

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to the Association and Branches shall become the property of the Association with the understanding that they are not to be published in any other publication prior to their publication in those of the Association, except with the consent of the Council."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 proper names correctly and manuscript should be signed by the reporter. *Please advise us of changes in Roster and mail reports promptly.*

REORGANIZATION OF WASHINGTON BRANCH, A. PH. A.

January 7, 1937.

Dear Fellow Member:

The City of Washington Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, which was established in 1908, was suspended in 1922, due to the conditions which existed at that time.

It is now desirable to reestablish the Branch and to resume its work in the Capitol City. The undersigned were the President and Secretary of the Branch at the time it was suspended, and we are, therefore, taking the liberty of inviting the members of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION who reside in the District of Columbia to attend a meeting at the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHARMACY, 2215 Constitution Ave., on Monday evening, January 18th, to reestablish the Branch.

Arrangements will be made at this meeting for the election of officers; for such changes in the By-Laws of the Branch as may be considered necessary, and for future meetings of the Branch.

Now that the headquarters of the ASSOCIATION are established in our City, the Branch can be of great service to the ASSOCIATION as well as to the pharmacists of the District, and you are urged to be present at this time and to assist in the reestablishment of your Branch.

A. G. DUMEZ, *President,*

H. C. FULLER, *Secretary-Treasurer.*

BALTIMORE.

The December meeting of the Baltimore Branch, AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, was held at the School of Pharmacy, University of Maryland, on Thursday evening, December 17, 1936.

This meeting was opened at 8:30 P.M. by President A. N. Hewing; and minutes of November meeting, as read by the secretary, were approved.

Pending business matters were delayed until later in the evening, and President Hewing proceeded with the introduction of the guest speaker: Nathan Zonies, retail pharmacist of Philadelphia.

Mr. Zonies took for the theme of his address the frequently repeated question "What Is the Matter with the Retail Drug Business?" His theory, as stated, was to the effect that too frequently the answer to this question might be found in the druggist himself. A careful survey of available facts has brought him to the conclusion that, aside from inept business management, the most potent bar to success for many pharmacists may be found in a sort of professional inferiority complex which is found in the make-up of so many proprietors of retail drug stores.

The speaker stated that he could find nothing so fundamentally wrong with the retail drug business that business success might not be reasonably expected by those druggists who can divest themselves of the psychological factors which lead to a pronounced servile attitude in their dealings with members of the other professions, and with their customers. He cited certain experiences in dealing with customers in his own stores to support the theory that the public, both lay and professional, is inclined to accept a retail pharmacist at his own estimate of himself. He deplored the attitude assumed by many pharmacists who allow themselves to be imposed upon by the public through fear of offending possible customers. The retail pharmacists present were urged to live up to their professional qualifications in dealing with the public; and to enlist en masse in the current movement toward shorter working hours and better remuneration for those who are entrusted with the important work of filling physicians' prescriptions.

In response to questions the speaker stated that his stores were operated with two shifts of pharmacists: the average work-hours for each shift of pharmacists amounting to approximately eight and one-half hours daily.

At the conclusion of this address some business matters affecting the Branch were presented by the secretary for action by members. One of these referred to the small rebate from dues paid by members to the parent ASSOCIATION now allowed for partial support of local branches. The consensus of opinion expressed by members present was that the National Association could ill afford such a distribution of its funds at this time, and that the Baltimore Branch preferred to finance a continuation of its activities through dues collected from local members.

A motion to return any funds received through this distribution, to the treasury of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, was made by L. M. Kantner and seconded by Simon Solomon. This motion was not carried, however. In the discussion which preceded a vote on this question it was brought out that while this Branch now maintains one dues-paid membership in the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, as a prize offered to a graduating student of the local School of Pharmacy, a second such membership had previously been pledged when funds of Baltimore Branch would permit. A second motion was offered by Charles Myers to the effect that the Local Branch should continue to operate on same financial and membership basis as in the past. This motion was carried.—It being the understanding of members present that such funds as may now be received from the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION will eventually be returned to the parent ASSOCIATION in the form of paid-up student memberships, or otherwise.

