

every one interested in any one of these subjects.

Committee on Anti-Narcotic Legislation.—This committee reviewed the proceedings of the National Drug Conference and the various steps which led to the passage of the Harrison Anti-Narcotic Bill by the House of Representatives and gave also a list of states that had adopted anti-narcotic laws during the past year.

Committee on Local Associations.—This committee laid it down not only as a moral principle but as a standpoint of policy that "it would be best if each wholesale drug-house throughout the country could realize that the most lasting or enduring success can be best obtained, in fact can only be obtained, by establishing a fixed policy and by conducting its business upon a clean, legitimate basis, relying upon service, quality and candid, fair, honest treatment in order to secure patronage."

Board of Control.—This board in various reports concurred with the recommendations of the committees and this affirmative action was approved by the convention.

After the passage of several complimentary votes by the convention the officers-elect present were installed into their respective offices. The officers-elect for the coming year are:

President—George W. Lattimer.

First Vice-President—F. C. Groover.

Second V. P.—Charles F. Michaels.

Third V. P.—Charles E. Potts.

Fourth V. P.—C. S. Littell.

Fifth V. P.—G. S. Fleece.

Secretary—Joseph E. Toms.

Treasurer—Samuel E. Strong.

Board of Control—Charles Gibson, Chairman, James W. Morrison, George R. Merrill, Mr. Bedwell, John T. Kennedy.

General Representative—F. E. Holliday.

After the installation of officers the Convention adjourned. The place selected for the next meeting is Indianapolis, the time to be probably early in October. The Convention also voted to meet in Del Monte, California, in the year 1915.

The banquet was a most notable occasion. It was served in the main dining-room of the Windsor Hotel on Thursday evening, and the menu was a most attractive one. Mr. John W. Durr acted as toastmaster. The speakers of the evening were the retiring President, Mr. Albert Plaut; George W.

Lattimer, the new President; Judge W. T. Bland, who spoke for "Florida, Past, Present and Future"; Duncan U. Fletcher, who spoke on "Deeper Waterways"; Charles S. Adams, who responded to the toast of "The Ladies." The President's reception was held on Tuesday evening and was a most delightful occasion. The other entertainments were an automobile ride and reception for the ladies on Wednesday, a steamer-trip on the River St. Johns, and on Friday one hundred and twelve of the Convention left Jacksonville for a trip to Havana, Cuba, an excursion which took a week to accomplish.

E. C. M.

Proceedings of the Local Branches

"All papers presented to the Association and its branches shall become the property of the Association, with the understanding that they are not to be published in any other publication than those of the Association, except by consent of the Committee on Publication."—By-Laws, Chapter X, Art. III.

Reports of the meetings of the Local Branches should be mailed to the editor on the day following the meeting, if possible. Minutes should be *plainly* written, or type-written, with wide spaces between the lines. Care should be taken to give proper names correctly, and manuscript should be signed by the reporter.



CITY OF WASHINGTON BRANCH.

(October Meeting.)

This meeting, held October 15, 1913, at the National College of Pharmacy, was the first meeting of the local Branch for the winter of 1913-1914, and in the absence of the President, Dr. Lyman F. Kebler, who was out of the city on official business connected with the Department of Agriculture, Mr. W. S. Richardson acted as Chairman. In the absence of the Secretary who was detained on urgent personal business, Mr. S. L. Hilton acted as Secretary.

The first paper presented was "The Opportunity for Selection and Breeding in Drug Plant Culture," by Dr. W. W. Stockberger. The speaker introduced his subject by pointing out that until recently very little was done along the lines of procuring plants

carrying greater drug percentums by culture, all efforts having been directed in producing hybrids.

The object of drug culture was, he stated, to produce varieties or strains of plants which would show marked increased drug constituents, and at the same time give future plants continuing the same results.

From the results already obtained, there is sufficient ground for future work, for, as a fact, the constituents of medicinal plants, especially those containing alkaloids, have been increased.

Observation has shown that no two plants act the same under cultivation, and plants of the same species grown in different locations vary largely as to constituents. In some cases these constituents were inactive or inert, and in others the constituents appeared more active than normal. This condition, the speaker stated, was under investigation.

Another object of this culture was to cultivate authentic specimens of medicinal plants that proper standards can be maintained and established.

While many of the forest drugs have been cultivated in the field and garden, experiments are now being conducted with conditions as nearly like that of the natural plant as it is possible to make them.

Dr. G. A. Russell followed Dr. Stockberger and outlined in detail the work being done at the gardens in Madison, Wisconsin, and the results which had so far been obtained there. He brought out strongly the necessity for only lightly covering seeds, stating that to do otherwise meant absolute failure. The cost of producing some plants of the experimental scale had been prohibitive of inducing commercial enterprise, but such was not the case in the majority of the plants cultivated. Nearly all the plants needed as much attention as would plants in a truck garden.

Dr. Russell gave extensive details of the experiments with pyrethrum, wormwood, stramonium and horehound. In calculating the cost of these experiments, great care has been taken to figure on the bases of land and labor rather than dollar and cents, for the reason that land and labor cost varying amounts in the different localities.

The second paper of the evening was on the subject, "The Possibility of Increasing the Alkaloidal Content of Belladonna Plants,"

by Mr. A. F. Sievers of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture.

Considerable discussion followed the reading of each paper by all who were present.

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY B. FLOYD.

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CITY OF WASHINGTON
BRANCH.

(November Meeting.)

The meeting was called to order November 19 by the President, and after disposing of routine business, the program was taken up. Dr. H. A. Seil of New York City discussed observations on *asafœtida* and *balsam Peru*.

