

loyalty of the members of the Association. All will doubtless agree with Prof. Day that the building should be located in a large city, reasonably convenient to the majority of the members, with good libraries and museums, and where facilities exist for printing and binding the publications of the Association; but which shall be the fortunate city—Philadelphia, Washington, D. C., Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Columbus, Nashville, Indianapolis, Chicago, Minneapolis or St. Louis?

There is no doubt as to the imperative need of the Association for permanent headquarters: Its headquarters now are wherever the General Secretary happens to reside. Under the able direction of General Secretary Beal, the work of the Association is growing rapidly, but the Association will never grow as it should until it has a plant of its own wherein it can carry on its work more efficiently than is possible under present conditions.

With the creation of the Commission on Proprietary Medicines by the Association at the Nashville (1913) Meeting the necessity of a research laboratory for the Association will become most apparent. While the work of the commission for the first year or two will be simply to gather facts, the time will come when the statements of facts obtained will have to be supplemented by laboratory experimentation.

Furthermore, the Year Book, containing the Report on the Progress of Pharmacy, could be greatly enhanced in value if supplemented by original research work in the laboratories of the Association, and such laboratories could be utilized, also, for the preparation or investigation of data for the Committee on U. S. Pharmacopoeia, the committee on National Formulary, and the Committee on Unofficial Standards of the Association.

In addition, the marked success of the Journal of the Association emphasizes the great need of headquarters in which the printing work of the Association can be more systematically and economically handled.

The Association will never exert that degree of influence it can and should have in the furtherance of the object for which it stands until it has permanent headquarters; and it is urged upon every one interested in American Pharmacy to give this subject his earnest, constructive thought to the end that the way may be found to provide the needed facilities and advance the interests of our profession, a profession which, in the importance of its service to humanity, stands second to none, not even to the sister profession of medicine.

THE A. PH. A. COMMISSION ON PROPRIETARY MEDICINES.*

CHARLES E. VANDERKLEED.

On August 19, 1913, at the second general session of the American Pharmaceutical Association at Nashville, the report of the minutes of the Council announced that this body had decided to appoint a commission on proprietary medicines, the commission to consist of five members appointed for terms of from one to five years. and subsequently for five years each. As I am not a

* Read before the Philadelphia Branch, Oct. 17, 1913

member of the Council, I am unable to throw any light upon the discussion and arguments which led up to the adoption of this action.

The duties of the proposed commission were outlined as follows:

1, to inquire into and to report to the Council upon the general subject of proprietary medicines in its relation to pharmacy, medicine and the public health.

2, to inquire whether any of the preparations popularly known as "patent medicines" contain alcohol or narcotic drugs to such an extent as to create a habit in the user or satisfy a habit otherwise created.

3, to inquire to what extent, if any, the commonly advertised proprietary medicines contain potent drugs in sufficient quantity to make the preparations dangerous in the hands of the laity.

4, to inquire to what extent the popularly known proprietaries are fraudulently advertised or differ in origin or composition from the claims made for them and as to the extent to which any are advertised for the cure of diseases generally recognized by the medical profession as incurable.

The action of the Council was approved by the Association with the understanding that the commission must submit its reports for the approval of the Council or the Association before any of its actions would be deemed to be representative.

At a subsequent session of the Association on August 23d, the Council announced the personnel of the new commission on proprietary medicines as follows:

J. H. Beal, Scio, Ohio, Chairman.
T. F. Main, New York.
M. I. Wilbert, Washington.
J. C. Wallace, New Castle, Pa.
Chas. Caspari, Jr., Baltimore.

This is the whole story so far as what has actually occurred is concerned. It is hardly fair to the commission to comment on the work which they are instructed to do, before they have had an opportunity to study the situation and to make their first report. It is obvious, however, that they have been assigned a task of enormous proportions. To inquire into and report to the Council upon the general subject of proprietary medicines in its relation to pharmacy, medicine and the public health is a task which could be approached from many angles. The personnel of this committee headed by our capable and fair-minded General Secretary, Dr. Beal, is such as to insure a comprehensive and unprejudiced report. When it comes to the question of determining whether a preparation, whether popularly known as "patent medicine" or not, contains sufficient alcohol or narcotic drugs to create a habit or satisfy a habit otherwise created, the difficulties ahead of the commission loom up very large indeed. I am of the opinion that such questions as this would better be left to the medical profession to settle, although the task would probably prove just as stupendous to them.

In the same category would I place the instruction to determine what commonly advertised proprietary medicines contain potent drugs in sufficient quan-

tity to make the preparation dangerous in the hands of the laity. This is a question which is eminently one for the medical profession to determine, but I doubt whether any commission of medical men could be found to agree upon a report.

When we come to the fourth instruction, we find more specific directions for carrying out a line of work similar to that already being done by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association. To the extent that the work of this commission can be made to supplement and aid the work of the Council, it will undoubtedly be helpful. It is sincerely to be hoped that the new commission and the Council will be able to make arrangements whereby their work will be harmonious and so that they may help each other, avoiding unnecessary duplications.

In conclusion, I would call your attention to the fact that Dr. F. E. Stewart last year proposed before this branch just such cooperation between the A. M. A. and the A. Ph. A. as is in part at least contemplated here.

THE MINNEAPOLIS MEETING OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.*

F. E. STEWART, M. D.

The time limit necessarily imposed by the length of our program makes it impossible for me to report even in general terms, the proceedings of the American Medical Association, of interest to pharmacists, which transpired during the recent annual meeting at Minneapolis. It is assumed that most of the work done by the Association of interest to pharmacists occurs in the Section of Pharmacology and Therapeutics. However, reference to the proceedings of other sections shows that much was done at the last meeting worthy of consideration by pharmacists, in addition to the work of the section on Pharmacology.

Our friend Wilbert generally succeeds in saying something worth listening to. What he said about the carelessness of the retail druggists had a very bitter flavor. We are so accustomed to taking our medicine in pleasant forms that the old-fashioned medicinal preparations which our fathers regarded of therapeutic value just in proportion to their disagreeable nature are not longer in vogue. Therefore, when friend Wilbert undertook to administer bitter medicine which he believed would prove of therapeutic value in the cure of many complaints with which modern pharmacy is afflicted, Professor Remington, in particular, objected seriously to the dose, and manifested his disapproval by a most vigorous protest.

I have not time to comment upon Mr. Wilbert's paper, but I would advise pharmacists generally to read it. Those pharmacists who are in the habit of being exceedingly accurate in their methods will be horrified on reading Mr. Wilbert's statements, and will wonder if he is correct or careless in what he

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