

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION BOARDS OF PHARMACY

ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

The 36th annual meeting was held in the Hotel Biltmore, Atlanta, Ga., on August 21 and 22, 1939. The First Session was called to order on Monday forenoon, August 21st, by President Roy Bird Cook, with 81 delegates present, representing 38 states.

In his address President Cook dealt with two distinct subjects, the assistant pharmacist and the theme, "Where Are We Going?" He fully reviewed the status of the assistant at present and called attention to the difficult legislative problems that have arisen in some states as a result of abolishing the assistant examinations. He told how West Virginia had solved this problem to its satisfaction by requiring two years of college work for entrance to the assistant examination (also Pennsylvania and Connecticut) and recommended that other states faced with this perplexing problem copy this idea.

"Where Are We Going?" dealt with a problem over which Pharmacy has little control, if any, and that is the failure of the medical profession to use to its fullest extent the pharmaceutical facilities that are available. Quoting from the address: "The real worry is to bring to fruition some plan that will change some aspects of the teaching of Medicine and a sound understanding that Pharmacy and Medicine have a mutual field requiring mutual understanding." And again, "Is it to this lack of training that 'curbstone' prescriptions have become the object of national censure by the press? Is it to this lack of training that the busy physician falls an easy prey to the soft lullaby of certain types of promotion agents. . . ."

He also quotes statistics given at the District No. 2 meeting which showed a steady decrease in the number of U. S. P. products used from 54% in 1913 to 22% in 1938, although in the meantime the average cost of prescriptions in the study had risen almost 50%.

In answering the question, Dr. Cook said: "But the fact grows year by year that the practice of Pharmacy will always be circumscribed to a large degree by the demands made upon the profession by the practice of Medicine."

The Executive Committee reported on the business affairs of the Association, as did also the reports of the secretary and treasurer. A recommendation was made in the Executive report, that the number of vice-presidents be changed from three to one because of tax problems and that the Committee be empowered to have the charter changed accordingly. These were later approved.

The Legislative Committee Report is always a difficult one to prepare, as even a brief review of the facts becomes monotonous. Chairman Charles R. Bohrer, of Missouri, interspersed his report with humor and comments that made the taking not only easy, but interesting.

The following summary was appended to the state reports: "We can safely say that it was a year of progress with great advancement in several states. We are gradually nearing the goal of adequate protection of the public health through laws raising and making uniform the requirements to practice Pharmacy and to operate drug stores. The uniformity of recent laws is a particularly pleasing note. Very little legislation of a backward nature was passed, due to vigorous fights made on such measures. But our two-fold duty to hold the gains we have made by urging the defeat of destructive legislation and to attempt new gains by constantly seeking to advance constructive legislation must always be kept in mind."

Chairman Bohrer also pointed out the weakness at present in the lack of adequate funds and personnel to enforce the laws, and warned further against loosely worded and phrased bills, which are subject to many interpretations.

A. L. I. Winnie, of Virginia, as Chairman of the Committee on National Legislation gave a concise review of some eight measures affecting Pharmacy that had received some degree of consideration during the session recently adjourned, but very little of this had been enacted.

Chairman George A. Moulton reported excellent progress on Prerequisite Legislation, with Tennessee and Nebraska enacting college graduation requirements into the law. Also, in Nevada, the Board of Pharmacy filled in the gap occasioned by failure of the prerequisite bill in the legislature by adopting a resolution which makes college graduation compulsory for examination entrance on and after July 1, 1940.

This report also suggested that Boards of Pharmacy when faced with cram school circu-

larization might follow the example of New Hampshire and Connecticut by issuing "cease and desist" orders on the operators of such schools, threatening court action if ignored. The only permanent solution of the problem, in the opinion of the Committee, was the enactment of college prerequisite legislation by Massachusetts and Vermont so as to give these schools no base for operation.

The Committee on Minimum Standards of Technical Equipment, headed by Dr. A. C. Taylor of the District of Columbia, which in six years has developed this subject so that a considerable number of states have already written the committee's recommendations into the state pharmacy laws, made another interesting report.