Asafœtida.—The *asafœtida* problems during the past five years were briefly reviewed. Various kinds of *asafœtida* were discussed. The standard proposed by several European workers, based upon the amount of combined sulphur present in *asafœtida*, was considered very inadequate, because it would countenance adulteration, in some instances, to the extent of fifty percent. The so-called pepper *asafœtida* was referred to as a very low grade product. The cooperative work engaged in during the past year showed that the lead number was a good index as to the quality of the *asafœtida* examined.

The most valuable portion of the standard recognized by the Pharmacopœia is the fact that the material to be known under the designation "*asafœtida*" is to be derived from certain sources.

There appeared to be no difficulty whatever in manipulating the article itself in other respects so as to comply with the pharmacopœial requirements. The ash limit is of no particular value. The practical worthlessness of the alcohol solubility test is shown by the fact that when it became known to the dealers abroad that *asafœtida* containing less than 50% of alcohol soluble material would not be permitted entry, they soon found ways and means whereby to raise this deficiency, if any existed. The fact is that adulteration was ascertained through the trade long before it was possible to show that actual adulteration did exist by the usual methods of analysis. In time, however, methods of analyses and circumstantial evidence were sufficient to justify detention of *asafœtida* and in some instances some of the *asafœtida* was not permitted en-

try, notwithstanding the protests made by some dealers. In discussing this matter Dr. Kebler called attention to the fact that during the Russia-Persian War, the trade represented that it was impossible to obtain asafœtida of proper quality and it was incumbent upon the Agricultural Department to meet the situation. This was done by the Treasury Department issuing a decision permitting entry of asafœtida containing not less than 35% of alcohol soluble material, provided it be used under certain conditions. Soon after this decision was promulgated, the adulteration to increase the alcoholic soluble material was resorted to. The trade was very much disturbed because of the detention of asafœtida containing the requisite quantity of alcohol soluble matter. Protests were entered, but there appeared to be no doubt whatever but that the asafœtida was deliberately manipulated. The entrance of such asafœtida was refused.

During the last year or so, asafœtida of good quality has been offered at the ports, containing the proper alcohol soluble material, and so far as it has been possible to determine, free from adulteration. It would, therefore, seem desirable to abrogate the present decision.

The chief difficulty, however, in the whole situation is the fact that none of the asafœtida worked on so far by analysts is apparently of known authenticity. All data appear to be based on unknown material, and we cannot expect to place the matter on a satisfactory basis until authentic material is collected, and carefully examined.

Others who discussed the paper were Messrs. Bradbury, Emery, Hoover, Ewing, and Wilbert.

Balsam of Peru.—The article discussed was the so-called imitation balsam which has been offered for import for a number of years. The earlier shipments were found to contain considerable quantities of resin. This substance was, however, not found in later shipments. All the examinations show that the material has been constantly changing in composition, which was probably due to the variation in manufacture of the commodity, as well as the use of different basic ingredients. The contention of the manufacturer and importers was that the article complied in every particular with the tests laid down in the Pharmacopœia. They seem to forget, however, that a part of the standard of the

Pharmacopœia was that the material must be derived from a certain tree. The imitation product if permitted entry into the United States could be readily mixed with the genuine material without much prospect of its being detected. The incentive to do this is increased by the fact that the imitation is much cheaper than the natural.

During the past year not much of the imitation balsam was offered at New York City, and the indications are that it is being shipped to the home of the natural balsam and there mixed. The methods used for detecting the imitation were described. It was pointed out that the methods originally devised to detect the imitation were not applicable to samples examined a year or so later.

The same question as to uncertainty of authentic material was raised as in connection with asafœtida.

The subject was discussed by Messrs. Bradbury, Jackson, Seil and Kebler.

The Traffic in Smoking Opium.—Mr. A. B. Adams, Chemist of the Internal Revenue Department, spoke of the work of that service in conjunction with the illicit opium traffic in the United States. He exhibited a smoking outfit and indicated the manner in which opium smoking is usually conducted. The cunning of the dealers and purveyors of illicit opium is almost beyond human conception. It happens at times when raids are made on places known to be trafficking in illicit opium, no indications of the business could be positively established. A case was cited where such a raid was made and that in disposing of the opium by throwing it into the sewer, some of the material accidentally splashed upon a brick. The brick was removed from the wall and the material splashed on the brick examined. It was conclusively shown that the material was opium and a conviction followed.

In many instances it was necessary to depend upon the evidence obtained in the examination of residues left in containers or rags used in the manufacture of smoking opium. In order to successfully prosecute it is incumbent upon the Internal Revenue Office to show that smoking opium was actually manufactured. It is believed by some that the Government actually licenses the manufacture of smoking opium. This is absolutely erroneous. The fact that no opium is permitted entry into the United States ex-

cept for medicinal purposes would preclude the issuing of such licenses. He spoke with great gratification relative to the voluntary discontinuance of certain pharmaceutical houses in the manufacture of extract of opium which is considered simply a variety of smoking opium. He regretted exceedingly, however, to state that some manufacturers refused to discontinue this practice and that the Department was not in position to force them.

Attention was called to the fact that a manufacturer of glass ware refused to sell the Department certain materials because the Government handled distilled liquors, but did supply illicit manufacturers of smoking opium with jars in which to handle the commodity. They may have been perfectly innocent in this transaction, but the indications did not point that way.

A can of genuine smoking opium containing $6\frac{3}{4}$ ounces was exhibited and the statement was made that in New York City this package would bring \$40. If this can should bear the Internal Revenue stamp, which was formerly used in conjunction with smoking opium imported into this country, the price of the can would be \$90. The same amount of the common extract of opium would bring about \$20.

