

Of General Interest

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS OF ME- DICINAL PRODUCTS.

THOS. F. MAIN, PH. G., NEW YORK, N. Y.

The first annual convention of the National Association of Manufacturers of Medicinal Products was held in the state apartments of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York City, February 11 and 12, 1913.

President Frank G. Ryan, after calling the meeting to order, accorded the privileges of the floor to delegates from sister associations, when Frank E. Holliday, General Representative of the National Wholesale Druggists' Association; Henry W. Merritt, President of the National Association of Retail Druggists; Thos. F. Main, Honorary President of the American Pharmaceutical Association, and Dr. W. C. Abbott, of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Chemists, presented greetings from their respective associations, with cordial good wishes that the meeting might be a most successful one and that the Associations might work in unison to solve problems of common interest to the drug trade.

In President Ryan's admirable address he stated that the first year of the Association abundantly proved that it had a great field for work and could become of immense value not only to its own members, but to all branches of the trade; he noted the necessity for securing state laws which conform to the Federal law, making the Federal law the standard for all; that it should be part of the work of the Association to supply proper data upon which laws can be formulated, legislators generally welcoming real information of an unbiased character; it should be the aim not only to oppose laws inimical but to suggest methods by which the interests of all may be properly conserved; he believed that officers delegated to carry laws into effect should confine their efforts to enforcing the laws as written and approved by legislative bodies, being careful not to encroach on the law-making power.

The reports of the officers and committees were of a very high order; the reports of Secretary, Committee on Legislation, and the delegates to National Drug Trades Conference, taken as a whole, form a valuable resume as to the enormous amount of legislation affecting the drug trade attempted during the past year, and gave special attention and prominence to the preamble and resolutions passed by the National Drug Trades Conference (called together by the American Pharmaceutical Association) on uniform State and Federal laws and to its admirable work in preparing a substitute for the Harrison Anti-Narcotic bill, which was accepted by Congressman Harrison and introduced into congress as H. R. 28277, which if passed will save the drug trade of the country at least \$1,500,000 a year, while it is entirely in accord with the aim and purpose of the proposed legislation.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Urging the postoffice department to increase from 12 to 16 ounces the quantity of liquids that may be sent by mail.

Approving of one-cent letter postage.

Ordering the Executive Committee to give consideration to imitations of labels and trade marks, with particular reference to imitations originating in foreign countries.

Requesting the Bureau of Weights and Measures of New York state to interpret their regulations as to tolerances, to the definition based upon an interpretation of statement of net weight, measure, or amount, as meaning "not less than a minimum quantity."

Protesting against the admission free of duty of medicines, surgical instruments, and appliances for use of hospitals which receive pay for any services in the treatment of patients.

Recommending the Executive Committee to take up with the authorities at Washington the subject of imposition of rectifiers' tax on manufacturers who recover alcohol from exhausted drugs.

Providing for a special committee to report on "suitable containers" in their relation to

deterioration of medicinal and pharmaceutical products.

Urging upon the United States postoffice department the issuance of an order extending special delivery service to parcel post packages.

That any legislation restricting interstate commerce in narcotic drugs should make no discrimination on the basis of dosage between liquid and solid forms of medicines.

The Association also adopted a minute reaffirming its attitude on the subject of anti-narcotic legislation as expressed at its initial meeting; it approved the action of its delegates to the National Drug Trades Conference in cooperating to eliminate objectionable features from the Harrison anti-narcotic bill, which resulted in the amended bill H. R. 28277, and in the event of this bill not becoming a law, instructed its delegates to the conference to cooperate in securing a just and reasonable measure.

The officers for the past year were unanimously elected to serve a second term: President, Frank G. Ryan, of Parke-Davis & Co.; Vice-President, Alolph G. Rosengarten, of Powers-Weightman-Rosengarten Co.; Treasurer, Dr. Henry C. Lovis, of Seabury & Johnson; Secretary, Charles M. Woodruff. Executive Committee, Dr. Alfred R. L. Dohme, of Sharp & Dohme; Charles J. Lynn, of Eli Lilly & Co.

At the banquet following the close of the meeting, Clarence O. Bigelow, President of the New York Branch, represented the American Pharmaceutical Association; the special guests of the evening were Professor Joseph P. Remington, who spoke upon the progress of the revision of the United States Pharmacopoeia, and Dr. Carl L. Alsberg, the newly appointed chief of the Bureau of Chemistry of the United States Department of Agriculture, whose remarks, as being his first public address since his appointment, were listened to with great interest. Caswell A. Mayo spoke for the pharmaceutical press.

