

EDITORIAL

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THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH.

THE U. S. Public Health Service had its foundation in the act of July 16, 1798—"An act for the relief of sick and disabled seamen." Its functions have been greatly enlarged and broadened, so that now it includes the protection of the national health in the various divisions of its great work. Pharmacists have always been interested in this Service and from time to time some of them have rendered outstanding service. Among them may be mentioned Oscar Oldberg who was appointed for duty in the Bureau of the Marine Hospital Service, now the Public Health Service, wherein he was Medical Purveyor. Reference may also be made to Henrik Gahn, who was appointed first hospital steward in 1878, and served until the time of his death in 1923; during the latter thirty years of his life he was Assistant Medical Purveyor. In more recent years the late Martin I. Wilbert served as Assistant Pharmacologist and as one of the editors of "The Digest of Comments on the U. S. Pharmacopœia;" he was succeeded by A. G. DuMez. It is therefore a source of satisfaction that pharmacists have been given deservedly better recognition than ever before in Government Service by the provisions of the Parker Bill, which is now law and coördinates the Public Health activities and broadens them. The name of the Advisory Board for the Hygienic Laboratory has been changed to the National Advisory Health Council.

Following closely the enactment referred to the Ransdell Bill was passed and by its provisions the National Institute of Health was created, which will have the advantage of the traditions of the Hygienic Laboratory in its development. In reality the Hygienic Laboratory becomes a national institute of health which, with enlarged facilities, will be devoted to investigations of the underlying problems not only of communicable diseases, but of degenerative diseases and environmental conditions affecting health. The general purposes of the Institute are to provide larger facilities for investigations of diseases and other matters pertaining to Public Health; to encourage research and the training of individuals engaged therein. An outstanding provision enables the Government to accept bequests and to coöperate with scientific institutions in the furtherance of research work.

Public Health investigations by the Bureau were first authorized in 1901 and since then wonderful progress has been made, leading to discoveries of great value bearing on the prevention and control of diseases. The National Institute of Health may accept gifts to be used for purposes designated by the donors. These gifts may be for the establishment of fellowships, which will doubtless encourage and attract individuals of ability and a scientific bent, in the interest of humanity. Herein pharmacists have an opportunity for outstanding service.

In this connection it might be stated that not only has the Surgeon General expressed his favorable opinion relative to the important service of pharmacy

but Senator Ransdell has spoken in a related way; hence, aside from its interest in everything that promotes public health service the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION has been pleased to cooperate in the promotion of the measures commented on.

ORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE REVISION COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL FORMULARY VI.

THE National Formulary VI Revision Committee held its first meeting at the Westlake Hotel, Rocky River, Cleveland, Ohio, on June 30 and July 1, 1930. The following members of the Committee were present: E. N. Gathercoal, of Chicago, *Chairman*; Louis Saalbach, of Pittsburgh, *Vice-Chairman*; Adley B. Nichols, of Philadelphia, *Secretary*; H. V. Army of New York; Gustav Bachman, of Minneapolis; I. A. Becker, of Chicago; Bernard Fantus, of Chicago; O. A. Farwell, of Detroit; S. L. Hilton, of Washington; G. L. Jenkins, of Baltimore; H. A. Langenhan, of Seattle; W. L. Scoville, of Detroit; L. A. Seltzer, of Detroit. E. L. Newcomb, of New York, and Paul S. Pittenger, of Philadelphia, were unable to be present. Dr. E. Fullerton Cook, of Philadelphia, Chairman of the U. S. P. Revision Committee, and thus an associate member of the N. F. Committee, was present; also, Chairman J. C. Krantz, Jr., of Baltimore, of the Committee on Unofficial Standards.

The Committee was organized into the following sub-committees:

- 1.—Sub-committee on Pharmacognosy, *Chairman* E. L. Newcomb, Oliver A. Farwell.
- 2.—Sub-committee on Chemicals, *Chairman* Glenn L. Jenkins, H. V. Army, Gustav Bachman, H. A. Langenhan.
- 3.—Sub-committee on Solution Preparations, *Chairman* H. A. Langenhan, Gustav Bachman, I. A. Becker, Adley B. Nichols, Louis Saalbach, Bernard Fantus.
- 4.—Sub-committee on Extractive Preparations, *Chairman* Wilbur L. Scoville, Samuel L. Hilton, Louis Saalbach, H. A. Langenhan, Oliver A. Farwell.
- 5.—Sub-committee on Solid Preparations for Internal Use, *Chairman* I. A. Becker, Adley B. Nichols, Gustav Bachman, Wilbur L. Scoville.
- 6.—Sub-committee on External Preparations, *Chairman* Louis Saalbach, I. A. Becker, Adley B. Nichols, Leonard A. Seltzer, H. V. Army.
- 7.—Sub-committee on Miscellaneous Preparations, *Chairman* Leonard A. Seltzer, E. L. Newcomb, Samuel L. Hilton, Wilbur L. Scoville.
- 8.—Sub-committee on Posology and Biologic Items, *Chairman* Bernard Fantus, Paul S. Pittenger, Glenn L. Jenkins.
- 9.—Sub-committee on Nomenclature and Tables, *Chairman* H. V. Army, Bernard Fantus, Glenn L. Jenkins.

The Committee as a whole acts as the Committee on Scope, considering all admissions and deletions.

In addition to the foregoing, two auxiliary sub-committees were authorized: one on dental preparations, the other on veterinary preparations—the American Dental Association and the American Veterinary Medical Association being invited to appoint members from their respective organizations to work with the Committee in handling specific dental and veterinary items.