Attention was called to the difficulties which have been encountered in the enforcement of the law, due to a recent court decision. In course of discussion it developed that some of the opium smokers smoked as many as two or three dozen pellets at one sitting. They did not consider the extract of opium or the smoking opium as made in this country as satisfactory as the genuine material imported into this country. The method of expressing this fact is by stating that "it had too much kick," by this, meaning evidently that it contained too much morphine. The fact was also established that smoking opium was prepared from the ashes of residues left from the first smoking and the article thus prepared often contained a high percentage of morphine.

The paper was discussed by Messrs. Stewart, Jackson, Hilton, and Kebler.

Federal Control of Habit-Forming Drugs.
—Mr. S. L. Hilton read a communication entitled "The Present Status of Federal Control of Habit-Forming Drugs." Mr. Hilton reviewed briefly the efforts made during the past few years toward the regulation of the

importation and sale of habit-forming drugs into the United States, by the Federal Government particularly. Attention was, however, directed to the recent efforts of the National Drug Trade Conference which resulted in the drafting of an anti-narcotic bill, now popularly known as the "Harrison bill." This bill has for its primary purpose, regulating the distribution and sale of opium, morphine, cocaine, coca, their derivatives and preparations in the United States. The bill was introduced in Congress by Representative Harrison and was passed by the House in extra session. It was then taken up by the Senate, where it was read twice and referred to a sub-committee for consideration. There does not appear to be very much likelihood of the bill being passed in extra session and from the activities at present, it does not appear likely that the bill will pass without considerable opposition.

Mr. Hilton appears to be of the opinion that the drug trade ought to have followed up the bill rapidly after its passage in the House and thus avoid massing of opposition due to an interim of time. The bill is opposed in a number of quarters and unfortunately there is an open rift in the retail trade.

The recent Treasury decision, having for its object regulating cocaine, coca, their derivatives and preparations, from the time they enter United States to the ultimate consumer was also discussed. Mr. Hilton considered the declaration illegal and oppressive. He stated that it would be impossible even for the Government officials to buy these commodities without declaration and that in transferring it from one individual to another in the same Department, the declaration would be required.

Mr. Hilton referred to Mr. Stewart, an attorney, who had given the decision considerable attention, and suggested that he be extended the privilege of making some remarks, which was granted.

Mr. Stewart stated that in his opinion the Treasury decision exceeded the authority granted by Congress, that there was no question whatever but that the Government under the Food and Drugs Act was empowered to deny entry to cocaine or coca, but that it did not have the power to regulate these commodities after they had been once entered. This power, however, could readily

be given under the law if Congress would slightly modify the Act.

In discussing the paper, Dr. Kebler reviewed briefly the various steps taken previous to the issuing of Treasury Decision No. 33456. The Government under the Food and Drugs Act detained a vast amount of smoking opium offered at the San Francisco port and smaller quantities at several other ports of entry. The contention raised was that importers were not advised of the contemplated action under the law and therefore the smoking opium detained should be released and the trade informed as to the position of the Government relative to this commodity.

At the request of Dr. Wright, who had been appointed a special commissioner looking to the study of anti-narcotics and subsequent legislation, it was agreed to allow this Act to remain in abeyance, giving him an opportunity to secure specific legislation by Congress. The result was that an opium act was passed in February, 1909, excluding opium for other than medicinal purposes. As we have heard tonight, while it does exclude smoking opium, it did not preclude the surreptitious manufacture of smoking opium in the United States from opium presumably imported for medicinal purposes. In the fall of 1911, a tentative regulation was sent out by the Agriculture Department, tending to regulate the importation of opium, morphine, cocaine, coca, their derivatives and preparations. Much opposition developed to the regulation as framed, but no one appeared to be opposed to that part of the regulation tending to control cocaine or coca preparations. During the year 1912 some coca leaves were detained at the port on the ground that they did not bear a declaration as to the quantity or proportion of cocaine they contain and also because the leaves might be injurious to the health of the people of the United States. The importers of their own volition stated that they would be willing to label the packages as to cocaine content and also place their books at the disposal of the Department for the purpose of determining whether or not the drug was so used as to be deleterious to the public health. After a number of shipments were thus detained and permitted entry it was decided to make the enforcement uniform and accordingly the Secretary of the Treasury promulgated the Treasury decision in question. Dr. Kebler furthermore stated

that the Department was prepared to use its best efforts in controlling and regulating habit-forming drugs and that every possible assistance would be given to the passage of any law which would effectually accomplish this purpose.

Replying to Mr. Stewart's statement to the effect that the decision was not within the law, attention was called to Treasury decision governing the importation of asafetida conditionally. In fact many imports have been permitted entry conditionally, but so far as is known no material objections have been raised to this practice until the cocaine decision was put into force and effect.

Mr. Hilton stated that the Harrison bill will accomplish almost what the decision would, and furthermore that the decision was conducive to smuggling.

Mr. Hilton was informed that it was impossible to see exactly how it induced smuggling any more than under present conditions, and furthermore that even though smuggling was resorted to in the past, it would not be any worse than at present. A case was cited where an attempt was made to smuggle 700 ounces of cocaine into the United States and that the smuggler is at present serving a term in prison.

The bill was further discussed by Messrs. Wilbert, Jackson, Bradbury, Richards, Stewart, and others.

The meeting was considered as one of the most profitable in the history of the local Branch.

Adjourned.

HENRY B. FLOYD, Secretary.

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CITY OF WASHINGTON BRANCH.

(December Meeting.)

By invitation of Dr. A. S. Cushman and H. C. Fuller, director, and member, respectively, of the Institute for Industrial Research, the December meeting of the City of Washington Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held at the institute's new building, 19th and B streets, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Before the meeting, Dr. Cushman and Mr. Fuller opened and lighted the entire building to the members and guided them through its modern and well-equipped laboratories. Many delicate and intricate experiments and

tests, relating directly to pharmacy and otherwise, now being conducted there, were explained and commented upon.

