

turned to a yellowish orange color. It is desirable to dispense these powders without decomposition and the addition of 5 Gm. of dried starch to the mixture will prevent the reaction and change in color. However, the mixture should not be triturated in a mortar.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS,
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

U. S. P. AND N. F. PUBLICITY IN MARYLAND.*

BY FRANK L. BLACK.

There has been a great amount of enthusiasm shown in the revival of the use of U. S. P. and N. F. preparations. Back in 1930, Lawrence S. Williams, president of the Maryland Pharmaceutical Association, advocated in his retiring speech the forming of a committee to study the U. S. P. and N. F. Propaganda. The incoming president appointed Mr. Williams chairman of this committee. They worked for two years under Presidents Spire and Kantner and made some progress.

L. S. Williams had to resign due to ill health and, in 1933, President L. V. Johnson appointed a new committee of eight, who selected Marvin J. Andrews as its chairman.¹

The first meeting of the new committee was held on August 16, 1933, when plans were formulated for the type of work to be done. It was decided at this meeting that mimeographed letters be sent to every physician in the City of Baltimore and the counties of Maryland. These letters were to consist *first*, of general information on the U. S. P. and N. F.; *second*, arguments to induce the physicians to prescribe U. S. P. and N. F. drugs and preparations; and *third*, such other material that the committee may decide upon.

It was also decided that with each letter at least eight or ten reasonable prescriptions be included, titled as to their use. This letter and the list of prescriptions were to be published in the *Maryland Pharmacist*, one month before mailing them to the physicians, so that every pharmacist would be enlightened as to what was being done, with the exception that the use for which these prescriptions were intended would not be mentioned in the *Journal* in order that physicians could not come back with the suggestion that pharmacists were employing these formulas for counter-prescribing.

It was proposed to send out a series of six such letters and lists of prescriptions at intervals of one month. Then came the task of financing this proposition. After very careful study the cost for completing the work was ascertained to be about \$575.00 to \$600.00, which included stationery, mimeographed letters, printing of prescription formulas and postage; there are about 200 physicians in Baltimore and in the state of Maryland.

The state and city associations had appropriated a sum of money at the first announcement of this project, but due to the financial loss and depression they were not able to make the full payment. Maryland Pharmaceutical Association

* Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, A. PH. A., Washington meeting, 1934.

¹ Assistant Professor of Pharmacy at the School of Pharmacy of the University of Maryland.

holds a spring and a fall regional meeting independent of the yearly convention; on October 17, 1933, at the Hagerstown regional meeting, it was proposed and passed that a letter should be mailed to every pharmacy in Maryland, asking for a donation of one dollar. There were about 75 members present at this meeting and about sixty-five dollars were collected before adjournment.

On November 1st, the appeal requesting this donation was mailed to every pharmacy, and to date about \$400.00 has been collected. The outcome of this appeal for one dollar was somewhat of a surprise, as it was expected to receive at least 90 or 95% of replies from the independents and little or no support from the chain organizations; however, the chains responded 100% and the responses from the independents was below the expectancy. This loss being observed, the Baltimore Retail Druggists' Association formed a committee to canvass every drug store in Baltimore that had not subscribed, and to date the result has been very satisfactory.

There have been a number of joint meetings of the pharmaceutical bodies with the doctors and on each occasion some comment was made of the value of the U. S. P. and N. F.

It is gratifying that the *Maryland Pharmacist* has been good enough to give the space of two pages or more for this work. The second mailing has just been completed and responsive thereto a number of very complimentary letters from medical friends have been received and the results of the undertaking are very encouraging.

NOTE: Reprints and formulas accompanied the paper, also copies of an address on "U. S. P. and N. F.—Their Relationship to the Cost of Medical Care," by R. L. Swain, delivered before the Maryland Academy of Medicine and Surgery, January 16, 1934, reprinted from the *Maryland Pharmacist*, February 1934.

Accompanying a series of prescriptions (exhibited with the paper) mailed to physicians it was stated:

"The purpose of sending you these prescriptions is to direct your attention to some of the useful combinations which can be made from items official in the Pharmacopoeia of the United States and the National Formulary with the hope that you may be induced to make more frequent use of these standard works in writing your prescriptions. If you have any criticisms to make of the above prescriptions or any suggestions to offer as to other means by which we may accomplish our purpose, it will be appreciated if you will communicate them to the Committee.

"Prepared under the auspices of the U. S. P. and N. F. Publicity Committee of the Maryland Pharmaceutical Association and the Baltimore Retail Druggists' Association."

(Signed) MARVIN J. ANDREWS, *Chairman*.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL POSSIBILITIES OF DENTAL SUPPLIES.*

BY LEON RICHARDS.¹

The potential possibilities in the field of dental supplies are worthy of considerable attention by the present-day pharmacist. This opportunity of mutual benefit by the coöperation of the professions of dentistry and pharmacy demands more than casual interest. It is not a new idea, but the advantages to be gained from this coöperative effort seemingly need more emphasis. The knowledge and services of both groups are not being utilized to the extent they should be.

* Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, A. PH. A., Washington meeting, 1934.

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