

which a cough was caused by the deposition of an excessively large amount of wax in the ear. When the wax was removed, the cough ceased. The most important thing in treating the cough is not to stop it. Treatment should be aimed at controlling it and removing the cause.

A rising vote of thanks was accorded the speakers and the meeting adjourned.

HORACE T. F. GIVENS, *Secretary*.

CAUSE OF AND REMEDY FOR POOR ATTENDANCE AT LOCAL BRANCH MEETINGS.

DAVID J. MASON.*

In conformity with the request of our chairman, Dr. F. Schaefer, I present this report relative to the lowered attendance at our Local Branch meetings, and propose herein some recommendations which may correct this lack of interest. Inasmuch as the problem of poor attendance is a common one, I present my report in paper form, which by being included in this evening's minutes, becomes available to other branches having a similar problem.

In compiling this report, I wish to acknowledge indebtedness to Drs. H. A. B. Dunning and E. F. Kelly, and also Dr. H. H. Schaefer, of our own branch, who presented a paper, "Potential Value of Pharmaceutical Symposia, 1936 Dallas Meeting, A. Ph. A.," for me at the recent Dallas meeting, which was a by-product of the work on this paper.

Using a medical analogy, the symptom of poor attendance has its origin in our members' lack of interest in the meetings as they have found them. It must always be remembered that their free time is limited. We are competing for this spare time with other interests, probably more entertaining and enjoyable, and unless our meetings can be intensely interesting, we cannot expect to attract them regularly.

An analysis of last year's meetings shows that almost half of them have been devoted to non-scientific, irrelevant and uninteresting subjects—a poor incentive for attendance. Some might also say that present economic conditions are such that retail pharmacists cannot afford to leave their pharmacies, or that their schooling is insufficient to properly understand or be really interested in a technical scientific presentation. Others may say that there are very few large pharmaceutical laboratories in or about New York, that pharmaceutical chemists, employed therein, are consequently few in number, so causing a physical limitation to possible attendance.

It is self-evident that attendance and interest are functions of the value and content of the meetings. To take a homely analogy, when mother bakes a cake, she has no trouble in its disposal, especially if it tastes as good as it looks. As meetings are made more interesting, so will the attendance increase.

How then, are we to make meetings more interesting? I suggest the following:

1. Start the meetings early and on time (exactly 8:15).
2. Shorten the business meeting. Less time should be given to reports of standing committees. Reports should be given in 5-minute abstracts and may be written out for inclusion in the minutes.
3. Improve the quality of presentations. Beside scientific knowledge, we should expect some speaking ability. There should be no commercial reference or mention in the subject under discussion. Films, slides and apparatus should be prepared, arranged and tested before the meeting begins.
4. Publish the list of speakers and topics about three or four months in advance in the *New York State Journal of Pharmacy* and the local pharmaceutical press.
5. Appoint a program committee to procure speakers and to arrange programs and functions. They should consist of men who are able and willing to be active in the full sense of the word. A chairman should be appointed, and his assisting members be so selected that there be at least one from each borough and one from each local school of pharmacy.

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6. The program committee should show some discretion in choosing speakers. Speakers should be confined to technical subjects mainly. I believe that the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION is a scientific society, and as such should be interested mainly in the technical aspects of our profession. Commercial interests of our retail members are amply cared for by the N. A. R. D. and the county and state associations, while the A. D. M. A. and N. W. D. A. and the Proprietary Association watch out for the manufacturers. The common denominator of all pharmaceutical factions is Technical Pharmacy. Problems of incompatibility, for example, concern our colleagues in the great manufacturing laboratories as well as myself in the prescription department of my employer's pharmacy.

7. However, "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." After the scientific portion of the meeting is finished, we should set aside the remaining 45 to 60 minutes for social functions. As Dr. Dunning suggests, this procedure is routine at the Local Branch of the A. C. S. Members divide themselves into small groups, converse or gossip, play cards, or gather around the piano or dance. *De gustibus non disputamus*. Refreshments, liquid or otherwise, are also served. How can an evening be spent more pleasantly and how can one resist attending? Feminine members and friends look forward to this part of the meeting as do the men; particularly impressing is the large number of students and young graduates present at these chemical society meetings.

8. The New York City Pharmacy Schools should have regular and repeated class room announcements of our meetings, one man in each school being responsible for the publicity. The attendance of students at our branch meeting would be a wholesome form of extra-curricular activity and should be encouraged.

9. The meeting place may possibly be changed for a more convenient one. At least the membership should be consulted.

10. We might profitably try some of the following events successfully tried in other local branches.

(a) Historical evenings—where after an introductory prepared talk by an older member, others get up and recount related events as they remember them.

(b) Prescription Clinic—several incompatible prescriptions are shown and discussion is left to the membership as to best methods of correction or avoidance.

