

row-minded? Is it not driving out and keeping out of the business young men of superior ability? Cannot the hours be at least much shortened? Is there justification any longer for keeping open all day Sunday when hundreds of druggists are now closing at least half of the day?

40. What explanation can be given for the deterioration in the quality of drug clerks of late years, aside from their knowledge of pharmacy?

41. Does the certificate of a Q. A. really amount to anything as showing its holder's ability, or is it only a mere makeshift, backed by interested parties, to get around the law?

42. Is the small attendance at most pharmaceutical meetings due to lack of interest or to lack of time? Would not shorter store hours make far better attendance at such meetings?

43. Best-paying side-lines for the average drug store.

44. Preliminary education which a prospective pharmacist should have.

45. Advantages and disadvantages of buying in large quantities.

46. Advantages and disadvantages of giving window space for telephone booths.

47. The value of the luncheonette as an adjunct to soda business.

48. Five months of parcel post and how it has affected my business.

49. If you have made a pronounced success of some department of your business, will you not tell your brother pharmacists how you "turned the trick?"

50. Newspaper advertising for the retail pharmacist—profitable and unprofitable.

51. Some of the "skin games" that have been tried on me.

52. Is it good policy to push proprietary brands of U. S. P. and N. F. preparations?

53. Should not druggists use greater care in displaying confectionery for sale?

54. Peroxides and perborates in toilet preparations—their use, value and legal status.

55. Who are our competitors?

56. Should the minimum pharmacy course extend over three years?

57. What degrees should be conferred on the completion of 2, 3, and 4 year courses in a College of Pharmacy?

Certain funds belonging to the Association have been invested, and of the proceeds \$20 in gold are awarded each year as a prize for the most meritorious paper, pharmaceutical apparatus or original device presented at the annual meeting.

Even though you may not find it possible to attend the meeting, send in a paper and it will be published in the Proceedings, with the result that someone will profit by your kindness, you will have contributed toward keeping the Association where it has stood for years—at the head of the list for the number and value of its original papers.

Kindly notify the Chairman as promptly as possible what is to be the subject of your paper or papers, and then send the paper or papers to him in time to have them properly classified and assigned to a place on the program.

FREEMAN P. STROUP,  
Chairman Committee on Papers and Queries.  
145 N. Tenth St., Philadelphia, Pa.

## 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.



### CINCINNATI BRANCH.

The meeting of April 8th was opened by President J. U. Lloyd, who was greeted by the members, their families and friends, among whom were a number of students of the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy.

After a brief business meeting, President Lloyd introduced the speaker of the evening, Dr. A. O. Zwick, who, in a masterly manner, presented his lecture on "The Oldest Pharmacœia in the World." This lecture was profusely illustrated by means of stereopticon views and has been delivered by Dr. Zwick in a number of cities in America.

The lecturer takes you back in a delightfully fascinating way to about 7000 years B. C., showing pictorially and proving that the ancient Egyptians and other peoples had even in that time quite advanced ideas regarding the practice of medicine and the administration and employment of drugs and various medicaments. He shows how the gradual deciphering of the hieroglyphics found upon stone and papyrus prove the Egyptians to have been adepts in the art of healing.

Dr. Zwick also called attention to the more modern developments in medicine by showing

the pictures of such noted scientists as Jenner, Pasteur, Koch, Ehrlich and quite a number of others, and their contributions to science.

At the conclusion of the lecture, Dr. Zwick was warmly thanked by President Lloyd on behalf of the Branch, and he feelingly referred particularly to the last picture presented, a likeness of Dr. Zwick's father, recalling him as a warm personal friend and as an able pioneer pharmacist.

The next meeting of the Branch will be held May 13, 1913, at which time a lecture on "Serum Therapy" will be presented.

CHAS. A. APMEYER, Secretary.



### CITY OF WASHINGTON BRANCH.

The April meeting of the City of Washington Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was called to order, Wednesday, April 16, 1913, at 8:15 p. m., by Dr. Lyman F. Kebler, President, at the National College of Pharmacy, Washington, D. C.

Routine business was immediately dispensed with, and Dr. Kebler, with very fitting remarks, introduced Dr. F. V. Coville of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture, whose subject was entitled, "The Influence of Soil upon Plant Culture."

