

## Section on Pharmacopoeias and Formularies

Papers Presented at the Sixty-First Annual Convention

### THE CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

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At this first meeting of the permanent Section on Pharmacopoeias and Formularies, it is fitting that we review its reasons for existence, discuss its possibilities, and take a general survey of its relations to the pharmaceutical profession.

From the very first the American Pharmaceutical Association has taken an active interest in all matters pertaining to the United States Pharmacopoeia. This interest was first officially manifested by the appointment of a standing



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committee known as the Committee on the Revision of the United States Pharmacopoeia. The name of this committee was in 1905 changed to the Committee on United States Pharmacopoeia, and its membership increased to ten.

The fact that forty-two of the fifty members of the National Revision Committee are members of this Association, serves to still further emphasize this interest and responsibility.

The increasing importance of the United States Pharmacopoeia in pharmaceutical circles has made it imperative that additional time at the annual meeting be given over to its discussions. This fact was first brought to the attention of the Association at the Boston meeting, in an article contributed by our lamented member, Dr. Oscar Oldberg, entitled, "A Few Questions Suggested by Comparisons of the National Pharmacopoeias" (Jr. A. Ph. A., 1912, Vol. I, No. 2, p. 149-150). He states "The Pharmacopoeia and its full and free recognition and use are so important to the American Pharmaceutical Association and to all pharmacists, that a special section called 'The Section on the Pharmacopoeias' should at once be created. Such a section is of greater importance than any other, and we should have started it earlier." \* \* \* He adds "The Pharmacopoeia should no longer be a side issue of some other section."

Suiting the action to the words, Dr. Oldberg, in a communication to the Council (Bul. A. Ph. A., 1911, Vol. VI, No. 1, p. 573), submitted a proposal that such a section be created. This communication was referred to a committee of three, consisting of Messrs. Clark, Kremers, and Eberle, who later recommended to the Council (Bul. A. Ph. A., 1911, Vol. VI, No. 1, p. 588), that "The Committee of the U. S. P. be authorized to hold a special session independently of the Scientific Section, or any other section, at the time of our next annual meeting. Should the experiment prove a success, the authorization for the establishment of the section may be granted at a subsequent meeting." Secretary J. H. Beal thereupon moved that "The recommendation be modified to include the Committee on National Formulary, and that the committees on the United States Pharmacopoeia and National Formulary be authorized to hold one or more joint sessions at the next annual convention." The motion carried. Since the National Formulary is wholly due to the work of this Association, and since it has equal legal standing with the United States Pharmacopoeia, it is, if such a thing be possible, nearer to the hearts of the members of the Association than the Pharmacopoeia itself, and should be given equal consideration.

At the Denver meeting of the Association the Council (Jr. A. Ph. A., 1912, Vol. I, No. 1, p. 1104), appointed a Chairman and Secretary and the joint session of the two committees was held. (See minutes Jr. A. Ph. A., 1912, Vol. I, No. 2, p. 1220-1227). The Council passed favorably upon the work of the two committees, defined the scope of the section and appointed a Chairman and Secretary, at the same time authorizing these officers to appoint three associates for the ensuing year. Thus came into existence the Section on Pharmacopoeias and Formularies. (Jr. A. Ph. A., 1912, Vol. I, No. 10, p. 1116).

The scope of this Section as defined by the Council was as follows: "That all the work of the Association pertaining to Pharmacopoeias, National Formulary, Unofficial Standards, and to food and drug standards generally, so far as they come before this Association, be considered by this Section in the future."

The Chairman believes that it should be the work of this Section to encourage full and free discussion of the United States Pharmacopoeia and National Formulary and to endeavor to harmonize in them, in so far as it is possible, the mutual interests of the Physician, Pharmacist and Food and Drug Chemists.

The physicians may be said to regard these books as expressing their collective

ideas of the kinds and strengths of remedial agents used by them in their practice.

The pharmacists may be said to regard them as guide books for the preparation of medicines, to meet the requirements of the physicians.

The food and drug chemists may be said to regard them as works containing standard methods whereby the integrity of the pharmacist's work may be judged.

With the enactment of the Food and Drugs Laws, the Pharmacopoeia and National Formulary have become works of peculiar significance to a new class of scientific workers, the food and drug chemists. The great majority of these are not trained pharmacists, but are chemists, and as such they regard the U. S. P. and N. F. in quite a different light from that of either the physician or pharmacist.

It is to be hoped that the physicians and the food and drug chemists will avail themselves of the opportunities offered by this Section to come into closer contact with the pharmacists, that each may gain greater respect for the other's point of view, with the ultimate result of securing the greatest good for the greatest number.

To the end that cooperation may be assured, it is recommended that besides the Chairman and Secretary of the Section, there shall be eight associates, three active and five honorary. The three active members shall be elected annually and shall be those regularly engaged in the practice of their profession. They shall be a physician, retail pharmacist, and food and drug chemist. The five honorary associates shall be:

1. The Chairman of the National Committee of Revision of the United States Pharmacopoeia.
2. The Chairman of the Committee on National Formulary.
3. The Chairman of the Committee on Unofficial Standards.
4. The Chairman of the Committee on United States Pharmacopoeia.
5. The Chairman of the Committee on Recipes.

It shall be the duty of the active associates to report to the Association through this Section, at each annual meeting, matters pertaining to this section as voiced by the several interests represented by them.

It is further recommended that one of the regular duties of this Section be that of compiling as rapidly and completely as possible, a list of the Pharmacopœias and Formularies of the world, and of keeping the same up to date.