

Editorial Notes and Announcements

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All communications for insertion in the JOURNAL, or respecting advertising should be sent to the Editor.

The Association does not accept responsibility for the opinions of contributors. Offensive personalities must be avoided.

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Requests for back numbers, and claims for missing numbers should be sent to the Editor.

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WHY NOT?

One of the most enthusiastic A. Ph. A. workers sends this to the Editor, and the latter takes pleasure in passing it on to the officers and members:

Why not put these questions to every officer and committeeman of the A. Ph. A.?

1. What are you doing for the American Pharmaceutical Association?
2. Do you contribute any original papers?
3. Do you take an active part in the proceedings of your nearest branch?
4. Do you tell your medical and pharmaceutical friends what it means to be a member of this great organization?
5. Do you think it just to ask for further recognition without giving anything in return?
6. Why not get busy at once; you may be required to give an accounting at the Detroit meeting?



ADDITIONAL PRIZE MEMBERSHIPS.

It will no doubt interest the members to learn that two prizes of nominations to memberships in the Association are offered in the Department of Pharmacy of the University of the State of New Jersey.

One is offered by Prof. J. Leon Lascoff, Professor of Pharmacy, and is to be given to the post-graduate student writing the best thesis on a pharmaceutical subject; the other is offered by Prof. Otto Raubenheimer, Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry and the History of Pharmacy and Chemistry, and is to be awarded to the post-graduate student writing the best thesis on a chemical subject.



STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, ETC.

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Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other

security holders, holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities: None.

(Signed) J. H. BEAL, Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28th day of March, 1914.

(Seal) HARRY A. ECKMAN,
Notary Public.

(My commission expires Jan. 10, 1916.)



BEWARE OF SUIT-CASE PEDDLERS.

Druggists should beware of suit-case peddlers who sell manufacturers' products at attractively low rates—lower usually than those at which even the jobber can buy. If it should appear that pharmaceuticals so purchased had been stolen, and if the druggist purchasing them should be complained of for receiving stolen property, it would be difficult to convince a jury that the circumstances had not put the druggist upon his inquiry and that the druggist had purchased in good faith. Irregular brokers are being watched by manufacturers and wholesalers who have been the victims of systematic robbery.

According to Kansas City journals, Grover Buckland, 28 years old, an employe of the McPike Drug Company, has been arrested, tried, convicted, and sentenced to a year in the penitentiary for theft of opium, morphine, etc., from his employer. The thefts were systematic and continuous; but, of course, conviction was upon a single instance. Buckland about three years ago was discharged from the Kansas City office of Parke, Davis & Co. on account of pilfering. Buckland's output was through one Miller, who is yet to be dealt with.



SCALES AND WEIGHTS.

The first step in, what is said to be, a nation-wide attempt to secure greater accuracy in the scales in use in drug-stores has been taken in Massachusetts, where the State Commissioner of Weights and Measures has directed his deputies to inspect the scales and weights used in the preparation of prescriptions, as well as those used in the sales of articles by the ounce and pound.

The Commissioner says:

"I have not yet secured many official and signed reports from the various sealers who are making this investigation. Their informal reports indicate conditions that will need extensive improvement. I am not prepared to

say what percentage of scales will be found to be defective, but there is little doubt that hundreds of scales will have to be seized.

"The point that to me has seemed most important is that the customer who goes to a drug store with a prescription to be compounded must expect that absolute accuracy shall be guaranteed by the fact that he is dealing with a competent pharmacist. Yet competent pharmacists may queer the remedies prescribed by the physician if their scales are even slightly off. The doctors expect that the ingredients of a prescription will be combined in exact proportions. It is of great importance that they shall be so combined. If the scales prevent such accuracy, the results are likely to be unfortunate in almost all cases, and it is quite conceivable that in some cases they might be serious. Lives in fact may be jeopardized.

"This to me is far more important than other aspects of the situation. The percentage of loss to the customer is likely to be small. He will not pay for any large amount of merchandise which he does not receive. Apothecaries' scales are delicate things. There is a vast difference between weighing drugs and zinc or potatoes. Quantities are smaller. The customer's gain or loss will be relatively smaller. But it is also to be considered that drugs usually cost more than potatoes."

That there is need for such inspection is shown in a paper read before the Washington Branch of the A. Ph. A. which was published in the April issue of *THE JOURNAL*, under the title of "The Laboratory Equipment of the Pharmacist," in which it was stated that one pharmacist of that city uses a prescription-balance composed in part of string and that a drachm weight in actual use weighed 71.6 grains.

If such a state of affairs exists in the Capital City of the nation, it would seem to indicate an imperative need for some general action to ensure more care and attention to be given to the very essentials of the correct and precise preparation of medicinal preparations. In Fitchburg and in Worcester, Mass., many scales have been reported as inaccurate, and in one small town it was reported that in all the stores inaccurate scales were found and in one of these stores all the scales were condemned.

The heart of a drug store may be said to be its scales and balances,—not its cash register,—and a condition which would not be tolerated in the latter should not be permitted to exist in the former, and it is to be regretted that it should require official action to ensure the correct doing of things which should be a matter of course in every drug store worthy of the name.