In the absence of the President (Dr. Lyman F. Kebler), the meeting was called to order at 8:30 by Mr. W. S. Richardson, the first vice-president. By motion, the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was dispensed with.

Under new business, the treasurer reported a deficit which has existed for some years, and then upon motion, properly made and seconded, the secretary's report, showing expenditures for the current year, was accepted, without audit, and referred to the treasurer for settlement.

The committee on nominations, appointed at the November meeting, was then called upon to report. Mr. Lewis Flemer, chairman, requested Mr. H. C. Fuller, the secretary, to read the report of the committee, which consisted of Mr. Flemer, Mr. Fuller and Dr. George W. Hoover.

The recommendations of the committee were as follows: For president, Martin I. Wilbert; first vice-president, W. S. Richardson; second vice-president, Dr. Rodney H. True; secretary, Henry B. Floyd; treasurer, Wymond H. Bradbury; member of Council, Dr. Lyman F. Kebler; and further recommended that the office of secretary and that of council be separated.

Immediately following the reading of the committee's report, Mr. Wilbert declined the nomination for president. Discussion showed that the office of secretary and that of member of council had been separated in 1912 and that the term of the present member of the council did not expire until the end of 1914. The committee then withdrew its recommendation concerning the separation of the office of secretary and member of the council, and also withdrew all its nominations except that for secretary and treasurer.

From the floor, Mr. W. S. Richardson was nominated for president, Dr. Rodney H. True for first vice-president, and Dr. Henry E. Kalusowski for second vice-president. No other nominations being made, and one only having been made for each office, it was moved that the secretary be directed to cast the ballot of the Branch as a unanimous ballot in favor of the nominees. The secretary invited attention to the fact that he was on the list of nominees and suggested the selection of some other member to cast the ballot.

His suggestion failed to meet approval, whereupon he cast the ballot in favor of the nominees as directed. The acting president then declared the following officers elected for the year 1914: President, W. S. Richardson; first vice-president, Dr. Rodney H. True; second vice-president, Dr. Henry E. Kalusowski; secretary, Henry B. Floyd, and treasurer, Wymond H. Bradbury.

The election of officers having disposed of all new business for the evening, Mr. H. C. Fuller presented a paper entitled "Conservation in Relation to Pharmaceutical Chemistry." Mr. Fuller described clearly and forcibly existing conditions in medical and pharmaceutical chemistry, noting the persistency with which the manufacturer pursues the "almighty dollar." The "hit or miss" plan of mixing medicines, forming some new concoction to which is attached a high-sounding, valueless (and generally meaningless) name, with the hope that it will stay mixed and catch the fancy of the consumer, was lamented. Inadequate research work, insufficient therapeutic testing, incomplete analysis, and utter disregard for the well-established laws of chemistry, are bringing and have brought into the market each year thousands of valueless preparations which burden the shelves of the retailer. Yet he has to carry all of these because some smooth-tongued and gifted detail man has gotten one or two physicians in his neighborhood to write an occasional prescription for such mixtures.

The immense inroads made by a certain foreign firm manufacturing pharmaceuticals was commented upon, and the key of its success against American competition was attributed to the vast research work conducted by it. Not one of their preparations, it appears, is allowed to enter the market until its stability, therapeutic activity and exact chemical content has been definitely ascertained by most exhaustive experimentation.

The amount of research work done by American houses was compared with that of foreign and found to be all but nil.

A remedy was suggested for the prevention of fakes and other evils, in having the American Pharmaceutical Association establish an extensive chemical laboratory where the pharmaceutical products offered could be analyzed for their chemical contents and their therapeutic values ascertained. Reports of each analysis would be forwarded to its members and every man in the business

soon would know to an absolute certainty what each preparation he is selling is, and what it can be expected to do.

Such a laboratory would immediately expose fakes and eventually, when its findings would come to have the faith of the entire public, fake preparations would no longer be marketable. Pharmaceutical manufacturers would exercise greater care before presenting new preparations and the claims of value for such products. The retail druggist would profit because his shelves would contain only valuable and marketable matter.

Mr. Fuller presented specimens of a number of preparations recently analyzed, by the institute, and showed to what extent the public is fooled by well-written advertisements. A four-ounce bottle of diluted lactated pepsin, sold for a dollar, commanded much comment, for under a copyrighted name it was sold as a brightener of the eyes and a beautifier.

Wrinkle-removers, sold for the same price, proved to be nothing more than pieces of inexpensive court plaster. Diabetic and other foods for which fabulous and mythical claims have been made, and for which enormous prices have been asked, proved to be nothing but cheap, roasted grains. Hair-removers, costing \$1.50 a box, amounted to about five cents' worth of rosin and balsam mixed. The alkaloidal claims for cod-liver oil also came in for criticism.

In the discussion which followed, Dr. George W. Hoover stated that the Bureau of Chemistry has much unpublished information concerning these fakes, and if, as contemplated, a bulletin giving this information is published, much of general interest will come out and there will be some genuine surprises. There has been a decided improvement in the character of pharmaceutical products since the passage of the pure food act, and another decade will bring forth even greater improvements, is his belief.

The question of declaring various drugs, upon which Mr. Fuller touched, was discussed, and, in addition to the content declaration, it was suggested that the effect upon the system be outlined. Cocaine legislation, now so much discussed, furnished food for much controversy, the opinion of those present as to the ultimate effect of the legislation now proposed and recently enacted being about equally divided.

The wasteful methods employed by our

manufacturers was shown by example. Certain refuse thrown out now by chocolate manufacturers is worth \$100 to \$150 per ton, and lanoline, much finer than that now imported, can be made from the waste thrown out by woolen manufacturers.