ROBERT S. FUQUA, *Secretary-Treasurer.*

CHICAGO.

The monthly meeting of the Chicago Branch, AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, was held Tuesday evening, December 15th, at the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

President Morrison opened the meeting and appointed the nominating committee for officers of the Branch for the coming year: *Chairman*, Dean William B. Day, C. F. Lanwermeyer and I. A. Becker.

Professor Gathercoal was greeted as President-Elect of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

A discussion was opened as to the desirability of the Local Branch inviting the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION to hold its national convention in Chicago in the near future.

A motion was passed that an invitation should be extended and a committee of three, with Lawrence Templeton as chairman, was appointed to secure the coöperation of the other local drug organizations.

F. E. Bibbins, director of Pharmaceutical Manufacturing, Eli Lilly & Co., was introduced as the speaker of the evening. He discussed "Manufacturing Control of **Pharmaceutical Products.**"

The evolution of manufacturing pharmacy from the early days of the speaker's drug experience to the present highly scientific methods was told by the citing of the way in which Tincture of Opium, Liquefied Phenol and Spirit of Camphor were made in the drug store when he first began working as a clerk.

By comparison, to-day the preparations must be made by the large manufacturing con-

cerns with strict and careful scientific controls. Now all drugs and preparations are assayed for standardization, if possible.

The manufacturers have set up many standards for the inspection and testing of the crude materials. In the receiving room every package is opened and inspected. All materials are held until the sample is checked and has met all specifications.

In the making of compressed tablets every different formula requires a different method of treatment. The materials must be in a state of minute granulation, not powder. The materials are granulated by the addition of starch paste, syrup, gelatin solution or mucilage of acacia. Others are granulated by "slugging" in a tablet machine. These large tablets are then ground to the proper fineness. Lubrication is added in the form of talc, boric acid or stearic acid. Corn or potato starch is added to cause the tablet to disintegrate in the presence of sufficient moisture. Specifications as to disintegration and size of tablet must be met. Thickness standards are set for the tablets and micrometers are used to detect deviations.

Reasonable tolerances are sought for the accuracy of dosage in the tablets. Compressed tablets do vary in dosage due to the degree of fineness of the mixture of powders and to the feeding through the machines. In hypodermic tablets milk sugar is commonly used. Beta Lactose is desired due to its being about ten times as soluble as ordinary lactose.

The chemical manufacturers crystallize special batches of chemicals to make them more soluble for hypodermic tablet manufacture. The specification is set that the tablet should dissolve in less than ten seconds.

In the preparation of Elixirs, Syrups and Miscellaneous Liquids, various ways of developing the formulas have been suggested. It is suggested that the medical staff should devise the formula for the medicaments, then the pharmacist should design a formula that will hold these ingredients in solution, then flavor, color and make aromatic to suit the particular condition.

Mention was made of one of the newer medicaments, Mandelic Acid, as having a decidedly disagreeable taste and quite difficult to disguise.

Manufacturers now have many advantages over their early predecessors in having such apparatus as glass-lined containers, many types of filter presses, no loss of alcohol or other volatile material. The hydrogen-ion concentration control has been developed to prevent sedimentation and color change. Elixir of Ammonium Valerinate was cited as an example where hydrogen ion of p_{H7} gives a permanent pink color and particularly lessens the offensive odor of the preparation.

In the making of Vanilla Extract it was found that no two lots of beans had the same flavor due to methods of curing. Samples were taken of various lots offered for sale, the best of the lots purchased and mixed together to produce an extract of good and somewhat uniform flavor.

In the production of a colorless mineral oil odors develop, due to the development of peroxides. A special test has been devised to determine if the oil will develop this odor.

In the manufacture of Fluidextracts and Tinctures great care must be taken in the purchase and examination of the crude drugs. The pharmacognosist checks the drugs for adulterations, particularly must he watch for adulterations of plants from the same family. The U. S. P. and N. F. specifications are followed wherever possible, and if not, the label states so. The preparations are tested, adjusted for standardization and allowed to stand and age. Later they are re-assayed and the per cent of alcohol is redetermined.

