PROCEEDINGS OF THE LOCAL BRANCHES

"All papers presented to the Association and Branches shall become the property of the Association with the understanding that they are not to be published in any other publication prior to their publication in those of the Association, except with the consent of the Council." —Part of Chapter VI, Article VI of the By-Laws.

ARTICLE III of Chapter VII reads: "The objects and aims of local branches of this Association shall be the same as set forth in ARTICLE I of the Constitution of this body, *and the acts of local branches shall in no way commit or bind this Association, and can only serve as recommendations to it.* And no local branch shall enact any article of Constitution or By-Law to conflict with the Constitution or By-Laws of this Association."

ARTICLE IV of Chapter VII reads: "Each local branch having not less than 50 dues-paid members of the Association, holding not less than six meetings annually with an attendance of not less than 9 members at each meeting, and the proceedings of which shall have been submitted to the JOURNAL for publication, may elect one representative to the House of Delegates."

Reports of the meeting of the Local Branches shall be mailed to the Editor on the day following the meeting, if possible. Minutes should be typewritten with wide spaces between the lines. Care should be taken to give propér names correctly and manuscript should be signed by the reporter.

BALTIMORE.

The May meeting of the Baltimore Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION was held May 12th, at the Emerson Hotel. President Solomon was in the chair.

The speakers of the evening were Dr. S. L. Hilton of Washington, D. C., and Mr. Marvin J. Andrews of the School of Pharmacy, University of Maryland.

Doctor Hilton spoke on scientific pharmacy and prescriptions. From many years experience in the retail business he cited several interesting and unusual prescriptions and explained how they should be properly filled. Attention was called to the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing in the compounding of chemicals which change in weight as a result of climatic conditions. In his work on the Committee on Prescription Tolerances of the A. PH. A. Doctor Hilton made note of the progress being made to correct inaccuracies in compounding.

Mr. Andrews presented a lengthy paper describing the fine work which is being carried out under his direction at the School of Pharmacy. Work on the magnitude of error of dispensing of powder prescriptions was reported. The influence of methods of filling, number of ingredients of each prescription, nature of the ingredients, number of powders made and the amount of material in each powder, as factors in the production of error was brought out. As the result of careful examination of 450 powder prescriptions filled by the senior students in dispensing pharmacy at the School, it was concluded that twice the average standard deviation would be a reasonable error.

The work being carried out in this field is particularly valuable. All the years that prescriptions have been filled and still no one knows just how accurate a properly compounded prescription should be. It is to be hoped that the work of the Committee of Prescription Tolerances will lead to a satisfactory conclusion.

Following the presentation of papers discussion was entered into by those present. It was the consentient opinion of those present that more prescription survey work should be carried out in order that our Law Enforcement Officials might have a standard to apply in their work.

The meeting was attended by about seventy-five members and their friends including students from the School of Pharmacy and the School of Medicine, University of Maryland. A vote of thanks was tendered the speakers.

C. JELLEFF CARR, *Secretary-Treasurer.*

CHICAGO.

The 214th meeting of the Chicago Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION was held at the University of Illinois College of Pharmacy on the evening of May 16th.

President Terry introduced the speaker of the evening, Dr. Bernard Fantus.

Dr. Fantus spoke on the subject, "Medicinal Vehicles, an Experimental Study." He discussed first the U. S. P. Aromatic Elixir.

Five formulas for the making of the elixir were discussed, each aiming at shortening the time of manufacture. All of the ways suggested were uniform in the one respect, that the syrup or sucrose was added last so as to reduce the viscosity of the liquid so that it would filter faster. Dr. Fantus offered his own formula which does not require the use of talc as a filtering medium. He claims that the talc removes not only the undissolved oils but some of the dissolved oils.

Iso-Alcoholic Elixir was next discussed. This is composed of two elixirs, one of high alcoholic strength and one of low alcoholic strength, the two to be mixed in the proper ratio to conform to the alcoholic strength of the liquid medicament for which the elixir is to be used as the vehicle. Samples of potent fluidextracts mixed with U. S. P. Aromatic Elixir and mixed with the Iso-Alcoholic Elixir were passed around to the audience and the results were quite evident.

The advantage of this proposed elixir was shown with the use of Sodium Bromide, Chloral Hydrate and Phenobarbital.

An Aromatic Syrup of Yerba Santa was discussed and its power of disguising bitter drugs was shown. Wooden spoons were passed around to the audience so that the samples could be tasted.

