

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LOCAL BRANCHES

BALTIMORE.

The Pharmacy School of the University of Maryland was host to the Baltimore Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION at its November meeting held on Thursday, November sixteenth. The meeting was held jointly with the Baltimore Retail Druggists' Association and the Alumni Association of the School of Pharmacy, University of Maryland.

Dr. Louis P. Hamberger, a Baltimore physician, presented an extremely interesting motion picture entitled, "How Harvey Discovered the Circulation of the Blood." Doctor Hamberger pointed out that until Harvey's time (1628) the idea of a circulatory system was unknown. The picture was based upon Harvey's original 72-page treatise wherein he described his experiments. The photographs are of work undertaken by Sir Thomas Lewis and H. H. Dale of England.

At the conclusion of the picture Prof. Marvin R. Thompson of the School of Pharmacy gave a lecture on the physiological standardization of digitalis which was followed by a demonstration in his laboratory. Professor Thompson outlined the most recent knowledge concerning the stability and standardization of this cardiac stimulant. The laboratory demonstration included the U. S. P. X one-hour frog method, the cat method of assay and perfusion experiments as well as charts previously prepared.

The meeting was held, particularly, as a friendly get-together for pharmacists and physicians. A number of interesting displays of U. S. P. and N. F. preparations had been prepared by the School of Pharmacy and were available for the visiting physicians to inspect. Approximately ninety persons attended the meeting including practicing physicians, retail pharmacists, chemists, medical students and pharmacy students.

The officers of the Branch wish to extend their thanks to Doctor Hamberger and Professor Thompson. Appreciation is extended particularly, to the School of Pharmacy for the delightful refreshments served at the conclusion of the meeting.

C. JELLEFF CARR, *Secretary-Treasurer.*

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CHICAGO.

The 216th meeting of the Chicago Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION was held on November 21st, at the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

A large gathering of about 200 listeners assembled to greet Herr Max Borger, who very interestingly told of his experiences as a drug apprentice with the Merck Company of Darmstadt, Germany.

From Mr. Borger's report it can easily be seen that the apprentice in the German drug store gets more actual experience in the handling and use of drugs than the average American apprentice.

The drug stores in Germany are divided into two distinct classes, one of the classes not being allowed to fill prescriptions. Established drug stores can be purchased or inherited, but new stores cannot be opened except by permission of the government; this automatically does away with overcrowding, a condition that we are confronted with in the United States.

The German druggist makes up more of his tinctures than the average American druggist; they also keep in stock and dispense on prescriptions more crude drugs; urine and sputum tests are also made by them.

The prices of prescriptions are controlled by the government; the price to be charged for each ingredient and the labor is automatically set; the government, annually, inspects the drugs that are being dispensed.

While the prescription drug store is open fewer hours than the American drug store, a pharmacist must be at the store for emergency purposes twenty-four hours of the day; sleeping quarters are provided in the store for the night man.

The meeting was prolonged for some time with many interesting questions being asked by the audience and answered by Dr. Borger.

LAWRENCE TEMPLETON, *Secretary.*

DETROIT.

The November meeting of the Detroit Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION was held at Webster Hall,

Thursday evening, November 16th. The meeting was preceded by a dinner.

In the absence of President Johnson, the meeting was called to order by Berton Tode, of the College of the City of Detroit. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by the secretary and approved.

Chairman R. T. Lakey, of the Program Committee, announced that the December meeting would be given over to a Christmas Party, following the custom of many years.

Fred Ingram introduced the speaker of the evening, Dr. J. J. Sherman, professor of Political Science, Liberal Arts College, College of the City of Detroit, who spoke on "Government by Code."

The speaker said that government is a machinery in which the state exercises its will. The first government was by Royal decree, later, it was turned over to legislators who grew and grew and since the 90's government has been by boards and bureaus. In 1933 the people realized that something was wrong and they welcomed the "New Deal" and advice of the brain trust which has given us government by code.

The cause of the present condition, he stated, was the result of the factory worker receiving as low as 17 cents a day in 1932 and 14 cents a day for the farmer, who cut hay with a tractor, baled it with a gasoline engine, hauled it in a motor truck, only to find that motors could not eat the hay.