Dr. Coville explained that while the particular line of work he was now doing was in fruit culture—adapting the blueberry or huckleberry to cultivation, experiments were being made at the same time along the same lines with regard to several drug plants, notably *Gaultheria procumbens*. He explained his first observations with these plants in New Hampshire, and how when he came to experiment with them he was surprised to learn that the alkaline soil, which is so essential to most plant culture, produced puny huckleberry plants, and absolutely no success in their culture could be obtained with such soil. Further observations showed that these plants thrived both in sandy uplands and in bogs, but in nearly all cases, in a soil composed of decayed laurel and oak leaves. This led to experiments with such soil as was found near the plants, leading to the discovery that it was strongly acid. It was found, however, that soil composed of such leaves of six or seven years' decay had become alka-

line and plants either died or remained neutral therein. Further experiment showed that oak and laurel leaves are very acid when they first fall, almost as much so as the lemon juice, but after four or five years the acidity ceases and an alkalinity is produced, due to the large percentum of calcium present in their composition (2 to 3 percent calculated as CaO).

Extensive experiments are now being carried on with a soil mixture of nine parts upland peat, one part sand, and one part broken porous pots. Remarkable results are being obtained, plants eighteen months old producing berries 11/16 of an inch in diameter. It is believed that this size can be increased to 3/4 inch, and that with the remarkable production which experiments indicate will be attained, much of the barren pine lands of New Jersey and other places can be successfully used in the production of this berry.

Dr. Coville went into great detail in explaining the characteristics of certain fungi associated with this plant, which are found on all healthy specimens, but which do not seem to alter or change the composition of the plant in any way.

The adaptability of this acid soil to the culture of many plants now generally considered hard to raise, has been clearly shown, and this knowledge, it is believed, so Dr. Coville stated, will lead to more successful cultivation of numerous drug plants.

A discussion of the peculiar phases of this industry, in which Mr. Bradbury, Mr. Grant, Dr. Leet, and others took part, followed.

Dr. Kebler then introduced Dr. Leet, assistant to Dr. J. T. Anderson in the Hygienic Laboratory, Public Health Service, who took Dr. Anderson's place in presenting to the branch the subject, "Controlling the Manufacture of Sera, Vaccines, and Antitoxins." Dr. Anderson sent his regrets at being unable to attend, but on account of his work in connection with the tests being made of Dr. Friedman's "turtle virus," he had to be out of the city. Dr. Leet proved a most capable substitute and a most excellent spokesman, handling his subject in a most interesting manner.

He first pointed out the provisions of the law, the Act of July 1, 1902, by virtue of which these products came under the control of the Public Health Service. He then described the methods of use, i. e., by subcutaneous, cutaneous and intravenous injection,

then the character of each product, i. e., toxins, antitoxins, viruses, vaccines, and sera; also the corruption of the name, vaccine, which should be applied only to smallpox vaccine. The improvement in vaccine points he remarked had been wonderful since the passage of the law controlling their manufacture. Before its passage, sore arms were the majority, now, a very small minority. The production of a standard product having become compulsory to manufacturers, more constant results are now being obtained. The absence of tetanus spores in vaccine points had promptly resulted, but before the time of the law they were found present in a large percentum of points that were examined. The abolition of dry points has also reduced the contamination remarkably, glycerin proving a fairly good preservative, but too much dependence must not be placed in the glycerin as an antiseptic.

He pointed out how toxin (diphtheric) had passed through the round of 500 rabbits, the symptoms in the last following administration from a portion of the brain of the 499th had been identically the same as those of the first, second, third, and all between them.

The Units of the Hygienic Laboratory were carefully described and the manner of their restoration in cases of destruction outlined. The manner of inspecting laboratories was also detailed. Dr. Leet stated that each laboratory was subjected to an annual inspection without forewarning, that samples of its products must be submitted every two months, and that inspectors bought (in addition to these latter) other samples from the open market.

He described the preservation of each product, showing conclusively that material loss within the time limit can be prevented by keeping each product properly chilled. The use of phenol and tricresol as preservatives was explained, and the reason for the limit of phenol to  $\frac{1}{4}$  percent and of tricresol to  $\frac{1}{2}$  percent he attributed to the kidney effects of larger percentums.

Tetanus and diphtheric antitoxin work is required by law to be done in separate laboratories under the existing law, Dr. Leet stated, and it is now compulsory to slaughter all animals used in this work.

In answer to questions, Dr. Leet defined a virus as the term is now generally accepted, as a culture of bacteria too small to be seen by a microscope, and admitted that none of

the samples of these products which had been examined had been found wholly free from contamination, further, that experiment showed that such contamination increased, usually, with poor preservative methods.

