

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE LOCAL AND STUDENT BRANCHES

CHICAGO.—The April meeting was held Tuesday evening, the 18th, in the College of Medicine Buildings. The newly elected officers were introduced to those in attendance by Secretary R. E. Terry.

The main address was delivered by Mr. Jack Levant of McKesson, Fuller, Morrisson, Inc., on "Problems of Mutual Interest to Manufacturer, Service Wholesaler and Retailer." The main problem of the above three groups, as given by Mr. Levant, is the placing of merchandise in the hands of the consumer with profit to all. The service wholesaler occupies a central position among these, acting to see that the manufacturer is accorded proper distribution of his products and that the retailer has on his shelves those products which the consumer demands.

Itemizing the responsibilities of the service wholesaler to the manufacturer, the following were among those mentioned by Mr. Levant: (1) The wholesaler offers the most economical and the best distribution service; (2) The wholesaler acts as a stabilizing influence for the manufacturer as an envoy of goodwill, and in maintaining the latter's fair trade policies; (3) The wholesaler takes care of advertising in many cases and sees to the proper placement of manufacturer's goods, thus aiding in elimination of waste caused by improper placement and unwise distribution.

Considering the relationship to the retailer, Mr. Levant brought forth the following points: (1) The wholesaler gives the retailer the product when he wants it; (2) The wholesaler gives credit to the retailer helping maintain the latter's business in many cases under stressing circumstances; (3) The wholesaler is prepared to furnish financial advice to the retailer at any or all times; (4) The wholesaler holds valuable dealers' meetings of educational nature to proprietors, clerks, etc.

Mr. Levant also brought forth the point that, in many cases, if the retailer was more "selling conscious" and less "buying conscious" profitable business would show a definite increase.

Mr. Levant invited discussion from the floor into which several members entered with enthusiasm showing that the problems discussed by him were of vital interest to those present at the meeting.

EDWARD E. VICHER, *Secretary*.

MICHIGAN.—The May meeting was held in Ann Arbor, on the 16th, in conjunction with the Pharmaceutical Conference sponsored by the University of Michigan, College of Pharmacy. The Conference was opened by Dr. Howard B. Lewis, director of the College of Pharmacy, and chairman of the Conference. The address of welcome was made by Prof. C. H. Stocking, who gave a brief history of the Conference and invited the pharmacists of Michigan to make use of the many facilities of the University.

Dr. Lewis then introduced Dr. W. F. Rudd, dean of the School of Pharmacy, Medical College of Virginia. Dr. Rudd spoke on "Some Present Pharmaceutical Problems, Socialized Pharmacy and Working Conditions in Retail Pharmacy." Dr. Rudd stated that the deans and professors of the Colleges of Pharmacy will have to exert effort to bring into Pharmacy men of high educational standing. He urged pharmacists to bring about changed conditions, which they alone can do. A discussion followed, led by Dr. Nathan Sinai of the University of Michigan, who agreed with Dr. Rudd and said Pharmacy must take the lead in bringing about demand for pharmaceutical care. Dr. Sinai was followed by Mr. Lee H. MacDonald of Paw Paw, who also agreed.

Mr. John H. Webster, past-president of a number of pharmaceutical associations, defended the pharmacist of to-day. The average pharmacist is independent and not dependent upon the various agencies for relief as is the case with many professions in these trying times. He said Pharmacy is an American institution and is meeting the demands of the public in rendering the service required by the community. The corner drug store is ever ready for any emergency that may arise, thereby protecting public health.

The following addresses were enjoyed: "The Introduction and Developments of Antiseptics," Dr. F. F. Blicke; and "Methods of Evaluation of Antiseptics," Dr. M. H. Soule, both of which were illustrated. The Conference then adjourned and an inspection tour made of the H. H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies.