The success of the NRA, Mr. Sherman told the assembly, depended entirely upon the coöperation of the people; he urged patience with the Government and the various codes until they may have time to adjust the difficulties which they have presented. These conditions have not sprung up over night and, therefore, will take a correspondingly long time to correct.

The listeners were startled when told that the standards of living began to fall when the Government presented 160 acres of land to anyone who would live on it five years. Then the automobile industry sprang up and bolstered up conditions, and it was expected that radio would do likewise, but the radio to-day only produces 8 cents an hour to labor. Therefore, it is necessary that we get together and do one of two things: Support the President's program and the codes adopted for the various industries, or go back to the 160 acres of land.

The presiding officer thanked the speaker

for his most interesting and timely talk. A considerable discussion followed, led by C. A. Weaver and Fred Ingram, who seemed to agree with Mr. Sherman that, if tolerance and patience are exercised, the codes will be the means of bringing industry out of the present dilemma.

A rising vote of thanks was given the speaker.

BERNARD A. BIALK, *Secretary*.

NEW YORK.

The November meeting of the New York Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION was held on November 13th, in the College of Pharmacy of Columbia University. President Bilhuber presided and there were about sixty-five members and guests present. The report of the secretary was read and approved.

Chairman Lehman, of the Legislative and Education Committee, reported on the Physicians and Pharmacists' Dinner held on October 24th. He explained that the work was being carried further by the committee in charge of the recent dinner.

Chairman Kassner, of the Membership Committee, called attention to the slip on the bottom of the meeting notice urging members to send in the names of persons interested in joining the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

The secretary read a communication from Dean George C. Schicks, of the New Jersey College of Pharmacy, announcing the organization meeting of the Northern New Jersey Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION on November 20th. Dr. H. H. Schaefer moved that a letter of congratulations and good wishes be sent to the New Jersey Branch. This was seconded and approved.

Following the reading of a letter from Chairman J. Leon Lascoff, of the Physicians and Pharmacists' Dinner Committee, asking for a contribution of ten dollars, Dr. Ballard moved that this be paid. The motion was approved.

The first speaker of the evening was Harry Miller, who spoke on "The Drug Institute and the Retail Drug Code." A summary of Mr. Miller's address follows:

Many stories of the origin of the Drug Institute have been told but Mr. Miller believed that Jerry McQuade started the thought when, at a meeting which he called about a year ago last June, he voiced the hope that the

drug industry could be organized around a body similar to the Steel Institute. It was felt that no single branch of the industry could do this alone but that the coöperation of all divisions was essential. The industry needed price stabilization. The Drug Institute was patterned after the Steel Institute and it was formed before the NRA existed. The NRA coming as it did, at a time before the Drug Institute could make a start with its original plans, made it necessary for the Institute to reduce its activities and permit the Government to go ahead with its own ideas. Surely the Institute had to wait until the Administration had clearly formulated its plans. It became necessary for each industry to present a code for adoption by the President. In this work for the Drug Industry the Institute coöperated in every way but it did not write nor present a code. Its efforts were directed toward coöperation with other national drug organizations. Mr. Miller stated emphatically that the President did not sign the code which would have stopped rugged individuals in our industry. This code fixed, in a general way, the resale price, and the Administration would not approve this provision. Pointing out that many drug retailers were unable to operate at a profit, and that many chain stores were also in the "red," Mr. Miller deplored the rejection of the price maintenance provision. He went on to say that price cutting is contrary to the President's objectives in his drive to raise wages and increase employment. Curtailment of the price-cutting evil is essential. In the code, as finally adopted, a ray of hope remains in that an interpretation must be placed on the section of the code which reads: "But the selling price of articles to the consumer should include an allowance for actual wages of store labor, to be fixed and published from time to time by the Trade Authority hereinafter established." In the explanatory comments the following additional information is provided, "No retailer shall sell merchandise below the amount such merchandise costs him from the wholesaler or manufacturer (except as noted below). This provision becomes effective upon the effective date of the code, regardless of whether the Retail Trade Authority or the Retail Drug Trade Authority shall have fixed an allowance for labor cost." Both cost of merchandise and labor cost must be defined by the administrating officer. The speaker then went on to discuss some of the

provisions of the code and he expressed the opinion that its administration would be very difficult, if not impossible.

