

THE SECTIONS OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION

ABSTRACTS OF THE MINUTES OF THE SESSIONS HELD IN MIAMI, JULY 29-31, 1931.

(See also brief summary reports, Final Session House of Delegates, printed in the September JOURNAL—titles of papers will be given in the minutes; discussions, if any, will be printed when paper is published. The Editor will be thankful for correction of errors.)

SCIENTIFIC SECTION.

The First Session of the Scientific Section was called to order by Chairman E. E. Swanson on Wednesday, July 29th, at 2:15 P.M. The Chairman requested Secretary L. W. Rowe to take the chair while he read his address. The Chairman's address follows:

THE CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

BY EDWARD E. SWANSON.

The Scientific Section of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION according to records is an outgrowth of the Section on scientific articles. This Section on Scientific Papers was founded in the early days of the ASSOCIATION. In the beginning of this Section the number of papers read could be numbered on the fingers of one hand. To-day at this annual meeting we have more than sixty or seventy papers. These articles are researches in Bacteriology, Chemistry, Pharmacognosy and Botany, Pharmacology and Bioassay, and Pharmacy. We have classified them as near as possible according to the above subdivisions. They are contributions from colleges, universities, commercial laboratories and pharmacies.

Many of these papers are the outgrowth of an interest in medicinal substances which may have an indirect or direct bearing as to what should be official or not official in the next Pharmacopœia. According to the history of the Pharmacopœia as stated by Past-President Dr. Reid Hunt of the Pharmacopœial Convention "the object of the Pharmacopœia is the promotion of medicine and pharmacy by selecting such materials that have been carefully studied, that they may be properly used as medicine and drugs, establishing formulas for their preparations and standards for identity, strength and purity." Many of the medicinal drugs and chemicals in the Pharmacopœia which were extensively used in the past are now being found practically useless. The founders of the Pharmacopœia probably had this in mind when they stated that substances of proven medicinal and pharmaceutical value should be admitted in the Pharmacopœia.

The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and we of the Scientific Section of this ASSOCIATION have had and will have in the future a part in the revision of the future Pharmacopœias. It is apparent that our duty in this revision is to establish the identity, strength and purity of medicinal and pharmaceutical substances. It is the duty of the physician to establish the dosage and clinical value of the products in the Pharmacopœia. With the close coöperative efforts of all concerned an efficient and useful Pharmacopœia can be formed. As stated by Past-President Reid Hunt of the Pharmacopœial Convention "the medical profession is appreciating more and more the value of the Pharmacopœia."

There are other fields of research in which we should take a more active part. Dr. Langenhan as chairman of this Section last year stated, "that manufacturing and dispensing pharmacy has advanced so rapidly during the last decade that neither text books nor instructors have been able to keep abreast with the progress; mainly because an insufficient amount of research, relating to these two subjects, has been carried on and published." There are many galenicals not in the U. S. P. or N. F. of which little is known that should be investigated chemically, pharmacologically and therapeutically. There is the important question of isolation, purification and stability of many well-known medicinal and pharmaceutical substances. Thus it is apparent that we have unlimited resources for study and research. These researches should be encouraged for publication.