

The program will be given by the students of the Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy, School of Pharmacy of the University of Pittsburgh. It will consist of the presentation of original essays prepared by the students upon subjects pertinent to pharmacy.

C. LEONARD O'CONNELL, *Chairman*,  
Committee on Arrangements.

#### UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON.

The annual dinner of the University of Washington Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION was given on February 27th at the American Legion Hall. The speaker of the evening was Dr. Horsfall, who talked on "The Relation Between the Doctor and Druggist." The annual pharmacy play, written by Miss Radford of the Chemistry Department for this occasion, was presented by students in Pharmacy. This play, entitled "Try the

Druggist First" was humorous though somewhat true. However, it is to be hoped that no one druggist was "tried" so many times in a single day. Music was furnished by the student orchestra. Other numbers on the program were tumbling, dancing and singing acts presented by local talent. One hundred and fifty were present at the dinner.

The March meeting was held March 7th, the early date being necessary because of coming quarter examinations. No formal program was offered. Election of officers took place with the following results:

*President*, Earl Guth; *Vice-President*, Einar Johnson; *Secretary*, H. A. Langenhan.

The Branch is looking forward to a talk from Dean Lyman of the University of Nebraska who will be the speaker for the April meeting.

H. A. LANGENHAN, *Secretary*.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

BULLETIN I—1928-29.

By E. N. GATHERCOAL, *Chairman*.

(Concluded from p. 416, April Issue.)

#### EXHIBIT "A."

*An address presented by Dr. J. H. Beal to the Council of the A. Ph. A. at the Hot Springs meeting, 1908—*

The present nation-wide movement for certainty of quality and honest labeling of products which by their nature are subject to adulteration and sophistication is not temporary or spasmodic, but is the result of the slow accumulation of sentiment during the past half century or more.

Originally limited principally to foods and drugs, its scope has been widened so as to include numerous technical products which have no relation to diet or medicine, and it is not likely to reach high tide until practically every article used in the arts or in the daily life of the community has been provided with an appropriate standard and bears a truthful label.

The selection and determination of practicable standards of strength and purity, and the adoption of an appropriate nomenclature to correspond thereto, is therefore quite as important a matter as the prohibition of adulteration and misbranding itself, and is in fact an essential part of such prohibition, and one of the most important topics just now engaging the attention of food and dairy officials.

For the commonly used drugs and medicinal chemicals we have the United States Pharmacopœia and the National Formulary, though both of these labor under the disadvantage of having been prepared primarily as professional guides rather than as legal standards, and being afterward adopted by the Federal Food and Drugs Act, do not always perfectly fit the task somewhat suddenly imposed upon them. So also there is in course of preparation what might be considered a third list of standards of medicinal chemicals, being those determined by the Council of Pharmacy and Materia Medica of the American Medical Association.

While these three authoritative works cover their respective fields in a fairly satisfactory manner, they leave uncovered the broader field which includes the substances used in the arts and technical industries and also a large number of drugs and drug combinations which, though

they have not attained the honor of recognition by any of the foregoing authorities, are yet important articles of daily drug commerce.

For all of this large number of substances there must and will be standards adopted, and it is a matter of prime importance to the industries concerned that the source from which these standards emanate should be fully competent to deal with the subject.

If their creation is left to the federal and state departments which are charged with the enforcement of the labeling and anti-adulteration laws, they will be created piece-meal, as the exigencies of the departments require, will be as numerous as the authorities creating them, and will be brought into interstate uniformity only after a long and painful struggle. They will frequently be determined by men who, however competent in their own lines of work, will have no technical knowledge of the manufacture and use of the articles for which they undertake to set the limits of strength and purity, as was the case during the past year, where a food and dairy chemist was called upon to establish, and did establish, the standards which were subsequently enacted as a part of a paint law.

So, also, if these standards have a political origin they will almost certainly, like the oleo-margarine standards, be tinctured with politics, and will almost always be composed with one prime object in view, namely, to convict the accused as easily and as speedily as possible.

Another source for the creation and promulgation of such a body of standards would be some great national association of sufficient dignity and influence to insure that its resolutions would be given respectful consideration by courts and law-making bodies.