Doctor Alsberg's personality and his moderately conservative speech favorably impressed his hearers and it is safe to say that he enters office with the best wishes of the entire drug trade, coupled with the hope that he may be able to enforce the National Pure Food and Drugs Act uninfluenced by the theories of fanatics or the schemes of the self-interested.

POLICY OF THE BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY IN ENFORCING THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.¹

CARL L. ALSBERG, CHIEF OF THE BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY.

I am particularly glad to make this, my first public statement of policy, before you gentlemen because I believe that the Bureau of Chemistry has no more important task than the problem of dealing with drugs and medicinal preparations. The brevity of my tenure of office renders what I am about to present to you, I regret to say, merely an outline of the principles by which the Bureau of Chemistry is to be guided. I would far prefer at this time to make no statement at all, but to wait and let the work of the Bureau speak for itself. As it is, I feel like a man who is "kiting" a check. I hope that the checks which in behalf of the Bureau I am about to make out to the order of the people may be amply covered before they are presented for payment. I realize fully that this will be no easy task.

In addressing an audience such as this, I feel that much that I would say to other industries would be out of place here. To most branches of the food industry, for example, I would say that the Bureau hopes to cooperate with them in placing their processes upon a scientific basis, in eliminating waste, and in utilizing by-products to the best advantage. I would say that the Bureau hopes to do for them what other bureaus of the Department of Agriculture are doing for the farmer. Great benefit to the consumer must result from such a source. To say such things to you would be almost an impertinence, because, if I am correctly informed, you gentlemen are fully awake to the value of science and research in practical manufactures. Most of you employ a large staff of chemists and other experts, and practically all of you are constantly conducting investigations designed to perfect your output, to cut down the cost of production, to improve existing products or to create new ones for the benefit of mankind, as well as of yourselves. Many of you realize that the time

¹An address delivered before the National Association of Manufacturers of Medicinal Products, Feb. 12, 1913.

has come for the cooperation of the medical investigator and the manufacturer of remedial agents. It may be that there are some who fear that such cooperation will commercialize the medical profession. I am not one of them. It has been amply shown that the solution of many therapeutic problems may be largely a matter of money. It often takes tremendous resources to carry such a work to a successful issue. Few private investigators and few institutions command them. Here manufacturers may and do step in to help the investigator. As you all know, some of the greatest therapeutic advances of recent years, notably Paul Ehrlich's salvarsan, or 606, and the coal tar products, would have been impossible except for such cooperation. The fact that the manufacturer offers his help as a speculation by which he hopes to gain does not alter the fact that the net result may be of immense benefit to mankind.

While, therefore, I wish to assure you that the Bureau stands ready to cooperate with your Association, because such cooperation is to the best interest of all, we feel that you have learned the lesson of the application of science to practical things so thoroughly that only in the exceptional instance do you need a helping hand.

There is, however, a different field which is crying for cooperation between you gentlemen and the interests allied with you and the government. This is the matter of the control and regulation of the handling and sale of drugs and their preparations, particularly patent medicines and the narcotics. I know that in appealing to you on this subject I am entering debatable land. But this the Bureau has to do sooner or later, and I am of the opinion that it can not begin too soon.

The eyes of the people have, in the past, centered upon the Department's struggle for pure foods. The work of the Department has, I think you will all admit, been very successful in improving the quality of our foods and preventing the grave forms of fraud and adulteration. We realize fully that much remains to be done, but public confidence has been won; and precedents have been created. No backward step will be taken. There will be no let-up in the enforcement of the Pure Food and Drugs Act. If at any time we seem to accomplish less than appears to you possible, I trust you will realize

that under the law our powers are limited; that we have no control over local conditions, and that we can control such local conditions only indirectly through our influence on imports and on interstate commerce. Conditions throughout the Union will be right only when each and every state passes, and enforces, adequate food laws; and when these laws have been unified and harmonized with those of the federal government. I hope that the consumers in every state where such laws are inadequate or laxly enforced, will bring such pressure to bear that these local conditions, over which the Bureau has no control, will be remedied.

While the efforts of the Department of Agriculture, in so far as the control of the food products over which it has jurisdiction is concerned, have been attended with considerable success, this has been true to a less degree with drugs and medicines. The fault has been in part with unforeseen loopholes in the law. I do not wish to imply that nothing has been accomplished. On the contrary, as you are well aware, through the great powers over imports vested in the Secretary of the Treasury, the Department of Agriculture has succeeded in keeping out of the country all crude drugs of an inferior quality.

