N. F. No.

148 Thea. Circulars, pp. 233, 249, 280, 318.
Thuja. J. A. Ph. A. 1912, p. 258.
Tonka. Circulars, pp. 234, 249, 318.
Trifolium.
Trillium.
552 Turpeth Mineral.
174 Urtica.
427 White Pine Bark. J. A. Ph. A. 1912, p. 258.
Venice Turpentine. Circulars, pp. 234, 279, 318.
376 Verbascum.
176 Verbena.
323 444 477 White Agaric.
496 White Ash Bark.
499 Wine, Angelica.
Wine, Port. Circulars, p. 295.
171 Xanthoxylum Berries.
193 Yeast.
323 441 444 447 Zedoary.
Zinc Peroxide. J. A. Ph. A. 1912, p. 258.

POINTS OF CONTACT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES PHARMACOPŒIA AND THE NATIONAL FORMULARY.

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The enactment of the Federal Food and Drugs Act which recognized the United States Pharmacopœia and the National Formulary as the authorities for medicinal standards, established a relationship between these two books which cannot be ignored.

The U. S. P., prior to this time, had been accepted in a half-hearted way as the standard for strength and purity of medicinal substances, and the enforcement of its requirements was rather through moral than legal means.

On the other hand the National Formulary had been created as an aid and convenience to the practicing pharmacist and physician and with little thought of its becoming a legal standard.

At the time of the passage of the National law the position of the two books was well defined; each occupied its place and with no thought of rivalry.

The U. S. P. was acknowledged by all to have the right to select the best drugs, chemicals and preparations which were available and when this selection had been made the N. F. Committee went over the remaining field and endeavored to unify those preparations which were used more or less popularly by both physicians and laymen but which had not been considered of sufficient importance to occupy a place in the Pharmacopœia.

The ground covered by the National Formulary was of acknowledged importance and for years the book has fulfilled this mission.

However, with its recognition under the Food and Drugs Act, as a legal standard, new importance has attached itself to the Formulary and its position has been somewhat changed. It yet retains a secondary place as compared with the Pharmacopœia and rightly so, but the secondary place consists only in the im-

portance of the articles recognized and not in the character of treatment which they are given in the text.

The formulas, standards and requirements laid down in the National Formulary for the Fourth Edition should be as carefully selected and as accurately prepared as those entering the U. S. Pharmacopœia since they will be subject to the same likelihood of a test before the courts.

As both the U. S. P. and the N. F. are authorities under the Food and Drugs Act, great care must be used to avoid conflicting statements in the two books. Formulas for preparations having the same title should not be admitted to both books. Methods of procedure as outlined in General Chapters, such as methods for making Fluidextracts and Extracts, Sterilization procedures, etc., or Introductory Notices, containing methods for taking physical constants, weight and measure standards, etc., etc., should be in accord. Tests of the same character should be made to harmonize, assay processes for drugs and preparations should be similar, etc.

It can be seen from the lists of admissions and deletions of the U. S. Pharmacopœia, which so far have been published, that the proposed admissions to the N. F. IV, presented by the N. F. Revision Committee at the Boston meeting, should be somewhat altered if the two books are to avoid this undesirable duplication. For instance, in the N. F. IV list of formulas we find Magma Magnesiae and Magma Bismuthi, both these having been admitted to the U. S. P. IX.

Among the Drugs and Chemicals of the N. F. IV list we find: Calcium Glycerophosphate, Calcium Lactate, Condurango, Diastase, Hydrastine Hydrochloride, Phenolphthalein and Sodium Glycerophosphate, all of which have been admitted to the new Pharmacopœia.

A study of the published list of deletions from the U. S. P. VIII also indicates that the N. F. has before it the necessity of introducing a number of additional formulas, drugs and chemicals if it is to fulfill its mission, i. e., to establish standards for those medicinal substances which are used but which the U. S. P. does not consider it wise to include.

In this list of deletions, as originally published, were 154 articles. Many of these are largely used and those of merit should be given recognition by the National Formulary, without loss of time, so that an official standard is maintained.

It must also be recognized by the Association that the N. F., being a book of standards under the law, must include tests in the new edition. The present Revision Committee is endeavoring, through the cooperation of the Unofficial Standards Committee of this Association, to provide adequate standards and tests for preparations, where necessary, and also for drugs and chemicals not recognized by the U. S. P., but which are used in the formulas.

If the statements just made are justified and in the best interests of both the U. S. Pharmacopœia and the National Formulary there is a natural conclusion that to bring about this condition the two National Standards should be revised simultaneously and should be published and made official at the same time.

This would make possible a number of desirable conditions:

First. A fifth edition of the National Formulary would not be required immediately, a necessity which would cause much dissatisfaction among purchasers

of the fourth edition, because of extra cost; among manufacturers of preparations because of stock and labels; among pharmacists, physicians, students, teachers and members of pharmacy boards because of new standards to learn, etc., etc.

Second. Legal complications would be avoided by having all standards and tests in harmony and no duplicate formulas. Also if it becomes necessary to pass new legislation to establish the new Revisions as the legal standards, the procedure will be simplified if both books can be acted upon at the same time.

Third. Ample time will be afforded for a satisfactory completion of the standards and tests being prepared by the Unofficial Standards Committee, a feature of the new edition which will have much to do with its acceptance in future legislation.

I therefore hope that this session of the committees on U. S. P. and N. F. of the A. Ph. A. will approve of the harmonizing of requirements and tests, entering the N. F. IV, with those of the U. S. P. IX; the elimination of duplicate formulas and standards and the publication of the National Formulary IV simultaneously with that of the U. S. P. IX, and also that the Association will ratify this plan at this meeting.

HOLD ON TO WHAT YOU HAVE.

Any master carpenter can build a house with the help of his assistants and turn it over to the owner; can the owner keep it in repair? Any master plumber can install a plumbing system in this house; can the owner find the cause and mend the leaks? Any licensed druggist can open a drug store and if he has good credit obtain stock and supplies from wholesale houses and manufacturers; but can he run his business at a profit to himself and to his customers? He cannot unless he knows his house or business intimately and knows where the defects are. Every man who has a home of his own knows the smooth running of that home and its domestic happiness depends upon the infinite care taken with little details and the attention paid to little things, trifles to outsiders, but all important to the comfort, peace and happiness of the home. So it is with the drug store; it is the little things that count, not the occasional big things. One can receive and recover from a quick knife thrust, but who of us can stand the constant pricking of a pin; it may not be deadly to the body but it is to the mind and temper.

So it is with the little things of business; it is the neglect of little things that has wrecked many a seemingly profitable venture, and of all business men the druggist should pay attention to little things. There is so much opportunity for waste in the drug store, so many ways by which a little carelessness or neglect can cause loss of real money that the first article of the creed of every druggist should be, "Take care of the little things lest the little things neglected bring care to you."—*American Druggist.*