Realizing that the Code as finally adopted did not go far enough and that the NRA holds no hope of providing the retail druggist with what he needs most—price stabilization—the Drug Institute was going ahead with its original aims and purposes. The Drug Industry needs cleaning up and the Drug Institute is the organization to do the job contended Mr. Miller.

Finally, the speaker pointed out that the codes of other industries contained price maintenance clauses and this demonstrated that unity of the drug industry was necessary to win the same rights.

Dr. Fischelis was next called upon to present his views regarding the Drug Institute and the Retail Code. He began by pointing out that the primary ends in view by President Roosevelt, in the administration of the NRA, were to put people to work, to regulate hours and wages, and to increase purchase power generally. Now the industries thought that they could take advantage of the situation and thus in one swoop wipe out all the evils and unfair practices which plagued business. But the Administration saw through this and did not permit it.

The Drug Institute made an error when it did not stick by its original purpose. He pointed out that many of the canvassers for membership in the Drug Institute made false claims regarding what the Institute could and would accomplish. The recovery program was used as a feature to enlist members.

The speaker next emphasized that the Institute did take an active part in the hearings of the code and that this proved unfortunate because the code was to be a retailer's code and the Institute represented all branches of the industry. The original code was not a retail code in its major features. Participation of the Drug Institute in the hearings provided opponents of the code with ammunition since the Drug Institute was not exclusively a retail organization.

In the hearings pharmacy leaders made two mistakes:

First: Knowing that labor was favored by the Administration they failed to consult leaders of labor in the drug industry. Hence, drug clerks and others were given an opportunity to present a case which strongly impressed the Administration. Furthermore a

plea was made to exempt the pharmacist from limitation of hours of work because he was a professional man. This was a mistake. Dr. Fischelis said that much time and effort were devoted to undoing the harm caused by this oversight.

Second: The retailers did not leave the impression that this was purely a retail code and that it did not involve manufacturers, wholesalers, and their problems.

The President had 130,000,000 people to think of and not 60,000 retail druggists alone. Hence, the price maintenance provisions fell in disfavor. Predatory price cutting was with us in good times and now more than ever it has become necessary for the industry itself to clean house. Coöperation is lacking in the industry, and Dr. Fischelis concluded by hoping that the Drug Institute or some similar body would be able to gather the necessary facts to present an intelligent argument for additions and revisions of the code.

Dr. Anderson, the next speaker, began by stating that both previous speakers were somewhat incorrect in their explanation of why the original code was not signed by the President. Failure resulted because five per cent of the dishonest hypocrites in the industry were able to so impress the authorities, including the President, that they reversed their opinions on the price-maintenance clause. He contended that these five per cent predatory cutters, the chiselers, were able to overpower the ninety-five per cent honest, sincere retailers. It has now become necessary to convince the authorities and the public that price cutting is unsound, that price cutting throughout all industries would ruin the nation. Because of certain provisions in the adopted code, Pharmacy is worse off than before, Dr. Anderson believes. Therefore, he approves of the Drug Institute and believes that further progress and hope rests in the success of that organization. The Institute has a great opportunity to eliminate the evils in our industry, and concluded by asking whether or not the Institute will prove equal to the situation.

Dr. J. L. Lascoff commented on failure of the code to include a price-maintenance clause. He believed that some good could be expected through favorable interpretation of some of the provisions. He added that not a few of the troubles in the industry could be cleared up by coöperation from the manufacturers, and cited an example.

N. S. Gesoalde in his comments on the Drug Institute and the code said that the Drug Institute was what the industry needed for years. The 30,000 retail members of the Institute looked to that body for help and it could not fail them. The speaker believed that the code, as adopted, was a great boon to the industry in spite of its shortcomings. He also believed that many benefits would be gained later, when favorable interpretations are placed on some of the clauses of the code. In conclusion he said, that 50% of the cut-throat competitors could now be eliminated through rigid application of the present regulations.

