

various mediums of the Government publications, and publicity given to these publications by the organs of Societies such as yours.

Among the publications of the Bureau of interest to members of your association are the following:—

- The National Bureau of Standards, (Descriptive Pamphlet).  
 History of the Standard Weights and Measures of the United States.  
 Metric Chart.  
 Metric Pamphlet.  
 Units of Weight and Measure, (Definitions and Tables of Equivalents).  
 Circular No. 3, Verification of Standards of Mass.  
 “ 5, Testing of Chemical Thermometers.  
 “ 8, Testing of Thermometers.  
 “ 9, Testing of Volumetric Apparatus.  
 “ 16, Testing of Hydrometers.  
 “ 19, Standard Density and Volumetric Tables.  
 “ 24, List of Publications of Bureau of Standards.  
 “ 38, The Testing of Rubber Goods.  
 “ 40, Sodium Oxalate as a Standard in Volumetric Analysis.  
 “ 44, Polarimetry.  
 Scientific Paper No. 17,  
 Scientific Paper No. 92. The Testing of Volumetric Glass Apparatus.  
 Scientific Paper No. 197. Density and Thermal Expansion of Ethyl Alcohol and its Mixture with Water.

These may be obtained free of charge by application to the Bureau of Standards.

I have perhaps given sufficient examples to bring out the statement made in the beginning, that standardization is to be desired above all else both in the work of this association and in that of the Bureau of Standards. If by working together we can help to bring about that end then our work will not have been in vain.

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#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PHYSIOLOGICAL TESTING.

The Members of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

GENTLEMEN: We may briefly report that the following is an epitome of the work that has been published on the subject of Physiological Testing in this country and abroad during the past year:

##### I. *Ergot*.

Dr. Wm. A. Pearson, Journ. Am. Pharm. Assn., 1913.

The Blood Pressure Method of assay is recommended on the basis of the vasoconstrictor action of active extracts of Ergot. Tracings are shown which apparently correctly indicate the degree of activity by the rise in blood pressure of an anesthetized dog. The effect on the cock's comb is claimed to be due to this action.

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Paul S. Pittenger and Chas. E. Vanderkleed, Journ. A. Ph. A.

These authors suggest the use of the excised guinea pig uterus for assaying Ergot extracts and submit tables to show the parallelism between the uterine and Blood-pressure Methods, and tracings to show the sensitiveness of the method.

This method had been recommended by Kehrer *Archiv. f. Exp. Path. u. Pharm.*, 1908.

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Chas. C. Haskell, *Jour. A. Ph. A.*, 1914.

The author considers the uterine method of assay to be the only logical one and that the blood pressure test has no relationship to the activity of a preparation, for obstetrical purposes, while the uterine and cock's comb methods seem to parallel each other.

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## II. *Pituitary Extracts.*

Herman Fuhner, *From Zeit. f. d. Gesamte Exp. Medizin*, 1914.

The excised uterus of the guinea pig is recommended as the only logical tissue to use for testing these extracts. The article is replete with tracings showing the variation in contractions of the uterus resulting from various doses of the active extracts.

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H. H. Dale, P. P. Laidlaw, *Zeitschr. f. Biol.*, 1913.

*Jour. Pharmacology and Exp. Therap.*, 1912.

The uterus method of assay is described in detail with tracings to show its applicability.

Fritz Heidelberg, Paul S. Pittenger and Charles E. Vanderkleed,

*Jour. A. Ph. A.*, 1914.

This is essentially a corroboration of the findings of the preceding authors.

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## III. *Digitalis Preparations.*

R. Gottlieb, *Mun. Med. Woch.*, 1914.

The frog heart method is not objected to, but the sources of error are pointed out. He calls attention by protocols, to the necessity for using a considerable number of frogs in any assay so that these errors, such as variation in resistance due to known and unknown causes may be obviated.

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R. Heinz, *Merck's Report*, 1913.

The author suggests a number of methods for standardizing these preparations each of which has its field for determining some specific action. Five different methods are summarized without indicating the choice of the author.

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Chas. C. Haskell, *Am. Jr. of Pharmacy*, 1914.

The use of guinea pigs is recommended in assaying the digitalis preparation because of the relatively uniform resistance the pigs have. Seasonal variation, however, is an important factor. The interesting fact was brought out that alcohol, in the preparations tested, has a protective action and decidedly lowers the toxicity.

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Chas. E. Vanderkleed and Paul S. Pittenger.

*Journ. A. Ph. A.*, 1914.

The slight seasonal variation in sensitiveness of guinea pigs to the action of the onabian is proved by an extensive series of experiments.

IV. *Cannabis Sativa*.

C. R. Eckler and F. A. Miller, 8th Inter. Cong. of Applied Chemistry, 1912.

The activity of American grown *Cannabis Sativa* is claimed to be inferior to that of the Indian grown drug, whether from native seed or seed taken from the imported drug. The method of assay is described in detail.

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H. C. Hamilton, A. W. Lescohier and R. A. Perkins,  
J. A. Ph. A., 1913.

The comparative activities of the extracts of American and Indian-grown drug were tested by these authors noting and describing the effects produced by the two extracts on the same subject.

Early in the year it was not deemed wise to undertake active laboratory work on the important problems of physiological testing, as the Chairman of the Sub-committee of the American Pharmacopœial Revision Committee stated that it had been decided not to introduce into the Pharmacopœia methods for the physiological assay of drugs; but to recommend certain methods to be used when desired. The information relative to these recommendations was expected to have been available several months ago so that the members of our Committee could consider the material which would appear in the Pharmacopœia and determine its practical bearings. Up to two weeks ago, however, this data was not available. Various members of our Committee were asked for assistance by the Chairman of the Sub-committee and such has been cheerfully given.

We would recommend that the Committee on Physiological Testing be continued for another year, in order that it may give careful detailed consideration to whatever statements are finally made in the new edition of the United States Pharmacopœia and report to the American Pharmaceutical Association the practical bearings of the recommended methods. Also to consider and report upon any other subjects that seem to be of practical importance.

Very truly yours,

E. M. HOUGHTON, Chairman,  
PAUL S. PITTINGER.

August 26, 1914.

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON EBERT PRIZE.

To the Scientific Section of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

GENTLEMEN: After a careful examination of the papers presented to this Section at the Nashville meeting the Committee on awarding the Ebert Prize begs to report that in its opinion one of these papers meets the requirements of the donor, although there are several which have many merits.

EMERSON R. MILLER,  
B. L. MURRAY.

September 24th, 1914.