The benefit to medicine and pharmacy has been immense. To accomplish this end is a very simple matter, because the Secretary of the Treasury has absolute power to exclude from the country any drug which may be in violation of law or is deemed injurious to the health of the people of the United States. These treasury decisions are based upon reports by the Secretary of Agriculture, of findings made by the Bureau of Chemistry.

These powers of the Secretary of the Treasury have been exercised not only over crude drugs and medicinal preparations, but also over so-called patent medicines whenever these made claims upon the label of curative powers which were false or misleading in any particular. Such quack medicines defraud those suffering from the pernicious activity of their imagination. They do incalculable harm to the misguided sick who grasp at the false hopes they hold out. The Secretary of the Treasury, on the recommendation of the Department of Agriculture, is excluding all such undesirable aliens. If we must suffer from and be mulcted by the proprietors of nostrums we may now have at least the poor comfort of knowing that

we suffer injury at the hands of our own people and that we keep in the land the money we pay to boot. No legislative tariff wall could more effectively protect the home industry. I regard it as the most important immediate duty of the Bureau to curb a traffic between the states in worthless nostrums.

It is true that the foreign nostrum which is excluded today because of the extravagant claims on the package may be admitted tomorrow if the label has been purged of these objectionable features. Nevertheless the effect is most excellent for a quack medicine which makes no extravagant claim on the package must, in order to find a large sale, make such claims in its advertisements in the press. This most of the alien nostrums apparently find impractical to do, so that the action taken by the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Treasury is very generally effective in protecting the people from alien frauds.

It is far different with the domestic nostrums. Because the domestic manufacturer knows how to advertise, no existing Federal law can adequately protect the people. The Sherley Act will, we hope, enable us to compel the removal of all false and fraudulent matter from the package. It will, we hope, enable us to compel the removal from the package of all therapeutic claims that can not be substantiated. We are confident that in spite of reams of testimonials these claims will shrink into insignificance in the vast majority of cases. But even if we succeed in this, and we shall leave no stone unturned, the beneficial effect will be more apparent than real. The Sherley Act is at best only a partial protection. It gives the Department of Agriculture power to regulate the labels of these nostrums, but not their advertising. This has, to some degree, been controlled through the Post Office Department. As long as our press continues to print the advertisements of nostrums, ways and means will be found to hawk them about the country. Several such ingenious schemes have already been put into practice.

Gloomy as the outlook seems, there is yet a ray of hope. It is the attitude of a small but powerful portion of the press itself, which has voluntarily scoured its advertising columns till they contain only clean and honest matter. The movement is spreading. Let us hope that its progress will be so rapid that

it will make legislative control of advertising unnecessary.

That public sentiment and a sense of justice and public service induce individuals to sacrifice their own self-interest, is one of the hopeful signs of the times. It gives one a thrill to realize that this spirit is not peculiar to the press which one expects to fashion the country's ideals, but that it is to be found everywhere. It has been exemplified in a most striking way by one of the largest concerns of the country, which has announced that it will no longer deal in patent medicines. It has substituted non-secret preparations of recognized merit. Let us hope that others will follow the trail thus blazed. I am proud to say that the chemist of this concern, who, I am told, was probably involved in this pioneer reform was formerly a scientist in the Bureau of Chemistry.

Even if we succeed in protecting the people from quack medicines, a great task remains. This is to protect them from habit-forming drugs, such as opium and cocaine. We all know their sad effects. We all are agreed that something must be done to control their sale and distribution. The only differences of opinion concern the best means of accomplishing this end. Since it is often stated, without serious contradiction, that only one-third of the cocaine which is imported is used for legitimate therapeutic purposes, all must agree that the situation demands drastic measures. Without the help of the Federal Government, no reforms can be introduced because the States by themselves can not control the supply. As long as State officials have no means of ascertaining how much opium and cocaine is being shipped into a State and to whom it is consigned, it is evident that they are powerless to limit these and similar drugs to their legitimate uses. If these drugs were produced in this country, it would be exceedingly difficult to keep track of and to trace the supply. The situation would be analogous to that of moonshine whiskey. It would require an expensive police force to control the supply of these drugs and it is doubtful whether this control could ever be made efficient. Fortunately the situation is not so difficult. Virtually all our supply of these drugs is imported. It is, therefore, feasible if the State and Federal Governments cooperate to keep an accurate record of the fate of all of each consignment imported

through the wholesaler and jobber down to the pharmacist, physician, dentist and veterinarian. If the Federal Government does its share, State officials by an examination of Federal records will be able to learn what quantities of narcotics are coming into the State and to whom they are consigned. Each State will then be in a position to control these scourges of our peoples. If it fail to do so it must shoulder the responsibility.