Mention was made of trouble experienced in making Tincture of Nux Vomica by the new formula. Hydrochloric acid replaces acetic acid and more acid is used. A pharmacist reported a sample of the new preparation as having a highly aromatic and wine flavor. This was explained as due to the action of the acid on the alcohol, producing highly aromatic esters.

In speaking of ointments Mr. Bibbins pointed out the disadvantages of Benzoinated Lard as an ointment base in that it becomes rancid and granulates. In using petrolatum as a vehicle care must be taken in the selection of the proper grade. It must have a certain melting point, a certain viscosity to suspend powders, must be sticky and soft. Petrolatum varies greatly and the manufacturers send 50-pound samples for tests before making the shipment. Some petrolatums crystallize upon long standing.

Ointment of yellow oxide of mercury was cited as an example in the discussion of the manufacture of ophthalmic ointments. A base of liquid petrolatum, lanolin and white petrolatum is used. They are sterilized under high heat. The medicament is mixed with the base and the mixture is run in a jar mill for eight hours, sometimes as long as twenty-four hours.

A sample is examined under a lens and if in the proper state of division the ointment is placed in sterile tubes and samples are sent to the control laboratories for final testing.

Ampul medication has seen a great increase in use in the past few years. The preparation of ampuls requires well-trained operators and scientific control. They must be safe for hypodermic use. Factors involved are the selection of insoluble glass, the quality of distilled water used, lack of pyrogens, the use of reagent quality chemicals and proper sterilization. The ampuls are polished and sorted by skilled operators and many of the finished ampuls are discarded because of minor imperfections that the average person would not detect. Many ampul preparations have been rendered more stable or less irritating upon injection due to the addition of buffers.

Mr. Bibbins concluded by summing up the above outlined discussion as a partial picture of pharmaceutical manufacturing on a large scale.

The meeting was closed with many interesting questions from the audience that were answered by the speaker.

LAWRENCE TEMPLETON, *Secretary.*

NEW YORK.

The December meeting of the New York Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION was held on Monday, December 14, 1936, at the Brooklyn College of Pharmacy, Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

President F. Schaefer presided and about one hundred members and guests were present. The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer, Mr. Currens, reported as follows:

Balance as of May 11, 1936	\$252.42
Received since	48.99
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	\$301.41
Disbursements	18.38
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Balance as of December 14, 1936	\$283.03

Dr. Bilhuber reported that he had audited the books of the treasurer and found the above balance to be correct.

Mr. Hauck, Chairman of the Committee on Membership, reported that the applications of William de Neergaard and Bernard Greenberg had been received and forwarded to Secretary Kelly.

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

"The highest tribunal of the Republic has declared constitutional the second clause in the Fair Trade Laws of California and Illinois. This binds non-signatories to the price set by the owner of a trade-mark, provided such manufacturer has offered a price contract to his distributors. This clause provides a penalty in redress for 'Willfully and knowingly advertising, offering for sale or selling any commodity at less than the price stipulated in any contract entered into pursuant to the provisions of Section 1 of the Act, whether the person so advertising, offering for sale or selling is or is not a party to such contract.' This is regarded as unfair competition and is actionable at the suit of any person damaged thereby.

"The Federal Trade Commission under the authority of the Robinson-Patman Act, has made public complaints against further concerns doing business with the Drug Trade, *i. e.*, Richard Hudnut, Coty and Bourjois who are charged with granting illegal discounts and furnishing demonstrators contrary to the law.

"The Copeland Food and Drug Bill is expected to be completed in the near future. The fact that Dr. Tugwell has resigned removes some of the opposition to the measure, which originally bore his name.

"The National Drug Trade Conference was scheduled to meet in Washington on the 8th inst., and such matters as the Copeland Bill, the Treasury Department Reorganization Bill, revision of the Revenue Act of 1936, the Robinson-Patman Law and the revival of the National Industrial Recovery Act would be discussed and considered.