Further discussion by Messrs. Polkin, Grant, Bradbury, Albrecht, Flemer, Hilton and Richardson, and Drs. Kalusowski, Chestnut, Emory, Kebler, and Motter, brought out further information as to the standards of these products as compared with those of chemicals and drugs, and a discussion of the merits of the Phylacogens, now so much advertised followed.

The thanks of the Branch, it was moved, seconded and carried, should be extended to Dr. Coville and Dr. Leet for their most excellent contributions, and such motion was directed to be made a part of the record.

Upon motion of Dr. Hilton, seconded by half a dozen members, the sincere and deep sympathy of the Branch was extended to Mr. M. I. Wilbert, in his long illness, with the hope that a speedy recovery would be his good fortune. Mr. Hilton was then appointed a committee to send flowers to him, and then the meeting was adjourned.

Plans are being made to hold the May meeting at the Drug Gardens, Arlington Experimental Farm, (Department of Agriculture), Alexandria County, Virginia, on May 24, 1913, at 2 p. m. The cordial invitation of the Branch is extended to all who wish to attend.

HENRY B. FLOYD,  
Secretary.



### NEW YORK BRANCH.

A regular meeting of the New York Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held April 14, beginning at 8:30 o'clock in the evening.

President C. O. Bigelow presided.

The minutes of the March meeting were read and approved.

The report of Treasurer Joseph Weinstein was received as read.

For the committee on membership, Louis Berger presented applications from five persons, as the result of a letter sent to each member of the Branch.

Reports for the committee on education and legislation were made by John Roemer and Prof. W. C. Anderson. Mr. Roemer told of the progress of the several pharmaceutical measures in the State legislature. Prof.

Anderson reported that the Owen bill for a federal health bureau had been reintroduced in Congress, mentioned several other congressional measures of interest to pharmacists, and related in detail the consideration recently given to the formulation of a national anti-narcotic law. A new State law providing regulations for the collection of samples was read by the Secretary. Legislative matters were discussed by Messrs. Diekman, Hatcher, and Raubenheimer.

Mr. Bigelow stated that the chairman of the committee on fraternal relations, Peter Diamond, had reported that he was unable to put forth any effort toward a meeting with the county medical society. It was the general opinion that it was too late in the season to attempt a joint meeting, and it was decided to let the matter rest for the present.

For the committee on the progress of pharmacy, Dr. G. C. Diekman gave brief abstracts of the following contributions to recent European literature: "The Detection of Fixed Oils in Balsam of Peru," "The Adulteration of Oil of Camphor," "The Detection of Oil of Camphor in Oil of Turpentine," "The Value of Protargol Substitutes," "Differentiation between Maltol and Salicylic Acid," "Use of Oil of Eucalyptus in Scarlet Fever and Measles," "Stability of Tincture of Iodine," and "Wall Paper and Linoleum Responsible for Arsenical Poisoning." Dr. Diekman also made some reference to the plan for the Eleventh International Congress of Pharmacy and recounted some recent legal decisions of interest to pharmacy.

Prof. H. V. Arny called attention to the unsatisfactory manner in which the Association's report on the progress of pharmacy is received by the members since the discontinuance of the annual proceedings and the succeeding Year-Book, with the publication of report in installments in the journal of the Association. This matter was discussed by Messrs. Diekman, Murray, Raubenheimer, Coblenz, and Roemer. It was the consensus of the speakers that the existing method of issuing the report on the progress of pharmacy was far from satisfactory; that the chemical abstracts of the American Chemical Society in no way took the place of the former report; and that some way of getting the report in its one-time convenient shape was desirable. The following preamble and

resolution, offered by Prof. Arny, was unanimously approved:

The members of the New York Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association hear with much regret that the council of the American Pharmaceutical Association has rescinded the motion passed at the Richmond meeting of 1910, directing the publication of the Report on the Progress of Pharmacy as a separate bound volume and that the plan now proposed is to publish the report piecemeal in the issues of the Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association. The members of the New York Branch consider such treatment of the report a serious error and have therefore passed the following resolution which is submitted to the council through the general secretary:

*Resolved*, That the New York Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association request the council of the American Pharmaceutical Association to reconsider its vote, directing the publication of the Report on the Progress of Pharmacy in monthly installments in the Journal and that the council be further requested to publish the report in a separate bound volume as agreed upon at the Richmond meeting.