Finally, E. A. Means was called upon; he began by calling attention to the fact that the code is a complex and serious affair. He said that the Government is in the position to do the talking and that we, of the industry, have little to say at present. He added that the three branches of the industry must cooperate to bring order out of chaos. He believed that the Drug Institute had not been oversold and that much would be gained through its efforts. Furthermore, Mr. Means emphasized that the troubles of the druggist in New York were not always the troubles of the druggist in other sections of the country. He pointed out that price cutting was not a serious menace in certain sections of the country, for, through coöperative efforts, druggists had established fair prices. The speaker agreed that in every branch of the industry there were certain unscrupulous members and that some retailers had exploited labor. This proved to be a great handicap in hearings held in Washington.

In conclusion Mr. Means said that a standard of business practices would be useless until we were united in a sincere effort to put such a plan into actual practice.

Mr. Miller was granted an opportunity to answer criticism directed at the Drug Institute. Following his remarks the meeting adjourned after a vote of thanks was accorded all speakers.

RUDOLF O. HAUCK, *Secretary*.

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY.

The Northern New Jersey Branch, of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, held its third meeting at the Elks Club, in Newark, on the evening of November 20th. The occasion was a very pleasant dinner which served to formally introduce the new body to Pharmacy in New Jersey. Music and flowers

created an atmosphere which, together with good food, perfectly set the stage for the speakers who were to follow.

About eighty members of the Branch and their friends were present. Greetings and good wishes from other pharmaceutical bodies and colleges were brought by their representatives, a list of whom follows:

President Walter R. Woolley, New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association; Secretary Prescott R. Loveland, New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association; Secretary Robert P. Fischelis, New Jersey State Board of Pharmacy; President Frank H. Eby, Philadelphia Branch, A. Ph. A.; President Ernest A. Bilhuber, New York Branch, A. Ph. A.; Treasurer Charles W. Holton, AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION; Dean Henry V. Army, Columbia University College of Pharmacy; Eugene G. Eberle, editor, JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

Governor Moore felicitated the Branch by letter. Dr. Fischelis read the communication and added that the Governor was genuinely pleased to hear of the birth of the new organization; that he felt there was real need for such a professional body. Mayor Ellenstien, of Newark, also sent a most appropriate greeting, which was read by Toastmaster R. W. Rodman. Dean J. W. Sturmer, of Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, congratulating the Branch by letter, stated that it would be a beneficial factor in professional pharmacy.

The "piece-de-resistance" of the evening was a group of three addresses. These were delivered by Secretary Evander F. Kelly, President Robert L. Swain and President Ernest Little, of the Northern New Jersey Branch. Their listeners were moved with mingled feelings of pride in Pharmacy, its organizations and a new sense of duty toward both.

Editor Eberle gave the Branch a stereoptican treat when he displayed a series of slides depicting the history of the new American Institute of Pharmacy Headquarters Building at Washington, D. C. After that the gathering resolved itself into little informal groups where old acquaintances were renewed and the problems of the day settled satisfactorily.

The banquet gave the Branch a most auspicious start. It is certain that the organization will carry on from there in the true tradition of professional pharmacy. Its program of action is such that its influence will

grow and much good will come because of its work.

L. W. RISING, *Secretary*.

PHILADELPHIA.

The November meeting of the Philadelphia Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION was held at the School of Pharmacy, Temple University, Tuesday evening, November 14, 1933. The meeting was called to order by President Frank H. Eby who introduced the speaker of the evening, President Robert L. Swain, of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION who spoke on "The Retail Drug Code—Its Interpretation and Possible Effects."

The speaker played a very important part in drafting the Retail Drug Code as submitted to the NRA and he thus has a very definite understanding of the code which was signed by President Roosevelt in October 1933. He stated that the present code was a great disappointment to retail pharmacists, and not what they expected.

In analyzing the code the speaker devoted most of his time to a discussion of those parts which most vitally interest the pharmacist. He also read and discussed various interpretations which have been issued by the NRA. A number of these interpretations are very important in the successful enforcement of the code. He explained that other interpretations would be issued at intervals, as considered necessary by the NRA.