The Federal Government can bring this about by virtue either of its taxing power or by virtue of its control over interstate and foreign commerce. The Harrison Bill now pending before Congress is based on the taxing power, proposing as it does that each handler of these drugs must be licensed by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. To me it seems a step in the right direction. Should it fail to pass or should it prove ineffective it is certain to result in far more drastic measures. This evil must be stamped out. I propose to use every lawful means at the command of the Bureau of Chemistry to accomplish this end.

Gentlemen, that is in essence what I have to say tonight. I know that I have told you nothing new. If I am in error in any particular, I stand ready to be set right. My excuse for telling you an old story is that I could not otherwise make clear to you my attitude on certain matters which are vital to us all. I wish to have a clear understanding with you. I hope that now we understand each other and that, therefore, we can grasp hands across the table and pledge each other to work together for the common good.



ADDRESS OF THOS. F. MAIN TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS OF MEDICINAL PRODUCTS.

Mr. President and Members of the National Association of Manufacturers of Medicinal Products:

I deem it both a pleasure and a privilege to be delegated by President William B. Day of the American Pharmaceutical Association, which is the oldest Society of the drug trade that is national in its character, to bring its greetings to your Association of Manufacturers of Medicinal Preparations, which I am

informed is the youngest national organization of our trade.

History seems to establish the fact that the manufacture of medicinal chemicals and pharmaceuticals in the United States was largely stimulated by some research work done by a young student at the College of Pharmacy of the City of New York in 1846, who discovered that a large percentage of the chemicals and pharmaceuticals then imported, and for the supply of which the trade relied on European manufacturers, was grossly adulterated. This discovery of Ewen McIntyre, for that was the name of the young student, resulted first, in the passing by Congress in that year of a law which required all imported drugs to conform to certain general standards of purity, and second—to the founding in 1852 of the Society I have the honor now to represent, The American Pharmaceutical Association, the aim of which as stated in its constitution, being:

"To unite the educated and reputable pharmacists and druggists of America, in securing—the improvement and regulation of the drug market by preventing the importation of inferior adulterated drugs"—to improve the science and art of pharmacy by diffusing scientific knowledge,—“by fostering pharmaceutical literature, developing talent, stimulating discovery and invention,” and—mark this, gentlemen—*by encouraging home production and manufacture in the several departments of the drug business.*”

That home production and manufacture have been encouraged in the sixty-one years that have elapsed since the American Pharmaceutical Association was founded, the formation of your own Association is an eloquent witness, and at this time it is safe to say that our makers of medicinal chemicals turn out goods equal to the world's best products and that in the manufacture of elegant and standardized pharmaceuticals our laboratories practically lead the world.

Gentlemen, the young student of 1846 to whose research work the passage of the national drug law of that year, and the formation of the Society I represent was largely due, passed into the higher life a few weeks since, honored and respected by his associates in our Society of which he had been a member for forty years, by the pharmacists of the United States, and by all

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
BOARDS OF PHARMACY.

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

WM. MITTELBACH, BOONVILLE, MO.

who were privileged to know him in this city of his adoption. What a marvelous development in all branches of industry and manufacture occurred during his lifetime, and in this development the manufacture of medicinal chemicals and fine pharmaceuticals did not lag behind.

In the evolution of the manufacturing industries in the United States, it was inevitable, that the economy and ready standardization secured by manufacturing drug products on a large scale, would relegate to the splendidly equipped and manned laboratories of the present day, the manufacture of concentrated medicines of large use, as well as those demanding a high degree of technical skill, or special apparatus to manufacture; and it was also inevitable that in a manufacture the products of which have so much to do with the prevention and cure of disease, the mitigation of suffering and the preservation of human life, the highest standards must be maintained, and that no mistaken notions of a manufacturer, rivalries between manufacturers, no distrust or jealousies, no customs not in accord with sound business principles, can be allowed to interfere with the highest standards of excellence in all drug products.

And so, gentlemen, I believe that your Association came by evolution in due process of time, many of your members are members of my own Association; they know that in union there is strength, and it is eminently fitting that your Association and ours should stand together in work for the promotion of the best interests of Pharmacy and Medicine, and in creating and maintaining a standard of professional honesty equal to the amount of our professional knowledge, with a view to the highest good and greatest protection to the great American people of which we are a part and which it is our privilege and our duty alike to serve.