Syrup of Glycyrrhiza was the next vehicle discussed. It was found that some samples of the Fluidextract and Fluidglycerate were sweet while some were bitter and tests showed this to be in the rhizome of the drug. Since no uniform sweetness could be expected from the drug, Dr. Fantus extracted the sweet principle of the drug, glycyrrhizin, and made a syrup from it. This new syrup has the advantage in that it is always sweet and, in later discussions, was shown to be even cheaper to manufacture than the official syrup.

Syrup of Anise was next presented as a vehicle to replace Elixir of Anise.

The last vehicle discussed was Syrup of Cinnamon. This new syrup is made with the oil and Compound Tincture of Cudbear, the oil replacing the drug. This is a more rapid way of making the syrup and has the advantage in that it is more pleasant to take, not astringent, and offers no incompatibility with iron preparations.

The discussion following the demonstration brought out many interesting bits of information. Considerable interest was manifest in the suggested use of amaranth as a coloring agent replacing cudbear.

Dr. Fantus expressed his appreciation of the aid received from his assistants, the Misses Dyniewicz.

LAWRENCE TEMPLETON, *Secretary.*

NEW YORK.

The May meeting of the New York Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION was held on May 8th, at the New York College of Pharmacy, Columbia University. About eighty-five members and guests were present. The president, Dr. Ernst Bilhuber, presided. The report of the secretary was read and approved.

Chairman Mayer, of the Audit Committee, reported approval of all bills submitted, and Treasurer Currens reported a balance of $273.49.

Chairman Lehman, of the Committee on Education and Legislation, reported:

State Legislation.—Out of the 85 odd bills affecting Pharmacy, presented in the last State Legislature, only one has passed and is now a law, namely, the Narcotic Bill; the only difference between the new law and the Harrison, is that it includes Cannabis Indica and its derivatives, and does exempt such preparations which contain more than one narcotic, when they contain only exempt quantities of each narcotic ingredient. The inclusion of Cannabis does not bother the New York City pharmacist, as it is already included in the Sanitary code of the Health Department of this City.

Sales Tax.—This law affects pharmacists as well as other retail merchants; foods are exempted from its provisions, and an earnest effort is being made by the New York State Pharmaceutical Association as well as the N. Y. Pharmaceutical Conference to exempt at least prescriptions from its provisions.

Medicinal Liquor Regulations.—No longer will a duplicate form 1403 be given to the patient; physicians may use the duplicate official form as an original, by crossing out the word Duplicate. After January 1, 1934 physicians need not use official blanks, but will be provided with a stamp which must be affixed to their own prescription blanks. Physicians may prescribe sufficient medicinal liquor or wine of over 3.2 to last the patient for 30 days, estimated about two gallons per month. Physicians may prescribe sufficient for 90 days, but in such cases must immediately

notify the Supervisor of Permits for the district of his action, and the pharmacist filling such prescription must do so likewise. Prescriptions for medicinal liquors are valid for seven days after their date. Physicians need not make reports, but pharmacists must; physicians must keep an alphabetical record of all their prescriptions of that kind.

Dealers in Malt Liquors.—Such must pay an annual excise tax of $20.00, except when they have a so-called retail liquor dealer's license, then there is no additional fee.

(The New York State Law names the Pharmacists and Grocery-men as the distributors of Malt Liquors and Wines under 3.2 strength when the beverages are not to be consumed on the premises. License fee, $50.00 a year in places of more than 1500 inhabitants; less, $25.00.)

Chairman Kidder, of the Professional Relations Committee, reported that a joint Physician-Pharmacist meeting was being organized by the New York Conference, Academy of Pharmacy, and the State Association. He suggested that the Branch coöperate with these other organizations in one big meeting. Dr. Kidder was authorized to go ahead with his plans.

Chairman Kassner submitted the application of Prof. Leonard J. Piccoli for membership in the Branch; he was elected.

Dr. Schaefer next reported that the Northern New Jersey Branch changed its proposed meeting night to the third Monday of each month. It was proposed, and approved, to send a delegation from the New York Branch to attend the first meeting of the Northern New Jersey Branch.

Dr. Schaefer reported for the Remington Medal Committee that the medal had been awarded to Secretary E. F. Kelly, of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. After a discussion, President Bilhuber, appointed Dr. Schaefer to take care of arrangements for a suitable meeting to be held early in the fall at which time the medal would be given to Dr. Kelly. The members were of the opinion that this meeting should be held in New York.