The Committee discussed scope and admission at length, and after an indecisive vote decided to present the matter of changing the policy on scope more fully in the *Bulletin of the Committee*, and decide the matter after consideration by mail. Professor E. Fullerton Cook, *Chairman* of the U. S. P. Committee on Revision, advocates the admission into the National Formulary of crude drugs

and chemicals which have considerable use, but which are not standardized in the United States Pharmacopœia nor employed in any of the galenicals of the National Formulary.

Item 2, as finally completed by the Committee, reads as follows: "2. *Policy for Admission*.—As the basis of admission to this Formulary is the use of the preparations by physicians, therapeutic value has not been the deciding factor. In admitting formulas, it is not the aim to provide imitations for proprietary or trademarked articles."

The Committee very carefully examined the extensive compilation of data obtained from hospital pharmacists, prescription pharmacists and retail druggists of the entire country, as to the extent of use of N. F. galenicals. Much credit is to be given to Editor Mayes of the *American Druggist* for his effort in reaching twenty thousand retail druggists by mail, to obtain the data on the use of N. F. galenicals in the retail drug stores of this country. The tentative list of deletions will be extensively published before final action is taken upon these deletions, and data on newer drugs and preparations will be acquired before the list of admissions is finally completed.

Each of the sub-committees has had opportunity for one or more meetings, in which plans have been laid for future work on the monographs.

This gathering of the National Formulary Committee affords splendid opportunity for acquaintanceship and social contacts among the members of the Committee. Dean Edward Spease and Professors Davy and Bacon of the School of Pharmacy of Western Reserve University entertained the Committee with an interesting trip on Wednesday morning, visiting some of the more important hospitals and prescription pharmacies of Cleveland, the School of Pharmacy and the botanical gardens of the college.—Adley B. Nichols, *Secretary*.

SURVEY AND STUDY OF DISTRIBUTION THROUGH DRUG STORE CHANNELS.

A CONFERENCE of the representatives of various associations was held in Washington, June 30th, at the Department of Commerce. Assistant Secretary Klein and Dr. Surface of the Department of Commerce, were present. Practically all industries and organizations contributing to drug-trade activities, professional and commercial, were represented. The names of the delegates and others in attendance, as far as we have them, were:

Charles E. Caspari, St. Louis; Carl A. Jones, Bristol, Va.; C. C. Merrell, Cincinnati; W. L. Crouse, Washington, D. C.; S. L. Hilton, Washington, D. C.; John G. Searle, Chicago, Ill.; W. S. Hays, Philadelphia; J. M. Drescher, St. Louis; A. W. Pauley, St. Louis; Junior Owens, Washington, D. C.; R. E. L. Williamson, Baltimore; W. L. Davis, New York City; Fred Rasmussen, Harrisburg, Pa.; Walter W. Hicks, Washington, D. C.; A. C. Taylor, Washington, D. C.; Robert L. Lund, St. Louis, Mo.; Julius H. Riemenschneider, Chicago; M. G. Gibbs, Washington, D. C.; C. F. E. Luce, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Lewis B. McIl-

henney, Philadelphia; L. L. Walton, Williamsport, Pa.; W. S. Hays, Philadelphia; Carl F. G. Meyer, St. Louis, Mo.; J. Otto Kohl, Cincinnati; James H. Howe, St. Louis, Mo.; A. D. Kunze, New York City; L. C. Blunt, Denver, Colo.; W. H. Lamont, St. Louis; E. F. Kelly, Baltimore.

The conference gave consideration to the advisability of requesting the Department of Commerce to make a survey and study of distribution through drug store channels. After a thorough discussion of the subject it was decided that the survey be made in St. Louis.

The resolutions passed and adopted unanimously expressed the sense of the conference that a survey and study should be made for the purpose of improving the methods practiced and policies in trade activities.

Resolutions relating to organization adopt the name of the organization as the "National Drug Store Survey Committee," and the objects expressed were to organize and carry out the survey and study the distribution through drug channels in cooperation with other industrial organizations and the U. S. Department of Commerce; also, that the Committee shall be made up of members appointed by national organizations, relating to the activities indicated and made up by one representative of each association.

An Executive Committee was provided for to act in the interim of meetings and also a Survey Committee to have charge of the survey to be made and Finance Committee to provide the funds necessary for the work.

A resolution was adopted asking the U. S. Department of Commerce to take charge of a survey.

The following officers were elected: *Chairman*, Robert L. Lund, St. Louis; *Vice-Chairman*, R. E. L. Williamson, Baltimore; *Secretary*, W. H. Lamont, St. Louis; *Treasurer*, Julius Riemenschneider, Chicago.

According to the tentative plan, the fundamental phases of the survey include five major classes of information, namely: 1.—Costs; 2.—Retail Prices and Store Management; 3.—Wholesale and Manufacturing Costs; 4.—Study of Credit Conditions and Causes of Business Failures; 5.—Market Survey.

In addition to the information which is to be gathered from about ten stores in St. Louis, including chain store units, it is planned to select one or more stores recognized as very high class and successful independent establishments, which will be studied as examples of good merchandising.

The intention is to find out a great many things about a few stores in one city rather than a few things about numerous stores scattered about the country. It is felt that the timing of the several parts of the study is essential. To a certain extent, and perhaps largely so, the line of survey followed in Louisville of the grocery stores, will serve the purpose in this survey. As stated, the proposed survey is to be strictly a study of merchandising, comprising analyses of cost and profit, elements of efficient operation and related factors. The research will be so directed as to supplement rather than duplicate related investigation in the field, such as those of the Druggists' Research Bureau and the National Census of Distribution. The study made in St. Louis will be applicable to other cities and serve a most useful purpose for the improvement of methods, practices and policies in the drug-trade activities.