The American Pharmaceutical Association extends to your Association as a body its best wishes that you may have a most successful meeting, and invites your individual members who are not already connected with our Association, to join us, ours being the one Association in which all people connected with the drug trade, whether they are teachers, theorists, pharmacists, jobbers, manufacturers, or importers, meet on a common level, secure a common view point, and are thus better enabled to work together for the common good of all the people.

To start in operation the Dodds resolution on reciprocal registration, which was adopted at the Denver meeting, the Executive Committee of the Association deemed it best that a meeting of the committee be held at some central point. Chairman T. A. Miller, of Richmond, Va., thereupon called the same to be held at St. Louis, Feb. 4, 1913.

Promptly at the appointed hour and place, every member of the committee—T. A. Miller, of Richmond, Va.; J. C. Burton, of Stroud, Okla.; Charles E. Zinn, of Kansas City, Mo.; A. F. Sala, of Winchester, Ind., and Wm. Mittelbach, of Boonville, Mo., were on hand and the work taken up.

The meeting was held at the Planters hotel in one of the parlors. As invited guests, Burton Cassiday, of Terre Haute, Ind., president of the Interstate Association; H. G. Ruenzel, of Milwaukee, Wis., president of the Wisconsin board; Chas. Gietner, member of the Missouri board, and Dr. H. M. Whelpley, editor of Meyer Brothers Druggist, were on hand and entered freely into the discussion of the subjects presented. After an all-day consideration, it was unanimously agreed to push the subject matter to a successful issue as outlined in the Dodds resolution.

Secretary A. F. Sala was instructed to prepare articles of agreement embodying the several principles and conditions of the resolution and circulate them among the active members of the Association for their endorsement and signature.

The \$5 National fee which is being objected to by two or three members of the Association, was carefully weighed and considered and finally fully approved by the Committee. Secretary Sala stated that about 40 applications for reciprocal registration had passed through his hands since the Denver meeting, and not one objected to paying the fee; showing conclusively that those desiring to take advantage of the arrangement, were willing to contribute toward effecting the same.

The Advisory Committee as created under the Dodds Resolution was elected at this meeting, and consists of Charles Gietner of

St. Louis, H. C. Christensen of Chicago, and E. B. Brandis of Richmond, Va. These men have ample time to visit the several Boards and lend their efforts towards harmonizing the work.

The Executive Committee believes that through this Advisory Committee good progress will have been made when the National Association meets at Nashville in August, and that reciprocity between the several Boards will be more nearly realized than obtains at present. This is a big undertaking, and will crystallize slowly. Boards must be patient and give their executive officers time and moral assistance. The personnel of the several Boards of Pharmacy in our country is of the highest character, and all are working towards one end—the better condition of pharmacy. A little more confidence is needed, and more liberal construction of the standard upon which we base comparison of our work.

Every one present at this meeting of the Committee believes the plan feasible, and that with proper activity and aggressive methods, the Dodds plan will solve the proposition.



A TRIP TO EUROPE.*

During the last decade trips to Europe arranged by societies of all kinds have been undertaken with great success. Singing societies, veterans of the German army, teachers' associations, and various scientific societies have visited England, France, Germany and other parts of Europe and derived much pleasure and instruction from these trips.

These visits have been reciprocated by Europe, and a number of social and scientific societies from England and Germany have come to see our customs and institutions. No wonder, therefore, that American pharmacists should also think of such a journey, and the committee appointed by Dr. Ch. F. Klippert, the President of the German Apotheker-Verein of New York, and headed by Dr. W. C. Alpers is perfectly timely. Nor can there be any doubt that such an enterprise can best be undertaken by the Apotheker-Verein, whose members all speak two or more languages, and many of whom have visited Europe repeatedly and are therefore familiar with the traveling conditions of the various countries.

The idea of such a trip by pharmacists is not new. Some years ago, at the occasion of the world's fair at Paris, the American Pharmaceutical Association appointed a committee to submit plans to visit the fair in a body and hold the meetings on the steamer during the trip across the ocean. But many members feared that in case of inclement weather these meetings might prove a failure, and others did not like the idea that pleasure and entertainment should have a deciding influence on the selection of the place of meeting, and the project failed. A good financial plan was also lacking, and many feared the height of the expenses.

