a new member. (PROC. A. PH. A. (1910), 514–519.)

The report of Chairman Beringer, in 1911 (BULLETIN, A. PH. A., 591–595) indicates that coöperation of the Committee with the N. F. Committee has been requested. Also the Committee on Unofficial Standards had requested the coöperation of the Department of Agriculture and the Treasury Department of the United States in its work. A large number of tentative monographs had been prepared and a request was made of the Council that these be published in the new JOURNAL A. PH. A. for criticism, which was granted. During 1911 the Committee lost E. Ladish, by resignation, and Leo Eliel, by death. The new members elected to the Committee were: B. L. Murray, F. R. Eldred, L. D. Havenhill and E. L. Newcomb.

During 1912, sixty-two monographs were published in the JOURNAL. The report of Chairman Beringer indicates that a large amount of work was in progress (see JOUR. A. PH. A., pp. 67, 161, 1104).

The report of Chairman Beringer in 1913 indicates that the work had slowed up, due to the fact that so many of the members of the Committee were actively engaged in U. S. P. and N. F. revision work. However, the Committee was still actively at work in the preparation of monographs for the N. F. and 46 monographs had been published in the JOUR. A. PH. A. (see pp. 248, 369, 519, 1074 and 1514).

In 1914, forty-four new monographs, prepared by the Committee, were published in the JOUR. A. PH. A. (see pp. 873 and 1597). The report of Chairman Beringer (see p. 1397) indicated very satisfactory progress in the work of the Committee.

In 1915, sixty-eight monographs, prepared by the Committee, were published in the JOUR. A. PH. A. (see pp. 632, 751, 1131 and 1378). The report of the Committee by Chairman Beringer is printed on p. 1255.

In 1916, seven new monographs, prepared by the Committee, were published in the JOUR. A. PH. A. (see p. 861). The extended report of Chairman Beringer will be found on p. 1276. Nearly 300 drugs have been considered by the Committee and 227 monographs have been published. Practically all of the monographs in Part II of the N. F. IV and eleven U. S. P. IX monographs represent the work of this Committee. About 30 monographs were published that were not made part of the N. F. nor U. S. P. He suggested that the standards prepared by the Committee should be submitted to the Committee on Standards of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists and of the several associations representing the wholesale drug trade and manufacturers of pharmaceuticals and chemicals so as to insure their acceptability and correctness as far as possible. The Council approved the motion that the monographs of drugs already prepared and that might be prepared in the future should be published in the JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION, so that when sufficient material has accumulated the monographs may be published as a book of standards under the control and authorization of the AMERI-

CAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. The Council reëlected the members of the Committee whose terms had expired (p. 128). Mr. Beringer was reëlected Chairman for the ninth time but, because of the pressure of other work, asked to be excused from serving again as Chairman. Dr. J. A. Koch was elected in his stead. Mr. Beringer's splendid work as chairman of this Committee and on the N. F. Committee was suitably recognized (p. 1285).

Chairman Koch's first report, in 1917, indicated that the work of the Committee had been continued, forty topics had been assigned and accepted for report by members of the Committee. The Chairman indicated that the Committee should now work on drugs and chemicals not contained in either the U. S. P. or N. F., thus coming back to the original purpose for which the Committee was formed (see JOUR. A. PH. A., p. 1101).

In 1918, Chairman Koch reported that owing to the present conditions due to the War, work on the formulation of standards had been much impeded. Standards for a considerable number of products were still under consideration (see p. 912) and for three products standards had been tentatively adopted.

In 1919, Chairman Koch stated that the work of the Committee had been practically at a standstill for the greater part of the past year. Monographs for two articles are included with the report.

In 1920 no report of the Committee is found in the JOURNAL, A. PH. A.

In February 1921, Dr. Koch resigned as Chairman and Dr. B. L. Murray was elected to the office by the Council in July 1921. Dr. Murray's report indicated one monograph completed and fourteen in progress of study (see JOUR. A. PH. A., p. 800).

In 1922, Chairman Murray reported that the Committee had brought no standards to completion during the year. Numerous standards were prepared in tentative form (p. 842).

In 1923 no report of the Committee is found in the index of the JOURNAL.

In 1924 the report of the Chairman indicated that no monographs had been prepared as the members of the Committee are still actively engaged in the revision of the U. S. P. and N. F. (p. 954).

In 1925 no report from the Committee is found. The appointment of this Committee is placed with the President of the ASSOCIATION by action of the Council, pp. 263–4. No report was made in 1926.

In 1927 (see JOUR. A. PH. A., p. 998) a short report by the Chairman indicated that the Committee is now ready to resume its activities which were for a time curtailed by the active revision work in connection with the Pharmacopœia and National Formulary. Coöperation with the botanical committees of the National Conference on Pharmaceutical Research was effected and the hope was expressed that greater efficiency would be obtained through such coöperation.

The 1928 report by Chairman Murray was submitted in Portland, Maine, and published in the JOURNAL in January 1929. It indicates that four monographs have been completed, three more are practically completed and twenty-six more are in the process of preparation.

FINANCES OF THE COMMITTEE.

From the reports of the Treasurer of the A. PH. A.

Year.	Appropriation.	Amount spent.	Year.	Appropriation.	Amount spent.
1908	....	....	1919	100.00	....
1909	100.00	121.23	1920	100.00	....
1910	150.00	104.20	1921	100.00	....
1911	300.00	218.38	1922	100.00	....
1912	300.00	87.97	1923	100.00	....
1913	300.00	42.98	1924	100.00	....
1914	300.00	135.41	1925	100.00	....
1915	100.00	61.14	1926	100.00	....
1916	100.00	30.92	1927	50.00	....
1917	100.00	32.53	1928	50.00	....
1918	100.00	....			

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.