

THE JOURNAL OF THE
THE DETROIT COMMITTEE.

ITS ORGANIZATION, PLANS AND WORK.

IN order that a precedent may be established by which the efforts of the Local Committee may be recorded and made available to the succeeding committee, and in order moreover that the Association may be made familiar with the aims and purposes of the Local Committee, which has just finished its work, it has been deemed advisable to recapitulate what those aims and purposes were.

Aside from the ordinary routine of the Local Committee, the work of the outgoing committee was especially directed along two lines: First, that of conserving the time of the members present, and second, that of bringing promising material to the meeting with the end in view of familiarizing it with the workings and purposes of the A. Ph. A. and to secure such material for membership in our Association. To accomplish the first of these ends, it was *necessary* to use the whole morning and afternoon for work and *desirable* to leave the evenings all open for social intercourse. In order to have the morning and afternoon hours utilized, it was necessary to begin promptly at as early an hour as possible, which hour was decided to be 9:30, and to accomplish this, several things were necessary. First, the program must furnish no obstacles, second, the chairmen must be in their places at the appointed time, and third, the members must be assured that the meetings would be called and that they would not be kept in their seats waiting long after the appointed time. One of the greatest obstacles to the first of these propositions, was the custom of morning council meetings. The Council never did begin on time and always continued through half of the forenoon, and, including as it does, the chairmen of the sections, it was impossible under the old rule to utilize the morning hours. By holding the council meetings in the evenings this difficulty was obviated. To further expedite matters all the usual formalities of the opening session such as addresses of welcome and responses were eliminated. The second proposition was accomplished by enlisting the enthusiasm of the chairmen with the ideas of the committee, for which purpose, a special meeting of the chairmen was called the first day, at which they were made acquainted with plans of the committee and each individual chairman promised to call his meeting on time, authorizing his vice-chairman to do so if he should not be present. This meeting of the chairmen was a new departure and was a valuable aid to the committee in accomplishing what it desired toward the saving of time. The Local Committee recommends to the future committees the consideration of these meetings as a means of obtaining the co-operation of the chairmen. To accomplish the third end was not so very difficult. By paging the corridors of the hotel twice before every meeting, the members were made aware of what was going on. How the membership took to these plans might be illustrated by two occurrences. The Commercial Section on the first day was announced throughout the corridors according to the plan. According to his promise the chairman began his address with no audience save his secretary. The seats were soon filled, however, when the members saw the section to be in session. By Thursday, when the river excursion took place the departure of the boat was also announced through the corridors of the hotel.

By this time the membership had caught the spirit of the meeting and when the boat had left the dock exactly on schedule, the members of the Local Committee, who remained at the dock to direct any late comers, had nothing to do. Everybody was on the boat. The inconvenience which might attend the holding of simultaneous sessions rendered necessary if the evenings were to be open for recreation, was to a large degree obviated by bulletins announcing what was going on in every section that was in session. The bulletin scheme, which was somewhat of an experiment, may be made much more successful at the next meeting if profit is made by this year's experience. If a collective program is published as directed by the council so that each member will have in his possession a complete program and if in printing the program, the Local Committee provides that all the items on the *program are numbered* so that the numbers can be announced on the bulletins by a large figure instead of by title, there will be little or no confusion in the bulletin scheme.

When so many sessions are being held at the same time in different rooms, as is the case in the A. Ph. A. Conventions, some confusion is apt to occur. The Local Committee endeavored to minimize the confusion which would naturally follow by having the different sessions of any particular section, conference, association, or council meeting meet in the same room. A large card was placed at the entrance of each room designating it as A, B, C, etc. Smaller cards were provided with the words "Council," "General Session," and names of the various sections, etc. The appropriate card was then attached to the larger cards, thus indicating what meetings were going on in the various rooms at any time.

To bring about the second main result, that of bringing available material for membership to the meeting so that the object and workings of the Association could be demonstrated, the following means were employed. First, the usual publicity in national Journals, second, the holding of joint meetings of the State Association with our Association, and third, the assistance of Travelling men throughout the state.

The first of these need not be commented upon for although the national campaign was conducted with unusual skill and vigor, it was a means that is usually employed.

The second one was undertaken with a less degree of confidence or sanction by custom, but we believe our reasons for trying it sound, and results were profitable. It cannot be denied that there is almost a universal misunderstanding by druggists of the character and work of the A. Ph. A. The impression is general that it is an organization of "high brows" and that there is no place in it for the retailer.

A second proposition is also a fact, namely that the material to which our Association must look for recruits is to be found among the individuals who make up the State Association, that is, a man who is likely to be appealed to by an association, is likely to be in his State Association.

For these two reasons: that of getting the people who are in sympathy with our work and that of correcting the wrong impression of our Association in their minds, we decided to hold our State Meeting jointly with the A. Ph. A. We believe the action was wise. The writer took pains to make many inquiries among state members and in almost every instance, they not only enjoyed the meeting immensely, but were impressed with the democratic spirit of our Asso-

ciation, and whether they joined at once or not, they will at any rate not be kept from joining through their former misconception which we all know to be a general one.

The program was so arranged that the state meetings did not interfere with the A. Ph. A. at all. Two short general sessions of the State Association were sufficient for the transaction of its business. Besides this, there was one joint session with the section of Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, at which was demonstrated the educational side of our work, and one joint session with the Commercial Section which emphasizes the interest of our Association in the commercial efforts of the retail druggists. This constituted the official program of the State Association, although of course, the state members mingled with the association members at other sessions.

In the work of publicity throughout the state, the Commercial Travellers Organization of our state were of material assistance throughout the nine months preceding the meeting.

Concerning the organization of the committee something might be said. The same general plan was employed as was utilized at the Nashville Convention. That is the committee was divided into suitable sub-committees whose chairmen constituted the Executive Committee.

Members of the General Committee were selected either on account of their prominence in local pharmaceutical circles or on account of their special fitness for the work in hand. For obvious reasons the chairmen of the various sub-committees and the resulting executive committee were selected altogether from the latter class. By this arrangement it was necessary to call the General Committee on only two or three occasions to receive reports of progress from the Executive Committee, which met every week for the last two or three months prior to the convention.

It is with full realization of many short comings in the conduct of the past meeting that the Committee makes this report, but it is in the hope that progress may result; that meetings may become more efficient, and that the work of the future Local Committees may constantly approach nearer perfection by the making of such a report by this and succeeding committees for the benefit of their successors.

L. A. SELTZER.

CHRYSAROBIN IN PSORIASIS.

In an article entitled "Summary of Research Studies in Psoriasis" the authors state that "Chrysarobin, the most powerful and efficacious drug known in psoriasis, has practically no germicidal power; calomel, on the other hand, which we have found to be highly germicidal and capable of destroying the cocci in the skin, has but a feeble effect on the patches of psoriasis."—J. F. Schamberg, A. J. Renger, G. W. Raiziss, and J. A. Kolmer (*Jour. Amer. Med. Assoc.*, August 29, 1914).