Profiting by the failure of that venture the present advocates of the plan hope to avoid these cliffs. In the first place, this is to be a general enterprise, open to every pharmacist and his friends, so that no constitution or by-laws of any existing society will be interfered with. As to the expense, it is true that but few of our fellow-pharmacists would be able to draw the full amount—at least \$150 or \$200 for each person—out of their business at one time, but with the aid of proper financing this sum can be saved gradually. Suppose the trip will take place in two years, arrangements of regular monthly contributions can be made, which the contributor may withdraw at any time if he will not join in the enterprise. Monthly payments of \$5 would accumulate to more than half the required sum, and \$10 monthly be more than sufficient to defray all expenses. Everybody knows that it is much easier to save \$10 a month than to draw \$200 at one time.

The trip itself would serve a double purpose; first, pleasure and recreation, and second, instruction and information, and each participant can follow his own inclinations in this respect. The most beautiful parts of England, France and Germany—wherever the trip is planned—will be selected, and each one given full occasion to behold and admire whatever is worth seeing. Side-trips to points of interest to this one or that one will also be arranged. It may be supposed that the chemists, pharmaciens and Apotheker of the respective countries will contribute their share to the entertainment of the guests, so that the object of recreation will fully be reached.

At the same time, in planning the trip, due regard will be paid to information and instruction. Cities with world-renowned chem-

*Translated from the "Apotheker-Zeitung."

ical factories, like Elberfeld, Darmstadt, Hoechst, Leipzig, and others will be visited, in order to give the travelers an insight into the enormity of the European chemical industry. Also universities and schools of technology that possess chairs of learning or laboratories of particular interest to pharmacists will not be omitted and these visits will be of particular interest to our teachers and professors.

At the return each traveler will have the privilege of staying longer with friends and relatives in Europe or to extend the trip to other countries. We believe that among the 45000 pharmacists of the United States a sufficient number can be found whose "Wanderlust" will make them join such an enterprise, and we wish the appointed committee the best success.

Proceedings of the Local Branches

"All papers presented to the Association and its branches shall become the property of the Association, with the understanding that they are not to be published in any other publication than those of the Association, except by consent of the Committee on Publication."—By-Laws, Chapter X, Art. III.

Reports of the meetings of the Local Branches should be mailed to the editor on the day following the meeting, if possible. Minutes should be *plainly* written, or type-written, with wide spaces between the lines. Care should be taken to give proper names correctly, and manuscript should be signed by the reporter.

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CHICAGO BRANCH.

The Conference of representatives of pharmaceutical, medical, dental and veterinary associations to consider amendments to the cocaine law of Illinois held in Chicago, February 11th, was well attended, there being present representatives from the Illinois State Dental Society, the Illinois Veterinarians' Association, the Juvenile Protective Association, the U. S. Customs Service, the Illinois Board of Pharmacy, the Illinois Pharmaceutical Association, the Chicago Retail Druggists' Association, and the Chicago Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

The debate was harmonious and many interesting facts regarding the illegal use of cocaine were presented. The statement was made that the druggists of Chicago almost without exception were vigorously observing the present law, but that the cocaine traffic was in the hands of a few debased criminals who obtained their supplies outside of Chicago and "wholesaled" it to others who supplied it to the "fiends." One of the worst features of the traffic is the constantly increasing number of cocaine habitues, largely due to the giving away by interested parties of a few "blows" of cocaine to school children and young habitues of poolrooms and saloons and their instruction in the use of the drug.

By resolution two important amendments were endorsed. First, that a minimum penalty, a fine of \$100 for conviction for first offense, be included in the paragraph on penalties. Second, that it shall be unlawful for a person not a registered pharmacist, licensed physician, licensed dentist or licensed veterinarian to have in his possession at any time more of these drugs than can be obtained by means of a prescription.

As the law at present provides that no person shall sell or give away cocaine, etc., except upon the written prescription of a registered physician (wholesale druggists are excepted) and that no person shall under any circumstances sell or give any of these substances to a person addicted to their habitual use, it would seem as though with the added restriction above proposed it will be quite impossible for these cocaine dealers to escape conviction under the law.

The Conference also expressed itself as strongly in favor of the new Harrison Bill which aims at the federal control of the sale and use of habit-forming drugs.

An appropriation from the State for the proper enforcement of the cocaine law by the State Board of Pharmacy was also recommended.

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The February meeting of the Chicago Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held Thursday evening, February 20, in the Assembly Hall of the Northwestern University building. Dr. James H. Beal, General Secretary of the Association, delivered a most instructive and entertaining lecture on the "Limestone Caverns of