Chairman Heimersheim of the Committee on the Progress of Pharmacy submitted a report summarized as follows:

An investigation of the keeping qualities of Syrup of Ferrous Iodide discloses the fact that oxidation of the iron is less rapid in syrups containing citric acid than in syrups containing phosphorous acid.

Ballard and Miller, in an article in the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, call attention to the fact that Tolu concentrates from several reputable manufacturers, when diluted according to directions, yield syrups containing considerably less alcohol than required by the U. S. P. for Syrup of Tolu.

Dr. Bilhuber then introduced the speaker for the evening, Harry Taub; his subject was "Chemical Microscopy in the Service of Pharmacy." He pointed out how chemical microscopy got its start by the following incident. A museum had purchased an alleged ancient Roman coin; subsequent information had made the director suspicious of the genuineness of his specimen. A chemical analysis of its composition would provide the necessary information and the coin was taken to Professor Chamot of Cornell for chemical analysis. Now this would ordinarily be a simple procedure, but Professor Chamot was told that the coin must under no circumstances be mutilated. He finally solved the problem by examining microscopically the metallic mark left on a ground glass plate, when the plate was scratched with the coin. The entire chemical analysis was carried out under the microscope.

Since then an entire scheme of inorganic analysis has been devised for application to the microscope. The speaker called particular attention to the fact that the identification of many compounds is facilitated through the use of the microscope, in that the crystal forms of the various materials can be used in conjunction with other properties as a reliable unique characteristic. The processes of distillation, filtration, sublimation and others can be carried out on minute quantities of materials. The speaker demonstrated the processes. The microscope makes possible the use of polarized light in the identification of many substances. Another point which Professor Taub emphasized was that rarely are complete separations necessary in the identification of substances in a mixture. The tests applied are easily interpreted without making unnecessary long and tedious separations.

Throughout the course of his talk the speaker demonstrated the operations—the detection of traces of "Bichloride" in Calomel was shown by sublimation from the suspected sample on to the surface of a glass slide. Tests of identity are then run on the minute amount of sublimate so obtained.

Another interesting application discussed was a case of belladonna poisoning from a sample of Elixir I.Q. and S. Micro tests carried out on the sample finally proved the presence of both atropine and aconitine. The usual routine chemical analysis would have been extremely long and tedious, with the likelihood that the infinitesimal amount of aconitine which was present would be overlooked. The micro method readily and conclusively proved the presence of both of the alkoloids.

Another advantage of micro-chemical analysis is the simplicity of the equipment necessary. Aside from the microscope, the necessary materials are, about sixty reagents, glass slides, cover-slips, capillary tubes, small glass rods, a small spirit lamp or micro-burner and a set of substances for comparison tests.

Micro-chemical analysis has proved to be especially useful in distinguishing counterfeit proprietaries from the genuine. When the product is a tablet, the diluent is frequently used as an index of genuineness, or the degree of fineness of the particles serves as an index. Examination of the type or ink used in decorating the package has been used as a means of distinguishing genuine from counterfeit. Liquid preparations often contain a secret identifying substance; face powders can readily be differentiated under the microscope and qualitative examination has been facilitated through the use of microchemical methods.

An extremely interesting application of micro-chemistry, demonstrated by Professor Taub, was the detection of blood stains with the crystal-hæmin test. Every variety of blood gives a different reaction. It is possible to differentiate the blood of males and females by this test. The character of the crystal formed is the distinguishing point.

By means of a special projector, the speaker assisted by Mr. Rosenberg was able to show pictures of various crystals.

The applications of micro-photography were briefly touched upon, and Professor Taub cited some interesting cases where microphotographs proved very useful in legal work. Micro-chemistry has also proved its worth in fields other than pharmacy. The speaker referred to the use of the microscope in the fur industry as a means of identifying various furs before and after dyeing; in the textile trades—in the examination of fibres—rayons, silks, wools and cottons are easily distinguished, and mixtures of these fibres can be detected.

Professor Taub called attention to the importance of a knowledge of crystallography in micro-chemistry, and since the crystal-form becomes a distinguishing character a knowledge of the classification of crystals is essential.

The numerous demonstrations throughout the talk were obviously followed with interest and the display of equipment was enthusiastically examined by many.

Following a brief discussion a rising vote of thanks was accorded the speaker.

RUDOLF HAUCK, *Secretary.*

NORTH PACIFIC.

The second meeting of the North Pacific Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION was held at North Pacific College of Oregon, April 24, 1933, President A. O. Mickelsen presiding.

