

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to the Association and Branches shall become the property of the Association with the understanding that they are not to be published in any other publication prior to their publication in those of the Association, except with the consent of the Council."—Part of Chapter VI, Article VI of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

BALTIMORE.

The Baltimore Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION held its January meeting on January 14th, at the School of Pharmacy Building, University of Maryland. This was the annual business meeting at which reports of officers and the several committees were presented; and officers of Branch for the current year elected.

In addition to the consideration of business matters, and interesting committee reports, the Branch was favored on this occasion with an illustrated address by Dr. David I. Macht, physician and pharmacologist, on the "Therapeutic Uses of Snake Venoms." This proved to be an unusually interesting and timely address; covering subject matter of particular interest to physicians and pharmacists at this time. Because of the current scarcity of published information on this subject available to pharmacists generally, an abstract of this address is appended to the report of meeting.

The meeting was opened by President Hewing at 8:30 P.M., and after the minutes of the previous meeting had been read the reports of Secretary-Treasurer Fuqua were called for. The secretary's report precipitated some discussion as to what additional steps might be taken to increase attendance at meetings of the Branch, and some members were of the opinion that a fixed meeting night would be preferable to the varying dates on which meetings have previously been held. A motion that future meetings be held, if possible, on the second Thursday of the month was offered by Frank Black, seconded by L. M. Kantner, and approved by vote of the members present.

In the absence of Chairman Gilbert Josephs, of the Membership Committee, his report was read by Charles L. Meyer. This report showed that some progress had been made during the past year in securing additional members. A motion offered by Wm. F. Reindollar, expressing the appreciation of the Branch for the activities of Mr. Josephs as chairman of this committee, was carried.

Chairman Marvin J. Andrews, of the Professional Relations Committee, gave an interesting oral report covering the activities of his committee, and of other groups interested in building up more cordial relations between pharmacists and members of the other allied public health professions. As a detailed account of U. S. P. and N. F. propaganda work being carried on in this and other states had been given at an earlier meeting of the Branch, this was not repeated.

One of the most interesting reports submitted was that of Chairman Samuel L. Fox, of the Committee on the Science and Practice of Pharmacy. This report indicated that accomplishments in the science and practice of Pharmacy during the past year had been especially noteworthy. A careful discrimination and a close contact with developments in Medicine and Pharmacy were evidenced in the subject matter selected, and in the manner of its presentation in this report. Spontaneous applause greeted Mr. Fox on the completion of his report.

A brief but comprehensive report was presented by Chairman DuMez, of the Committee on Education and Legislation. In his report Dean DuMez called attention to the interesting educational experiment which calls for a modified form of internship for students of Pharmacy in the State of New Jersey. The more important recent legislative enactments and judicial decisions affecting pharmacists were enumerated in this report, and satisfaction was expressed with the status of proposed Federal pure food and drug legislation at that time.

At the close of these reports President Hewing proceeded with a report and valedictory address as retiring president. When called on for nominations, however, the Nominating Committee, through Chairman L. M. Kantner, proposed the following slate of officers for 1937: For *President*, A. N. Hewing; for *Vice-President*, John C. Bauer; for *Secretary-Treasurer*, Robert S. Fuqua.

Despite protests from Mr. Hewing against his reelection as presiding officer of the Branch for a second term, the above nominees were elected. ROBERT S. FUQUA, *Secretary*.

THERAPEUTIC USES OF SNAKE VENOMS.*

BY DAVID I. MACHT., M.D.

The ancients used snake venoms empirically, and pharmacopœias and dispensaries from mediæval times to the nineteenth century made mention of drugs of reptilian origin. The rational employment of snake venom for therapeutic purposes, however, is a development of modern experimental pharmacology. From the therapeutic standpoint, snake venoms may be divided into three groups: (1) The venoms of the *Crotalidæ*, or rattlesnakes, of which the first group is chiefly comprised, have been employed in treating epilepsy. Considerable medical literature has been published on this subject. The treatment of epilepsy with crotalin, however, has been largely discontinued because of its rapid decomposition and the difficulties encountered in preparation of a sterile solution of this venom. (2) To the second group belong the venoms of the moccasin (*Ancistrodon*) and Russell's viper, which are said to promote coagulation of blood and have been recommended in the treatment of such pathological conditions as purpura, uterine hemorrhage, etc. While moccasin venom has no effect on true hemophilia, some English investigators claim that the venom of Russell's viper is efficacious even in that condition. (3) Much rational scientific experimentation has been done and many clinical data have been obtained concerning the third group of venoms. It is the venom of the cobras that is especially rich in neurotoxins or those constituents which even in small doses affect the nerve cells and other nerve elements. Cobra venom has been found useful in relieving the severe pain induced by advanced and hopelessly malignant tumors, and in such cases has been found, first by French scientists and then by the speaker and his collaborators, to be an effective substitute for narcotics or other analgesics. The dosage of the solution of cobra venom prepared is biologically assayed in mouse units. Dr. Macht has experimented extensively with this drug in his laboratory and as the result of much pharmacological study has developed a method of preparing a safe, sterile solution of cobra venom, suitable for clinical administration. After long and careful laboratory experimentation, the speaker secured the collaboration, in a clinical study of this method of treatment, of several eminent surgeons, particularly of Dr. Curtis F. Burham of the Howard A. Kelly Hospital, and of the late Dr. Joseph Colt Bloodgood.

The results derived from laboratory and clinical investigation of the drug have been very satisfactory. Sixty per cent of a series of two hundred cases experienced definite relief of pain and 35 per cent gave evidence of marked relief after a series of cobra venom injections.

The usual therapeutic dose of the drug for adults is 5 mouse units. This amount is injected intramuscularly for three or four successive days. After relief from pain is achieved, injections are continued at longer intervals, and one or two doses a week may suffice to keep the patient comfortable. In some cases, however, larger doses are required, no unusual procedure even where ordinary narcotics are employed.

The results of the laboratory studies by Dr. Macht on the mechanism of analgesia produced by cobra venom point to the higher centers in the brain as its seat of action. Cobra venom

* Abstract of an address, delivered January 14th, before Baltimore Branch of the A. P. H. A.