Quoting from the report: "After a survey of several different types of pharmacies, we find as a usual thing that the average space given over to this work is about 6%, based on rental value (not 6% of the entire floor space)." The following six rules were then outlined for the officer giving consideration to the pharmacy seeking a license:

1. Average number of prescriptions that might reasonably be expected to be compounded daily.
2. If the capacity of one prescriptionist is reached, can space be allowed for an additional man?
3. Proper space must be allowed for the manufacture of pharmaceutical preparations. The claim of the man that he buys everything, manufactures nothing and depends upon the wholesaler and manufacturer for a guarantee of conformity with U. S. P. and N. F. standards must be properly considered.
4. Style of shelving, capacity for proper storage and prescription counter arrangement must be considered as important governing factors.
5. Is the space sufficient to give assurance of proper sanitation?
6. Is the light and ventilation sufficient and properly arranged to protect the prescriptionist against eyestrain and the debilitating effects of breathing impure air? The neglect of realizing the importance of good light and ventilation has beyond doubt often been a contributing factor to the making of mistakes and this demand must be considered as an important public welfare and protection measure.

The Committee also recommended a list of books to be made an equipment requirement. Be sure to look up details in published PROCEEDINGS later.

The Committee on President Swain's address of last year had gathered considerable information on the sentiments of both Districts and Boards toward a more comprehensive practical examination, but Chairman A. L. I. Winne stated that the study was not sufficiently far advanced to make any recommendations. The Committee is to continue its work.

The Committee on Study and Correlation of Practical Experience Requirements, Dr. R. P. Fischelis, Chairman, presented a report suggesting that the pharmacy interne might be permitted to assume temporary charge for brief periods during his training, which would be helpful both to the interne and his employer. A resolution was adopted authorizing the Committee to continue the study and requesting it to formulate proposed minimum standards for the practical experience requirement for submission to the next convention.

An interesting paper on "Apprenticeship in Pharmacy" was read by Dr. Edward Kremers of the Wisconsin Board (now Honorary President). He told of a new kind of apprenticeship, not for Board credit, for the young high school student, something to take the place of the old-time apprenticeship impossible in the commercialized stores of to-day, that will provide a basis of understanding for his later college work. Pharmacists could select high-school boys and girls who are to receive this sort of training, pay them a small amount weekly, and send them to the state university for a six-weeks' summer session in nature study.

The Committee on Constitution and By-Laws, considered two amendments. The one, suggested by the Executive Committee, cut the number of vice-presidents from three to one and was adopted. The other, which emanated from the Western States, redistricted this section of the country so that District No. 7 in the future will consist of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming, and District No. 8 will be comprised of Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah. There is a feeling that this arrangement will permit meetings heretofore impossible.

The Resolutions Committee, headed by Dr. A. C. Taylor of the District of Columbia, was

presented with a group of resolutions from the Districts which were simply a confirmation of former policies, so that outside of the recommendations in the President's Address and the committee reports, there were no resolutions. The Executive Committee in its report emphasized that no position should be taken except on those matters within the scope of the organization, *i. e.*, relating to education and registration.

The Committee on Nominations presented the following nominees, who were unanimously elected: *Honorary President*, Edward Kremers, Wisconsin; *President*, P. H. Costello, North Dakota; *Vice-President*, C. L. Guthrie, Virginia; *Treasurer*, J. W. Gayle, Kentucky; *Secretary*, H. C. Christensen, Illinois; *Member, Executive Committee*, Roy Bird Cook, West Virginia.

District Chairmen: No. 1, W. B. Shangraw, Vermont; No. 2, L. M. Kantner, Maryland; No. 3, W. H. Rose, Mississippi; No. 4, Edgar A. O'Harrow, Indiana; No. 5, Frank Moudry, Minnesota; No. 6, Roy E. Phillips, Texas; No. 7, A. F. Peterson, Jr., Montana; No. 8, N. W. Stewart, Arizona.

Syllabus Committee: R. L. Swain, Maryland.

Resolutions Committee: S. H. Dretzka, Wisconsin.

The officers were installed and the meeting adjourned.