At the business meeting in the evening, reading of the minutes was dispensed with. The Nominating Committee made a report, and the following were elected for the ensuing year:

*President*, H. A. K. Whitney; *First Vice-President*, John Karagulis; *Second Vice-President*, Charles Schenck; *Secretary*, Bernard A. Bialk, *Treasurer*, Fred F. Ingram; and *Chairman of the Program Committee*, Dean R. T. Lakey.

The meeting then adjourned to the Amphitheatre of the H. H. Rackham School where Dr. Carl V. Weller, University of Michigan Medical School spoke on, "The Pathology of Syphilis as a Public Health Problem," illustrating his talk with slides. The address was most interesting and instructive.

A rising vote of thanks to the speakers and the faculty of the College of Pharmacy, University of Michigan, was then in order, after which the session adjourned, with all the members eager to return for the Ninth Pharmaceutical Conference next May.

BERNARD A. BIALK, *Secretary*.

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#### AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

##### SUBSECTION ON PHARMACY.

The two sessions of the subsection held during the Milwaukee meeting, June 20th, were devoted to a symposium on the vitamins with particular reference to their standardization.

Dr. Aaron Arnold in his report on thiamin pointed out that interfering substances limit the value of the chemical methods of determination and that the biological method based on growth is the most reliable procedure. Simpler and more rapid methods for the determination of thiamin and new criteria of its functions will make it possible to determine whether the level for optimum nutrition is appreciably above the requirement level.

Dr. P. H. Phillips in comparing the methods for the assay of riboflavin based on fluorescence, color and photolysis and growth promotion, pointed out that the bio-assay method is the most accurate method now known but that the colorimetric method offers much promise when applied to the degradation products of this vitamin. Methods using micro-organisms are economical, rapid and accurate for the determination of trace levels. Evidence has been obtained which indicates that riboflavin may be necessary for the deamination of amino acids and the formation of urea in the liver. It plays an important rôle in nerve nutrition in chicks which exhibit neuromalacia on low riboflavin diets and recover rapidly when the deficiency is supplied by the administration of riboflavin.

Dr. C. A. Elvehjen reviewed the procedures which led to the isolation of the nicotinic acid fraction of the *Vitamin B complex*. He showed that while chemical procedures, bacterial growth methods and bio-assays offer possibilities, the most reliable assay procedure at present is the curative method applied to dogs in which black tongue has been induced by feeding a suitable nicotinic acid deficient basal ration. It was emphasized that a chemical method of assay is greatly needed so that our knowledge of the distribution of nicotinic acid as well as other factors in foods may be made known. When this knowledge is available, it will be possible to modify the diet, particularly in areas where pellagra is prevalent and fortify the diet with nicotinic acid if necessary to prevent the disease.

Dr. D. W. Wooley discussed the chick antidermatitis factor and pantothenic acid of the *Vitamin B complex*. The assay of the former is best carried out on chicks by noting the growth and prevention of dermatitis as compared to chicks on a basal diet. A method for the determination of pantothenic acid which is rapid, economical and accurate has been devised. It is based on the discovery that pantothenic acid is essential for the growth of a wide variety of hemolytic streptococci. An assay by this method can be completed in twenty-four hours and it excels the animal method in precision. All of the authors of papers pertaining to the *Vitamin B complex* emphasized the need for chemical methods of assay and for methods of assay which would permit the determination of the concentration of vitamins in the blood.

Dr. A. Black critically examined the factors which influence the accuracy of vitamin A assays. He stated that the biological methods measure the combined vitamin A activity of the various compounds which may become available as vitamin A to the rat and that the method is not specific for any particular kind of vitamin A. Methods based on the measurement of the absorption of light by means of spectrophotometers have been widely used and are the most accurate and give the most information about the sample.

Vitamin E, the anti-sterility vitamin, was reviewed as to its sources, isolation, chemistry, physiological activity and assay by Mrs. Flemintine P. Dann. The production of pure alpha tocopherol (Vitamin E) offers promise of leading to a more quantitative method than the present bio-assay.

GLENN L. JENKINS, *Chairman of the Program Committee*.