It should be an association whose membership embraces representatives of every interest concerned with the production, distribution and use either in a commercial or scientific way of the substances with which such a system of standards must deal. It should be an association in which political influence cannot find place or support, and one which is wholly ethical in its purposes, but which follows practical rather than utopian ideals; in short, the inauguration of a system of nomenclature for products not covered by the existing recognized standards, and for the setting of the limits of strength and purity for such products, should be under the auspices of such a body as the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

The fitness of this association to inaugurate such an undertaking, and the importance of the work itself, are so palpably evident that to enlarge upon these topics seems superfluous.

As a tentative scheme for the inauguration of such a work, the following was offered.

*Resolved*, 1. There shall be a standing committee of the Council to be known as the Committee on Standards of Non-Official Drugs and Chemical Products, consisting of fifteen members elected by the council, but the members of such committee need not be members of the Council.

2. The first committee shall be constituted as follows: Two representatives from firms engaged in the manufacture of chemicals, two representatives from firms engaged in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals, two representatives in the wholesaling of drugs and chemicals, five retail druggists, and four representatives from the faculties of colleges of pharmacy.

3. The committee shall prepare from existing sources of information, a tentative list, subject to revision, correction and extension by this association of the principal drugs, chemicals and medicinal preparations not recognized by the United States Pharmacopœia, with a suitable system of nomenclature for the same, and shall adopt suitable limits of strength and purity therefor.

4. The Chairman of said committee shall be designated by the Council, and the committee shall report progress annually.

5. The committee first chosen shall serve for one year, and at the next annual meeting of the Council shall report upon a plan for the permanent organization of the committee, and also upon a plan for the permanent continuance of the work.

The resolutions were seconded by H. M. Whelpley and discussed by Messrs. Whelpley, England, Searby, Lemberger, Oldberg, Eberle and Eliel, and adopted.

A nominating committee consisting of Oscar Oldberg, Charles E. Caspari, Jr., and J. H. Beal, Chairman, at a later session of the Council presented the following nominees who were duly elected.



## A NEW SOURCE OF SODIUM LIGHT.

BY RUSSELL R. FREW.\*

In teaching a laboratory class in drug analysis, where the use of the polariscope and Abbé refractometer is almost continuous, it is necessary to have an economical as well as efficient source of sodium light. After trying all the available methods of producing the D ray including the usual polariscope sodium lamps and the method of passing illuminating gas through a hydrogen generator, producing hydrogen in the presence of sodium chloride by the action of hydrochloric acid on zinc, we came to the conclusion that none will give a continuous and equally intense flame for the necessary length of time.

This apparatus using ordinary "Dutch Cleanser" as the reagent was designed by the author to serve the aforesaid purposes in our laboratory. A piece of 10-mm. glass tubing was drawn to a small capillary at one end, sealed into the end of a piece of 25-mm. glass tubing, 70 cm. in length. The point of the capillary up in the large tube should be 4-5 cm. from the place of sealing. The upper end of the 25-mm. tube should be flanged to hold a rubber stopper. A right angle bend should be made in the 10-mm. tube after it has been sealed into the large tube as shown in the illustration. To this ordinary illuminating gas is then attached by means of rubber hose. Next bend a piece of 10-mm. glass tubing into an (L) and attach it to the flanged or upper end of the 25-mm. tube with a rubber stopper. A Bunsen burner with a wing-top is then attached to the lower end of the (L) by rubber hose. A Liebig condenser clamp holds the glass tube while a burette clamp holds the burner and permits its raising or lowering to correspond to the height of the polariscope.

Should one not be handy at glass-blowing this modification of the above could be successfully carried out. Instead of sealing the small tube into the large one, flange or fire polish both ends of the 25-mm. glass tube. In place of the small 10-mm. capillary tube, remove the rubber bulb from a straight medicine dropper and insert the glass barrel in a one-hole rubber stopper. Place the stopper and barrel of the medicine dropper in the lower end of the large tube and attach the rubber hose from the illuminating gas cock to the rubber bulb end of the dropper.

The amount of "Dutch Cleanser" to place in the large tube will vary with the amount of illuminating gas pressure at your disposal. We use a height of 6-7 cm. above the capillary point for our artificial gas. Should your gas pressure be low, the opening in the capillary should be large and the height of "Dutch Cleanser" decreased. If your gas pressure is very high the capillary opening should be very small and the layer of "Dutch Cleanser" increased. The ideal flame can be obtained only by trial under your own conditions.