"The Industry and Labor Conference was also scheduled to meet at Washington on December 10th-11th, at which Major George L. Berry, President Roosevelt's coordinator for industrial recovery was to suggest for consideration the subjects of minimum wages and maximum hours, more liberal interpretation of anti-trust laws, curtailment of the Federal Trade Commission's authority, withdrawal of the Government from competition with private industry, etc. The N. A. R. D. will represent the interests of the Retail Drug Trade at both of the above conferences.

"The Social Security Act intended to remove the economic hazards of Old Age and Involuntary Unemployment is now in force. All retailers will pay a tax in the first category, of 1% for the first three years, beginning 1937, 1.5% for the next three years and so on until 3.5% has been reached; similar taxes must be paid by employees, and the employer will collect the same and turn them in to the Government at the regular tax period.

"Pharmacists are again warned to keep exact records of all sales of Exempt Narcotics. Penalties will be inflicted on those failing to obey these regulations.

"The California Chain Store Tax proposal which was submitted to a popular referendum at the last election, was defeated by a vote of about 10% of the total vote cast. The Merchants of the state will try again, as they surmise that the people did not understand the idea.

"The New York City Department of Finance has finally decided that Cod-Liver Oil is a food and not a medicine and is therefore exempt from the sales tax: combinations with other ingredients and with added vitamins, however, are taxable.

"The possibility of the formation of Consumer Coöperative Stores with financial assistance of government funds is causing some concern among retail merchants. The National Association of Chain Drug Stores is taking the matter under consideration, and is circulating a questionnaire among all classes of retail drug establishments.

"An ordinance will be presented to the Board of Alderman at an early session, providing for the licensing of all street vendors of ice cream. Fee to be \$100.00 per annum."

Mr. Gesoalde remarked that the clause of the Fair Trade Laws of California and Illinois declared constitutional by the United States Supreme Court is identical with that clause in the New York Law which was declared unconstitutional by the State court. He stated, however, that the latter decision was only with respect to the state constitution.

Mr. Lehman reported that the new constitution and by-laws of the New York Pharmaceutical Council have been adopted.

President Schaefer announced the appointment of the following Nominating Committee: Robert S. Lehman, *Chairman*; Curt P. Wimmer, James H. Kidder.

Dr. Frederick Schroeder then assumed charge of the Scientific Section of the meeting and introduced Dr. Ralph F. Harloe, Thoracic Surgeon, who spoke on the subject of the "Significance of Cough." The following is an abstract of Dr. Harloe's address:

"Coughs may be divided into two classes: the acute and the chronic. The acute cough is one that develops in a very short period of time, and which quickly responds to ordinary remedies. The chronic cough is one on which the usual remedies have practically no effect. Among other things, a chronic cough may be a symptom of one of the following: Pleurisy which causes an effusion of fluid around the lungs. Purulent pleurisy in which this fluid has become pus. Abscess of the lung surface. Actinomycosis, a disease caused by a fungus that grows on grasses, and which enters into the system by chewing on infected grass stems. Its symptoms are the same as those of bronchitis. Aortic diseases in which the aorta becomes enlarged and presses upon the lungs. Cancer of the lung, in which cases, cough appears in the later stages. Tuberculosis of the lung, which at the present time can be treated as successfully by surgical methods in New York City as by rest and sunshine and diet at Saranac Lake. The surgical procedure required was outlined in three steps: *first*, collapse of the lung by air pressure; *second*, the cutting of adhesions to permit the lung to be collapsed; and *third*, the removal of the ribs for the same purpose, if necessary. The dangers of self-medication for cough, when caused by any of the above conditions, was emphasized. It was pointed out that it is the duty of the pharmacist to encourage persons having a persistent cough to visit a physician. Numerous X-ray photographs of patients suffering from the various diseases of which cough is a symptom were shown and explained.

Dr. Frederick Schroeder then supplemented the remarks of Dr. Harloe by discussing the medical aspects of cough. He stated that there are upwards of two hundred causes of cough, some of which show no apparent connection. In illustrating this point he mentioned a case in

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.

* Member of the Professional Relations Committees of the Bronx County Pharmaceutical Association and the New York Pharmaceutical Council, Member of the U. S. P. and N. F. Propaganda Committee of the New York State Pharmaceutical Association.