Mr. Wilbert at this point called attention to the German Pharmacists Association, which has been doing work of the character outlined by Mr. Fuller (its laboratories being located in the Berlin College of Pharmacy), and whose findings have been going to its members as bulletins.

At this moment Dr. Kebler arrived but did not assume the chair. His trip to Hartford, Conn., in connection with a cocaine case, had been useless, as the defendant had "skipped" bail.

"Commercial Alcohol in Germany" was the next subject and was presented by Dr. Rodney H. True, who outlined conditions which have led to the extensive alcohol industry in Germany. It appears that this industry is a part of a great economic undertaking commenced by Frederick the Great and which has had hearty government support ever since. It was clearly shown that as an individual industry it was a failure, but as a part of an economic farming arrangement it had not been a failure.

Potatoes are much grown in the eastern or sandy provinces of Germany in land which would be called poor here.

Crops are rotated in the order of potato, grain and grass. The potato uses but little of the ash content of the soil and is deeply planted. While smaller than the American, it is higher in starch content and contains less water. The yield, with the deep planting noted, is about three times the average American crop, and it leaves the land in excellent shape for the grain to follow. In fact, the grain output has been doubled by this means.

Much of the potatoes are sent to the western provinces and to the cities, the major portion, however, going to the still. The mash left over is used to feed the stock. Altogether, this economic arrangement has been wonderfully developed, and, while no profit is obtained directly from the alcohol, it enters into this great plan as an inseparable and unreplaceable cog.

The plans for disposing of the alcohol, the societies for its protection, and the peculiar

conditions incident to this industry, were all minutely and interestingly described.

The American attempt to commercialize alcohol, while by no means a success, to date has shown enough to warrant a continuation of the experiments already made.

The effect of tax levies and the qualities of the potatoes came in for much good-natured comment and well-placed witticisms.

The question of the location of the permanent home for the American Pharmaceutical Association was then brought to the attention of the Branch. The proposed locations were discussed and much comment was made of any attempt to locate the home out of Washington. Mr. Wilbert spoke very feelingly and strongly in favor of its being located in Washington, where it would be free from the influences of politics and near the national legislative body of the country. It seems to be the logical situation for such a home as is proposed.

The following motion was then proposed, seconded and carried:

WHEREAS, It is proposed to provide a permanent headquarters or home for the American Pharmaceutical Association, and

WHEREAS, Efforts have been and are now being made to secure the location of this permanent headquarters in several widely separated cities, and

WHEREAS, The American Pharmaceutical Association is incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia and is now operating under the general provisions of this incorporation,

Now, therefore, We, as members of the City of Washington Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association, would respectfully remind the officers and the council of the parent organization that there are many and weighty reasons for locating the permanent home of the American Pharmaceutical Association in the city of Washington.

The secretary was also directed to bring this matter to the attention of the council.

The William Proctor memorial was also considered and it was urged that if it should be in the form of a statue and that if the American Pharmaceutical Association built here, the proper place for the statue would be in front of the home. "It would be better in our front yard than in the back yard of some government building," quoted Mr. Hilton, for he knows, as all Washingtonians do, that memorial statues of all but national

heroes are placed in obscure parks and "lost" forever. There are a dozen such statues in Washington, of which no one ever hears and few have ever seen; all are in a state of neglect.

Dr. Kebler, in closing, with well-chosen words thanked the branch for the honor which it had conferred upon him to elect him its president and for the hearty support he had received. In turn a vote of thanks was tendered him for his excellent programs and ever persevering efforts to better the branch.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Dr. Cushman and to Mr. Fuller for their kindness in tendering the use of the institute to the society, and it was directed that a note be recorded in the minutes of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45.

Mr. Albert Hale, of the Pan-American Union, was to describe the "Peru Balsam Industry," but was unable to remain after ten to deliver his talk. His address will be given at some meeting in the near future.

This meeting was held in the magnificently furnished and equipped library of the institute, and was one of the best attended meetings of the year.

Respectfully submitted,
HENRY B. FLOYD, Secretary.



NEW YORK BRANCH.

(November Meeting.)

A regular meeting of the New York Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held on the evening of November 10th. Vice-President H. V. Army presided.

Following the reading of the minutes and the report of the Treasurer, Prof. W. C. Anderson, Chairman of the Committee on Legislation, reported that Dr. Alsberg, Chief of the Federal Bureau of Chemistry, had expressed the opinion that the treasury decision designed to regulate the traffic in cocaine would not be applied to sales of the drug on prescriptions as the prescriber's order was sufficient record. Professor Anderson pointed out that the decision made no exception and the matter was one of enforcement. Concerning the Harrison Federal anti-narcotic bill, the committee reported that there was renewed activity in Congress and that the passage of the measure seemed probable. As

an outcome of the enforcement of the State "day of rest law," Professor Anderson said, there had been started a movement for a law that would oblige druggists to close their stores on Sunday. He thought that such a step would lead to an increase in dispensing by physicians. The several pending congressional measures and other evidences of a desire for the curtailment of the sale of tablets of mercuric chloride were reviewed in the committee's report. The chairman was of the opinion that the greatest good would be accomplished through the prohibition of the publication of details concerning poisoning fatalities in the newspapers.

Prof. G. C. Diekman presented the report of the Committee on the Progress of Pharmacy. Among other matters reviewed in the report were a report on the examination of medicinal substances, published in the *Sud-Deutsche Apotheker Zeitung*; an article on "Further Developments in the Physiological Examination of Digitalis," by Focke (*Zeit. Exp. Med. Therap.*), appearing in the *Pharmaceutical Journal*; a German article on the spontaneous combustion of fireworks; and an article on "The Relation of the Specific Gravity and the Evaporation Residue of Tinctures and Fluidextracts," by Ziegler (*Pharm. Zentralh.*). Professor Diekman referred also to several items in the advance report of changes in pharmacopœial standards.