The paper of the evening was "Observations on the Keeping Properties of Digitalis and Some of Its Preparations," by Robert A. Hatcher, M. D., and Cary Eggleston, M. D. This paper, which was read by Doctor Eggleston, was interesting, instructive, and to a great extent iconoclastic. Opening with a review of the voluminous literature on the subject of the deterioration of digitalis, with particular reference to the conclusion of Focke, Hale, and several earlier investigators, the authors soon set about to prove from their own careful physiological experimentation that digitalis and its preparations are much more stable than is generally believed. Their experiments included many market brands of the leaf and fluid-extract, tincture, infusion, acetic acid fluid-extract, and some of the much-advertised "fancy" preparations. Specimens of leaf and fluidextract almost and quite thirty years old were examined among many and found to have deteriorated at the low rate of about 1½ percent a year. This rate of deterioration was found to be about normal for digitalis and its hydro-alcoholic preparations, even though the restrictions of Focke regarding moisture were not heeded. It was the conclusion of the authors that much of the failure with preparations of digitalis, particularly the infusion, was due to incomplete extraction of the drug. He has ad-

vised the use of a finely-powdered leaf for extraction purposes. The weight of their experience supported the tincture as the most reliable preparation. They had found that the acetic acid preparations were unsatisfactory and very unstable.

In summing up in reply to various questions that followed the reading of the paper, Dr. Hatcher and Dr. Eggleston expressed the following views:

Most long-accepted ideas regarding digitalis are foolishness, and the acceptance of this folly has resulted in a neglect of the study of this drug.

The belief in the rapid deterioration of the drug under normal conditions is nonsense, and no physician can tell even approximately the age of a specimen. Their thirty-year-old fluidextract was better than the average fresh one.

There is, according to Hale, no difference in potency of the leaves of the first or second year's growth. The German leaves are a little better than the English, and the wild Bohemian leaf is the most potent.

The frog test method is not a criterion of the therapeutic value of digitalis.

Digituratum was described as "an extract of digitalis minus a myth," reference being made to the opinion that the digitonin was the nauseating body in digitalis.

The tincture and the infusion, if made from the finely-powdered leaf, represents more than ninety-nine percent of the total activity of the drug.

There is no real reason for preferring the infusion, the action of the two preparations is identical and the tincture is more stable.

It was necessary to neutralize the acid in testing the acetic acid fluidextract, because the acid killed the cats used as the test.

Digalen is not what it is advertised to be, but probably an aqueous solution of digitalectin, and is prone to deterioration.

Excessively large doses of the fat extracted from digitalis would not produce vomiting in the cat so that the nauseating effect of digitalis is not due to the fat; it is a characteristic of the drug and unless nausea be present the full effect of the drug is not obtained.

The discussion of the paper was an indication of its value and of the interest had by members of the branch in the important subject with which it was concerned. The branch expressed its appreciation of the work

of Drs. Hatcher and Eggleston in a rising vote.

Adjournment was taken at 11:05 o'clock.  
HUGH CRAIG, Secretary.



### CHICAGO BRANCH.

The Chicago Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association devoted its April meeting, which was held at the University of Illinois School of Pharmacy on Tuesday evening, April 15, to an exhibit of lantern slides. Through the kindness of Mr. E. G. Fine of Boulder, Colorado, the slides exhibited by Mr. Fine at the Denver meeting were loaned to the Branch and were shown at this meeting. Professor Clark discussed these slides briefly and then showed a number of colored slides prepared from his photographs taken in the vicinity of Buffalo and Elk creeks, Colorado. These were followed by some slides from Nashville, which were loaned by Local-Secretary J. O. Burge. The meeting was well attended and the program a pleasant one.

E. N. GATHERCOAL, Secretary.

## Council Business

### COUNCIL LETTER No. 12.

PHILADELPHIA, April 1, 1913.

To the Members of the Council:

Motions No. 20 (*Petition to form Cincinnati Branch A. Ph. A.*) and No. 21 (*Election of Members; Applications Nos. 98 to 117, inclusive*), have each received a majority of affirmative votes.

The Committee on Memorial to Oscar Oldberg report as follows:

"IN MEMORY OF OSCAR OLDBERG.

We, the Council of the American Pharmaceutical Association, would bear testimony to the irreparable loss suffered by American Pharmacy in the death of Oscar Oldberg. For nearly fifty years he rendered distinguished service as an author of text-books, as an editor of pharmaceutical journals, as a teacher of pharmaceutical students, as a member of the Revision Committee of the United States Pharmacopœia, and as an earnest worker in, and one-time President of, the American Pharmaceutical Association. It is our sincere conviction that Professor Oldberg was one of the ablest thinkers, and one of the greatest leaders of permanent reform