(c) Student night—students have complete control of the entire meeting (this includes presiding, presenting speakers, entertaining, etc.).

(d) Pharmaceutical Plays—similar to the one enacted by members of the Philadelphia branch recently.

(e) Hold semiannual Pharmaceutical symposia lasting two or three consecutive evenings. There are many other things that may be done.¹ With a properly functioning program committee there is no reason why member interest cannot be revived and attendance increased. The New York Branch is one of the best. Let us keep it so.

PHILADELPHIA.

The January meeting of the Philadelphia Branch, AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, was held at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. President Lawrence Miller presided.

The secretary announced that Secretary E. F. Kelly had acknowledged applications of Messrs. Finkle and Weiner and that rebate of these applications would be credited.

E. G. Eberle regretted his inability to be present. Names of officers-elect of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION were announced. An amendment to the By-Laws was offered in writing to be voted on at next meeting, reading: "The fiscal year of the Branch shall be from January 1st of one year to December thirty-first of the same year."

President George D. Beal, of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION was introduced by President Miller. The subject of the speaker was "Industrial Research." He pointed out the reason and need of research; this had changed, in many instances, the social and economic life of a people; he stressed the need of a strong ASSOCIATION and spoke on how the local branches could aid in bringing this about. A rising vote of thanks was given President Beal.

GEORGE E. BYERS, *Secretary*.

¹ A good example of a well-planned meeting is that of the Philadelphia Branch, reported in Volume 19, A. PH. A., page 520.

STUDENT BRANCH LOUISVILLE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

At the November meeting of the Student Branch of the Louisville College of Pharmacy the program included a motion picture on "Oxygen Therapy" with accompanying remarks by Mr. Banash. The film was shown through the courtesy of the Linde Air Products Co. At this meeting the Branch voted to place a bulletin board in the waiting room of the College and the assignment of obtaining the board was delegated to Mr. Zurlage.

At the December meeting the program included a talk by Dr. Harry S. Frazier on "The Cause and Prevention of Tuberculosis," the text of which follows this report. The speaker of the evening was introduced by Sister Margaret Ann Schwering.

The following nominations for officers to be elected and installed at the January meeting were made: *President*, Mr. Acuff and Mr. Zurlage; *Vice-President*, Mr. Forgy; *Treasurer*, Mr. Dorsey; *Secretary*, Mr. Zurlage and Mr. Acuff.

JOE BLACK, *Secretary*.

JANUARY MEETING.

At the January meeting of the Louisville College of Pharmacy Student Branch the following officers were elected and installed for the ensuing year: *President*, H. J. Zurlage; *Vice-President*, J. P. Forgy; *Secretary*, H. F. Acuff; *Treasurer*, J. W. Dorsey. In his address the new president urged a drive for new members and promised his full coöperation in the advancement of the branch.

The new secretary hopes to be able to help the ASSOCIATION in whatever way possible and also that the new officers, may carry on the good work done by the retiring officers.

HAL ACUFF, *Secretary*.

TUBERCULOSIS.*

BY HARRIS S. FRAZIER, M.D.

In his service to humanity a Doctor spares no effort to better Community health. He is not alone, however, in this project. He can be and often is rendered invaluable assistance by a well-informed pharmacist who knows the simple rules of good health. Frequently, either through fear of the doctor or lack of time to consult one, an individual with a "common cold" will stop at the corner drug store for aid and advice. It is then that the pharmacist has ample opportunity to impart knowledge which, perhaps, may avert not only a case of tuberculosis but prevent a further spread of the disease.

Tuberculosis is so-called because of the presence of small tubercles observed in advanced cases. It is perhaps one of the oldest and most dreaded of the communicable diseases. History furnishes us with data relative to the findings of calcified areas in the lungs of the Egyptian mummy. The first stethoscope used in listening to the sounds of the chest was devised by Lanec who by coiling a paper and placing one end in his ear and the other on the patient's chest could ascertain the normal and abnormal murmurs of the lungs. Robert Koch was the first to isolate the tubercle bacillus.

The Bovine and the Human are the two most important types of Tuberculosis; the former, however, has practically been eradicated by Public Health Measures. Any cow showing a positive tuberculous reaction is slaughtered. In this way, milk contaminated with tubercle bacilli is not ingested by man. Tuberculosis in man is not hereditary but may be termed a "house disease." The poor whose daily sustenance is insufficient to build up and maintain a resistance against this organism fall an easy prey to its insidious attack.

Every tissue and organ of the human body may be attacked by the tubercle bacillus. The lungs, especially in adults, are the most common seat of infection. Infection in the lymphatic glands along the side of the neck (Scrofula), the spine (Pott's disease) and the membranes lining the meninges are sources of invasion frequently seen in children.

* Abstracted from an address.