This report was discussed by Messrs. Mayo, Raubenheimer, Mansfield, and Murray.

Secretary Hugh Craig read a communication from George M. Beringer, the President of the parent association, in which reference was made to a proposition to have the association take some part in a drug, chemical, and food exposition to be held in Madison Square Garden, New York, January 19th to 26th next. Mr. Beringer suggested that the eastern branches of the association hold a conference in connection with the exposition and that the New York Branch initiate a movement for such a meeting.

After some discussion by Messrs. Craig, Roemer, Latham, Kantrowitz, Raubenheimer, and Murray a committee, consisting of John Roemer, Hugo Kantrowitz and J. H. Rehfuss, was appointed to investigate the project and report at the next meeting.

Hugh Craig, J. L. Mayer and B. L. Murray were appointed to constitute a Committee on Nominations.

Joseph E. Lauber, Esq., read a paper enti-

tled "Safeguarding the Use of Poisons." He contended that the aim of endeavors to safeguard the handling of dangerous substances should be to protect the ultimate user. To accomplish this, uniform, distinctive methods were, in his opinion, necessary. A distinctive shape for poisonous substances in solid form and a container of distinctive shape for solids and liquids, he believed, would afford the most effective safeguards. He favored the jackstone shape for poisonous solids.

Proper labeling, the speaker considered essential. And he thought that the label for poisonous substances should bear, in addition to the word "poison," a list of antidotes and directions for emergency treatment of the particular poisoning.

Mr. Lauber advised that the Branch appoint a committee to draw up a bill, enlist the support of the State Pharmaceutical Association, and work strenuously for its enactment, allowing no temporary failure to daunt it in such a worthy purpose.

The subject introduced by Mr. Lauber, particularly as it applied to mercuric chloride, was discussed to a considerable extent. C. A. Mayo stated that he had been informed that M. I. Wilbert, of the United States Public Health Service, had prepared a report on the much-agitated matter of the misuse of mercuric chloride, but that the service evidently had no plan of action in view. He considered the wrapping of each tablet in paper or foil to be the best safeguard. Otto Raubenheimer pointed out that the German Pharmacopœia requires that tablets of mercuric chloride be of a cylindrical shape, colored red, wrapped in black paper with a poison mark, and sold in a distinctive bottle. In his opinion a flat, square, green tablet would be better, and national legislation is essential to assure uniformity.

Prof. Jeannot Hostmann could see no valid reason why the sale of mercuric chloride tablets should not be restricted to prescriptions. Veterinary surgeons, he said, hand out the tablets indiscriminately. Joseph Weinstein expressed a similar view. Thomas Latham, referring to the widespread popular use of these tablets, said that this was the bichloride age in the cycle of results following newspaper publicity. J. H. Rehfuss believed that mercuric chloride was necessary to the public as a guard against septicemic infection. But he thought that its sale might well be limited to prescriptions or at least to weak solutions.

He stated that it was a common practice for physicians to leave the tablets in plain envelopes at the homes of patients. Professor Anderson was of the opinion that accidental poisonings with mercuric chloride were far less numerous than suicides. He was in favor of confining all selling and dispensing of these tablets to prescriptions.

Messrs. Mayo, Wimmer and Roller also took part in the discussion. As a result the following resolutions were passed and referred to the legislative committee of the New York State Pharmaceutical Association:

WHEREAS, The public welfare is endangered by the indiscriminate sale and distribution of bichloride of mercury; therefore, be it

Resolved, By the New York Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association, that the public welfare demands that it should be made illegal to sell, dispense or give away bichloride of mercury in any form except upon the written prescription of a licensed physician or veterinarian, dispensed by a registered pharmacist or druggist.

WHEREAS, The increase in the use of bichloride of mercury tablets as an agent for committing suicide seems directly traceable to the sensational newspaper reports of cases in which it has been used; therefore, be it

Resolved, By the New York Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association, that all newspapers which have regard for the public welfare be requested to refrain from mentioning the particular agent used wherever suicide is committed by means of poison.

John Roemer read a paper on "The Need of Authority for Non-Official Medicaments." This was in part an account of a conversation between a doctor who wanted to prescribe digitalin and a druggist who wanted to know what sort. The prescriber and the dispenser after considering in turn the standards or lack of standards of digitalis, its derivatives and preparations, arrived at the conclusion that pharmacy was somewhat behind-hand in the matter of furnishing necessary information about many useful drugs.

Continuing, Mr. Roemer said that the Pharmacopœia did not, and scarcely could, keep abreast of the progress in medicine, and hence the composition of many remedials was unknown or wrongly stated. He decried the fact that pharmacists were obliged to rely upon the council on pharmacy and chemistry of the American Medical Association for information which pharmacy should furnish to medicine, and could from that source obtain but meager details and no standards. He

declared that there was a need for a central bureau under pharmacal auspices to examine and standardize new medicaments and many old ones.

In discussing this paper, Mr. Raubenheimer said that the committee of the parent association, on standards for unofficial drugs was designed to meet the need mentioned by Mr. Roemer. He agreed that a central laboratory was necessary for the proper carrying on of the work. J. L. Mayer instanced Vlemnick's solution as an illustration of an official standardless preparation. The color and sulphur content, he said, were a matter of conjecture. Specimens he had examined contained from 3½ to 24 percent of sulphur. Several speakers pointed out the unreliability of physiological standardization.

Mr. Lauber and Mr. Roemer were formally thanked by the Branch.

HUGH CRAIG, Secretary.

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CHICAGO BRANCH.

(December Meeting.)

The December meeting of the Chicago Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held Tuesday evening, the sixteenth, with an interested company in attendance.