Secretary Donnell read a letter received from Secretary E. F. Kelly announcing that the application of the North Pacific Branch and its constitution and by-laws had been approved by the Council of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and the Branch was officially established. Letters of congratulation and good wishes for the success of the North Pacific Branch were read from W. Bruce Philip and Prof. C. Leonard O'Connell.

The president appointed the following committees:

Committee on Practical Pharmacy: *Chairman,* Harry Weis, 639 Webster St., Portland; Frederick Grill, Portland; Walter Rhodes, Portland.

Committee on Professional Relations: *Chairman,* L. G. Haack, 423 Taylor St., Portland.

Committee on Program: *Chairman,* Earl Gunther, 404 Taylor St., Portland; Fred Felter, 503 Woodlark Bldg., Portland; F. A. Geue, 448 Stark St., Portland.

Committee on Membership: *Chairman,* Frank Nau, 127 Sixth St., Portland; Adolph Ziefle, Corvallis, Ore.; A. O. Mickelsen, Portland.

Considerable discussion was devoted to a tentative program for the Oregon State Pharmaceutical Association. North Pacific Branch will be allowed one-half day of the convention time. The program committee

pledged a program of special interest to the drug trade and professional in scope. A prescription pricing contest will undoubtedly be part of the program. Another feature proposed is a talk on "Druggists Own Products"—useful formulas coupled with a display of preparations, conducted by Dean Mickelsen.

The serving of beer by the glass over the counter was denounced by all members present. John Witty moved, seconded by Walter Rhodes, that the North Pacific Branch endorse the stand taken by the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION concerning the sale of beer in the drug store.

Bulletins on the Control and Extermination of Clothes Moths were distributed by A. O. Mickelsen, bringing out the fact that now is the time to obtain new professional business by selling products made by the pharmacists for this purpose. A number of practical moth exterminators were displayed, which had been prepared by the senior pharmacy students at North Pacific College of Pharmacy.

HARVEY J. DONNELL, *Secretary-Treasurer.*

A CENTURY OF PROGRESS INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION.

Beams from the star Arcturus set in motion the Century of Progress; newspaper and radio accounts gave a most interesting story of the event. The chairman of the Committee on Pharmacy Exhibit is H. C. Christensen and the secretary is Dr. Frank B. Kirby; this exhibit is now complete and with various displays constitutes an interesting part of the Exposition. A model of the Pharmacy Building is part of the exhibit—see May issue of the JOURNAL. History and progress of pharmacy is shown in several divisions—historical, educational and professional and includes the story of the United States Pharmacopœia and the National Formulary; there is a reproduction of part of the Ebers Papyrus. An historical drug store, and a reproduction of Chicago's first drug store, a small log building opened in 1832 by Philo Carpenter in Lake Street between what is now Wells and La Salle Streets. This is contrasted with an up-to-date pharmaceutical laboratory with modern equipment. Daily demonstrations are given in this laboratory by pharmacists on prescription compounding, testing drugs and preparations for purity, chemical problems, accuracy in weighing, etc. All of this work is of such a type as to be readily understood by the public.

The educational display shows, by means of an arch, the basic sciences on which the practice of pharmacy rests. Two 18-inch revolving globes with a map of North America contrast the number of colleges of pharmacy a century ago with those of to-day. The center of attraction for this exhibit is the model of the Pharmacy Headquarters' Building.

The exhibit also tells the story of Digitalis, from field to finished product. This is in the form of a dioramic view showing a field of digitalis, with a pharmaceutical manufacturing establishment in the background with an open front to show various divisions—drying cupboards, cleaning room, milling room, etc., and then a display of specimens of the drug in various forms from the crude state to the finished product.

An S. V. E. automatic pictural projector is used to tell the story of the U. S. P. and N. F., legislation protecting the public and safeguarding the sale of poisons and drugs, service rendered to the public and other themes.

PHARMACOPŒIAL STANDARDS.

In the discussion at the Scientific meeting of the American Drug Manufacturers' Association, Dr. Joseph Rosin brought out a point which can be quite far-reaching in its effect. He said that "the U. S. Pharmacopœia contains in its monographs statements that are not part of the standard, but embody useful or incidental information regarding the product in question. Thus, that digitalis should be stored in air-tight containers and kept free from moisture might merely mean that the product should be kept free from moisture, and that the air-tight containers are an aid in keeping it so. In dry places, the air-tight containers would not be necessary. This type of information will be appreciated by those enforcing drug standards, and probably the only way in which this could be done is to have this information so marked in the forthcoming revision of the Pharmacopœia."