Dr. Swain explained that the Retail Drug Code as it applies to pharmacy will be administered by a National Retail Drug Council. Dr. E. F. Kelly has been appointed the representative on this council for the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. It was explained that Retail Trade Councils would be organized in certain communities for the purpose of adjusting certain complaints that may arise during the administration of the code regulations. Retail Trade Councils will be limited in their powers.

The speaker stated that he believed the code was a step in the right direction and even though the code did not give to Pharmacy some things which were desired, he felt that distinct benefit would be derived by pharmacists. It is certain that some changes will be made in the code by the NRA, as conditions warrant. These changes may possibly bring some of the results hoped for by pharmacists. He urged all pharmacists to give their whole-

hearted coöperation in President Roosevelt's program for recovery.

Following Dr. Swain's address Dr. Robert P. Fischelis gave a very interesting discussion on certain phases of the code. He also expressed his views regarding certain interpretations which have been issued by the NRA covering the Retail Drug Code.

At the close of the meeting a large and enthusiastic gathering extended a rising vote of thanks to Dr. Swain for his most excellent address, as well as his untiring efforts in behalf of retail pharmacists.

E. H. MACLAUGHLIN, *Secretary*.

PITTSBURGH.

The Pittsburgh branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION met Tuesday Evening, October 17, 1933, at the Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy; thirty-three members were present.

The minutes of the May 16, 1933, meeting were read and approved. Communications from the Central Office were brought to the attention of the group.

President Clarence T. Van Meter presented the speaker of the evening, Mr. Robert R. Gaw. Mr. Gaw is president of the Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association and president of the McKennan Pharmacy, Pittsburgh. Mr. Gaw's subject was "The New Era in Professional Pharmacy." His theme was built around this thought, taken from LaWall's "Four Thousand Years of Pharmacy:" "The primary function of pharmacy is to prepare medicines for those who require them. It is therefore a highly specialized calling which may rise to the dignity of a true profession or sink to the level of the lowest commercialism, according to the ideals, the ability and the training of the one who practices it."

The speaker cited many instances from his personal experience. He indicated how necessary it is for the pharmacist to keep informed on present pharmaceutical and medical problems; to be familiar with the new and recent remedial agents, so that when he is called upon for such information he is able to give it intelligently. He told of the importance of calling upon physicians and acquainting them with the newer preparations and the specialized service which the pharmacist is able to render, and stressed very forcefully the importance of the close relationship necessary among pharmacists and seemed to be of the firm opinion that a very necessary duty of every pharmacist

is real support of his professional organizations.

Mr. Gaw very ably related incidents that have occurred during his unusual experience in conducting one of Pittsburgh's finest professional pharmacies. In concluding his program, he conducted an open forum. Many questions were asked and much information was freely given about the methods in conducting a pharmacy which does not sell "patent medicines" but has for its policy the service of "purveying prescriptions and remedial agents to physicians and their patients."

FRANK S. MCGINNIS, *Reporter*.

CINCINNATI.

Secretary R. L. Puls, of the Cincinnati Branch, A. PH. A., advised of interesting sessions. The recent meeting, in the absence of President Herman Schuler, was presided over by John P. Jennie. The speakers of the evening were Frank H. Freericks and B. Kotte. Features of the evening were reports of the meetings of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and National Association of Retail Druggists.

LECTURES AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

The Lecture Bureau of the College of Pharmacy, Columbia University, announces a series of lectures to be given by various members of the teaching staff on successive Saturdays. These lectures are to be given to students in high schools who are members of biological, chemical, medical, scientific clubs, etc.

Dr. J. F. Suchy, professor in the School of Pharmacy, has completed his work in drug and food chemistry this past summer for his doctor's degree. Dr. Suchy's thesis was "A Study of the Preparation, Properties, Toxicity and Pharmacological Action of Various Strychnine Benzoates."

Dr. A. B. J. Moore, member of the A. PH. A., formerly of McGill University, saved the life of a Sydney, Australia, merchant, who had been seriously injured. Professor Moore was homeward bound when a wireless giving account of the accident was picked up by a Canadian vessel. Dr. Moore was taken a distance of 95 miles to the injured man on Lord Howe Island, Australian coast, and through this attention the life of Mr. Parke was saved.