After the disposal of business, Mr. E. N. Gathercoal introduced the subject of the evening, "The Pharmacognosy of the Rhamnus Barks." He showed specimens of the bark from Rhamnus Frangula and R. cathartica, which are European shrubs; R. Purshiana, R. californica, and R. crocea, from western United States, and R. chlorophorus, a Chinese plant. Also samples of barks used as adulterants of Cascara and Frangula, including the one found a year or so ago by Mr. Miller of Eli Lilly & Co., in a large lot of Cascara.

Mr. Gathercoal discussed the characters of the plant supplying each of these, mentioned its habitat and pointed out the external markings of each bark, their resemblances, as well as the features by which they may be readily distinguished. He stated that the adulterant found, but not identified, by Mr. Miller, disclosed in its internal structure all the ear-marks of a cherry bark, and, as on maceration in water, a slight odor of hydrocyanic acid was observed, it probably was from a species of cherry.

He also presented a review of the litera-

ture on the chemistry of the Rhamnus barks and showed the chemical tests proposed for the monographs of Rhamnus Purshiana and Frangula in the new U. S. P.

His part of the discussion was closed with a projection-microscope exhibit of sections prepared from the various barks and a description of the tissues of each, bringing out points of similarity and dissimilarity in their structure.

Mr. L. E. Warren, of the chemical laboratory of the A. M. A., Professors A. H. Clark, C. M. Snow, G. D. Timmons and W. B. Day and Messrs. J. H. Wells, Wm. Gray, I. A. Becker and C. F. Storer took part in the discussion.

W. B. DAY, Secretary.

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NASHVILLE BRANCH.

(December Meeting.)

At the meeting of the Nashville Branch of the A. Ph. A. held at Furman Hall, December 11th, the By-laws were amended by making the fiscal year concurrent with the calendar year, as is the case with the parent body.

A social get-together meeting of local druggists and their wives was planned for January, and Messrs. Burge, White and Hutton were appointed as a committee to make the necessary arrangements.

Mr. Ira B. Clark then read a very interesting paper on the subject "Window Dressing." He stated that a drug store window was a valuable medium for advertising, although some seemed to think it useful only for the admission of light and as a repository for various drug-store junk. It does not require any special artistic ability to dress a window but a little application of good matter and judgment in the selection of seasonable and profitable goods. He thought that the color to be used in dressing the window should either harmonize with the color of the article displayed or should be in sharp contrast with it. Red and green, blue and white, and orange and black harmonize well. Special emphasis was laid on price cards, as the story is just half told without them. Toilet articles, a combination of tooth brushes, powder and paste, "own preparations," olive oil, stationery, rubber goods, surgical goods, and occasionally a collection of prescription files, and a percolator in operation make good displays.

In conclusion, he strongly discouraged the

practice of advertising patent medicines in the drug-store window.

Following the reading of this paper a lengthy discussion was had on the subject participated in by M. E. Hutton, J. B. Sand, C. O. Prince and J. M. Rogoff. An amusing experience was told by Dr. Rogoff about a display of moth balls he once made in his window. An Italian who had just arrived in America, walked in and bought two packages. In a few minutes he returned with an angry look on his face and a stiletto in his hand and, approaching the doctor, shouted, "Candy stinks!"

Dr. J. O. Burge read a report on Alcresta, Prof. Lloyd's new alkaloidal reagent, and Dr. E. A. Ruddiman exhibited a sample of it he had just received.

A motion was made by W. R. White looking to the establishment of closer relations with the Academy of Medicine, and a committee was appointed for this purpose.

The Branch then adjourned.

WILLIAM R. WHITE, Secretary.

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PITTSBURGH BRANCH.

(December Meeting.)

The initial meeting of the Pittsburgh Branch for the winter season took place Friday evening, December 12, at the College of Pharmacy. Too many strenuous duties devolving upon the officers and the dependable members made it impossible to get the wheels to going around earlier, as they should have done.

This meeting was honored by a short visit from Chancellor McCormick, of the University of Pittsburgh, for the first time.

A communication was read inquiring into the possibility of securing a suitable place in this end of the state at which the 1915 meeting of the Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association could be held. After discussion and reference to a number of points that might be considered in this connection, the matter was referred to the secretary as a committee to investigate and if a suitable place can be found it will be presented and recommended at the 1914 meeting of the P. Ph. A.

On motion, President Campbell named the following committee on nominations: J. A. Koch, Louis Saalbach, B. E. Pritchard. After serious consideration as to available candidates who could be depended upon to render

service, the following ticket was named: President, Andrew Campbell; vice-presidents, Chas. E. Willets, P. G. Walter, L. K. Darbaker; secretary, B. E. Pritchard; treasurer, P. Henry Utech. Committee chairmen: Membership, J. S. O'Brien; practice, W. H. McDonald; medical relations, Geo. W. Kutscher; education and legislation, John C. Wallace; publicity, B. E. Pritchard; program, F. J. Blumenschein. The report was on motion received, and there being no objections nor nominations from the floor, the nominees will be voted for at the January meeting in conformity with the by-laws.

From the question box the accompanying prescription was taken with the statement that after having been twice prepared, by different dispensers, it had thrown down a brown precipitate and information as to what caused it was sought for:

Sodium salicylate.....	drams 2
Sodium bromide.....	drams 1½
Caffeine citrate.....	grs. 36
Aqua menthæ pip.....	ozs. 1½
Syrup simplex, q. s.....	ozs. 3

The suggestions made were that it was probably due to some impurity present in the sodium salicylate; that a trace of iron due to coming in contact with a spatula in compounding, but as these were merely conjectures the problem was referred to the Committee on Practice for solution.