The action is due to the gas agitating the powdered cleanser which becomes a spray and is carried over through the hot flame of the burner. "Dutch Cleanser" apparently has the necessary finely powdered sodium compounds to impart a distinct yellow color to the flame. The wing-top on the burner spreads the yellow flame over a greater area increasing greatly the intensity of the light.

In our laboratory we have a Duboscq-Pellin Polarimeter and Abbé-Spencer Refractometer which were both used by the students and myself almost continuously throughout the semester.



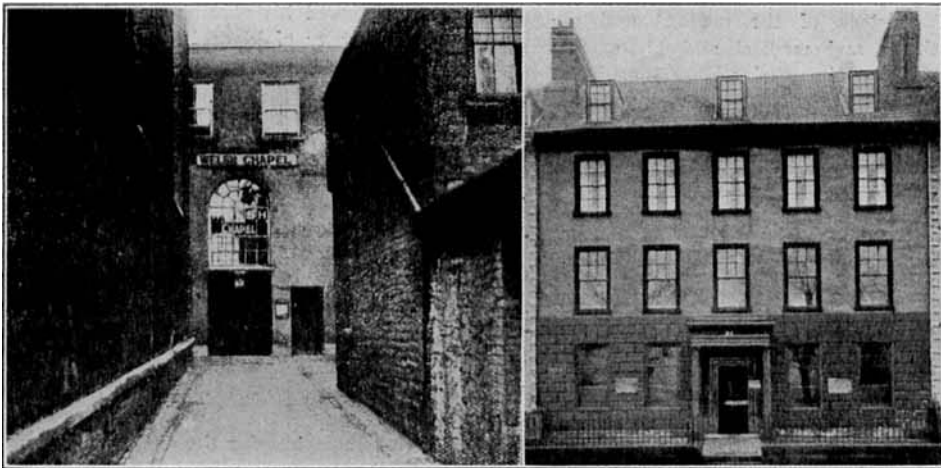
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Never once did we have to refill the above apparatus with "Dutch Cleanser" which shows that it can be run practically without cost.

#### JOHN WESLEY FORMULARY.

All of the readers know of John Wesley as the founder of Methodism, the missionary, the hymn-writer—it is said he traveled a quarter of a million miles, preached more than 40,000 sermons and published twenty-three collections of hymns and left a Journal of historical interest and literary value. Few, perhaps, know that John Wesley's "Primitive Physic" passed through more than thirty editions—the thirty-second was published a century ago. He also published "A Collection of Receipts for the Use of the Poor," the price of which was 2 pence. He said in his commendation of the formulas: "I suppose there are very few infallible medicines; but believe most of these which will follow will fail as seldom as any, and much more seldom than the costly ones in common use." He selected those which, in his opinion, were not only cheap but safe; he also revised many of the formulas, omitted others and introduced new ones of which he said, "have been but lately discovered; and several (although they have been long in use) I had never tried before." W. Hawes, Apothecary, reviewed Wesley's larger work under the title: "An Examination of the Rev. Mr. John Wesley's Primitive Physic." As a result of this criticism Wesley prepared another edition—the 20th; it should be stated that Hawes commended a number of Wesley's instructions in the edition reviewed by him, and later revisions showed many improvements. Thousands of copies of Wesley's work were sold and added in no small way to his fame.

Bristol, England, is entitled to the distinction as the "Birthplace of America," from its port, in 1497, John and Sebastian Cabot departed on their first voyage of discovery. Here John Wesley established the first Wesleyan Chapel, still standing in Broadmead; also, in Queen Square is the first American Consulate, opened September 1792.



Photograph by Courtesy of "Western Daily Press," Bristol

Left—John Wesley's Chapel, Broadmead. An exterior view of the first Wesleyan Chapel in the world. Right—37 Queen Square. First American Consulate. Opened September 1792.

The first American Consul was Elias Vanderhorst, a South Carolinian.

#### CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES FOR RAPID CITY MEETING.

At a recent Rapid City meeting, Local Secretary Brown appointed the following pharmacists as chairmen of various committees to aid him in carrying on the work of preparation for the pharmaceutical meetings: *Publicity*, R. L. Bronson; *Finance*, Richard Ottman; *Reception*, C. B. Baldwin; *Entertainment*, C. L. Doherty; *Women's Reception*, Mrs. Richard Ottman; *Program*, Dean E. R. Serles; *Hotels*, Charles Fallon; *Transportation*, Arthur Nielson.