Louis Breyer, class 1913, Pittsburgh C. of P., favored the Branch with a valuable talk on window displays. He said: "The three cardinal points to be considered in window displays are what to display, how and when. No window display can prove successful in selling goods that has not been given thoughtful consideration and planned for in advance. It is too important a branch of business getting to be gone at in a haphazard, hit or miss manner. Some of my best results from window advertising have been obtained after having given three or four weeks careful study and laying out of plans. In one store where I was employed there was a large stock of a face cream which was considered dead and had been allowed to cumber the stock room until it had become a nuisance. I took hold of that item and made up a striking window display with it as a prominent feature. It had previously been held at the cut rate schedule as to price, but in this exploitation I placed a

card bearing the full retail price, with the result that while it had failed to move before at a reduced figure, during the life of this display we disposed of \$75.00 worth, which proves that it is not essential to demoralize prices to produce results.

On another occasion on an order for five cases of Welch's grape juice there came through an error 50 cases. Upon notifying the shipper he requested that the excess quantity be held subject to order. It occurred to me that while so large an amount was on the premises it might as well be earning something, so I determined to make a big window display while there was plenty of material for the purpose. This plan I carried out so successfully that before the shipper could place the goods elsewhere the entire 50 cases were sold, and at full price, no cut being necessary to make sales. And, mark you, this was not in a big, prominently located city store either. Mr. Breyer described in more or less detail several striking displays that had been pulled off, as well as others which are just in process of evolution for future use. For so young a man Mr. Breyer has splendid ability and bids fair to rise to the top as a window display artist.

During the discussion following Mr. Breyer's talk, President Campbell described a very attractive and novel display for window use involving the arrangement of a series of bottles carrying water under air pressure to simulate the process of distillation, accompanied by a sign which read, "Distilling Witch Hazel for our Trade," which caused quite a run on witch hazel of more than a temporary character. Mr. Campbell made use of the blackboard in showing how this scheme was worked out.

Dr. J. A. Koch was on the program for a talk on "The London Drug Market," but before entering upon that topic he presented a very instructive and interesting report of the proceedings of the International Pharmaceutical Congress at The Hague, to which he and Prof. J. P. Remington were sent as representatives by the A. Ph. A. Dr. Koch took his audience on a very enjoyable and instructive tour through the famous drug market of the world, which is located in Mincing Lane, London, where practically all the crude drugs from every country in the world are primarily marketed. He described the methods in use for conducting the regular public sales at which the market quotations for

crude drugs are fixed. He exhibited a number of lists of such drugs as were to be offered at certain dates in which appeared shipments from almost every drug growing country on earth. There are numerous firms having quarters in the market place, each one specializing in certain products. Some show but one line such, for instance, as what we know as Gum Benzoin, but that name does not appear in the lists; there it is known as Gum Benjamin. Other brokers show only Asafoetida of all sorts and conditions, still others various grades of Tragacanth, while Cardamom Seeds in endless variety engage the attention of others.

The study of methods used by the natives in packing and preparing drugs for shipment from the country of their origin is a revelation to the visitor, as is likewise the very open and fair manner in which the drugs are shown to prospective buyers. No one is ever asked to bid without full knowledge of the character and condition of the article offered, so that cheap, poor quality, worthless drugs found on the market are there with malice aforethought, and not because it just happens to be a bad lot, a fact which shoppers for low prices in drugs should keep in mind.

The pamphlet containing an abstract of all the changes proposed for incorporation in the forthcoming Ninth Revision of the U. S. Pharmacopœia was presented for discussion and consideration, but owing to the lateness of the hour, it was on motion referred to Dr. Louis Saalbach to examine and bring up such portions thereof as he deems worthy of discussion at the January meeting.

B. E. PRITCHARD, Secretary.

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SAINT LOUIS BRANCH.

(December Meeting.)

The Saint Louis Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association held a regular meeting in the Saint Louis College of Pharmacy, Friday evening, December 19, 1913. The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Schulte. The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as read.

Under the order of new business, Mr. Wilkerson made a motion which carried, that the subject for discussion for the next meeting be the use of shorter names and synonyms for some of the U. S. P. and N. F. preparations. The program was then

taken up. Mr. Schulte presented a paper on "Windows and Window Dressing."

On motion of J. W. Mackelden, seconded by C. T. Buehler, Mr. Schulte's paper was received.

In the discussion of Mr. Schulte's paper so many good points were brought out that it was decided to make it one of the papers for the January meeting.

There being no further business, and on motion, the meeting adjourned.

JULIUS C. HOESTER, Sec'y.

The Pharmacist and the Law

ABSTRACT OF LEGAL DECISIONS.

CONDITIONAL SALE—BANKRUPTCY—PREFERENCES. A soda fountain was sold on a contract of conditional sale about five months before proceedings in bankruptcy were begun against the purchaser. The seller claimed the proceeds in the hands of the trustee. The contract of sale was never recorded as required by the law of Missouri, in which State the bankrupt resided. Three days before the proceedings were begun the bankrupt gave the seller a chattel mortgage upon the property somewhat in excess of the price in the contract, and this was duly recorded. In the interval between the contract and the mortgage the bankrupt incurred other debts in its business aggregating more than the value of the property in question. The seller claimed under the contract and the mortgage independently. It was held that the contract of sale, not being recorded, was void as to subsequent general creditors of the buyer and its trustee. As the bankrupt was hopelessly insolvent when the chattel mortgage was executed, and the claimant's representatives had reasonable ground to believe a preference was intended, and would result from the mortgage, it was held to be void as against the bankrupt's trustee. But it was held that the right of subsequent creditors to urge their objections to the contract and mortgage was defensive merely against the seller so as to invalidate a lien giving a preference on distribution on bankruptcy, and did not entitle the creditors to priority in the distribution of proceeds as against the seller. He