

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to the Association and its branches shall become the property of the Association, with the understanding that they are not to be published in any other publication than those of the Association, except by consent of the Committee on Publication."—By-Laws, Chapter X, Art.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 Acting Editor on the day following the meeting, if possible. Minutes should be *plainly* written, or typewritten, with wide spaces between the lines. Care should be taken to give proper names correctly, and manuscript should be signed by the reporter.

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SAN FRANCISCO.

The Branch Association met on Tuesday evening, June 9th. The minutes of the May meeting were read and approved. Dr. H. M. Simmons was elected to membership.

After the dispatch of the routine business, Dr. Schneider called the attention of the members to the article on the anti-dysenteric properties of Chaparro Amargosa, by Dr. P. I. Nixon, which recently appeared in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Specimens of the plant were shown.

Dr. John Zieg presented a paper on "Some points for the pharmacist regarding the products used in organ-therapy." The doctor confined his remarks to those biological products which are derived from the adrenal, thyroid, thymus, pituitary and ovarian glands, which he stated have a therapeutic value quite well established.

The Branch adjourned to meet again on July 14th. On this evening Mr. J. Lengfeld will comment on some National Formulary preparations, Elixir of Ammonium Valerianate, Solution of Aluminum Acetate and Camphor-Menthol.

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SAINT LOUIS.

The Saint Louis Branch held its last regular meeting for the season in the Saint Louis College of Pharmacy, on Friday evening, May 15. In the absence of the president and vice-presidents, Mr. Ilhardt presided and introduced Mr. W. W. Ohlweiler, general manager of the Missouri Botanical Garden, who

gave an interesting talk on the subject, "Modern Herbal Garden."

Mr. Ohlweiler stated that there were growing at the garden between five hundred and six hundred medicinal plants divided into thirty-three groups, upon each of which its name was conspicuously displayed, and that the garden was kept particularly for the use of the pharmacists of the city and its vicinity.

He also outlined the course of school gardening which will begin this fall, in which an attempt will be made to teach the economic uses of plants from the standpoint of the botanist.

The following took part in the discussion which followed: Miss M. L. Sutter, Wm. K. Ilhardt, Dr. H. M. Whelpley, Prof. Francis Hemm, Julius C. Hoester, Prof. Leo Suppan, Chas. H. Bierman, Paul L. Goodale, Dr. Richard Kring, Gustav Kring, Carl T. Buehler, Franz Berg, Ferd Freeze and J. W. Mackelden.

On motion of Professor Hemm and seconded, a vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Ohlweiler for his discourse and the interest which he and the other members of the Missouri Botanical Garden are manifesting in our Association.

JULIUS C. HOESTER, Secretary.

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NORTHWESTERN BRANCH.

The April meeting of the Northwestern Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held immediately after a special meeting of the Minnesota State Pharmaceutical Association at the Nicollet Hotel, Minneapolis, on April 15, 1914, at 8 p. m.

The following program was presented:—

1. Some Recent Problems of the Pharmacist—Mr. W. A. Frost.
2. Spices: Official and Unofficial Varieties—Mr. M. H. Haynes.
3. Some Tests on the Ethereal Tincture of Digitalis—Mr. F. A. U. Smith.
4. Should Students in Pharmacy take Military Drill?—Dean F. J. Wulling.

The meeting was preceded by a dinner at 6:30 o'clock.

The resignation of Chas. T. Heller as President was accepted with regret, and, upon nomination, A. D. Thompson, of Minneapolis, was unanimously elected to fill the vacancy. Mr. Truman Griffen was elected as Vice-President, the latter office having been made vacant by the promotion of Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Frost was the first speaker, and he confined his remarks chiefly to a consideration of samples of linseed oil that he had recently purchased, some of which were of such poor quality that it was impossible to make a soap from them. Mr. Frost stated that he was indebted to Mr. M. H. Haynes for the following analysis of one sample:

"The oil is probably manufactured by the so-called "New Process," which consists essentially of a carbon bisulphide or petroleum naphtha extraction and consequent recovery of the solvent by distillation. This process, seemingly, permits the extraction of considerable quantities of albuminous material, which, upon distillation of the solvent, is precipitated in the oil. In the case of this sample, the filtration process evidently was not perfect, for in addition to the albuminous matter, there is vegetable tissue present, which was demonstrated by diluting a sample of the oil with twenty parts of ether and centrifuging; the sediment thrown down being subsequently submitted to a microscopic examination. Alcoholic-saponification yields a value of 179, compared with the U. S. P. 187 to 195. The iodine absorption value is 151 in comparison with the U. S. P. of not less than 170. You will note that these results are low as compared with the U. S. P. figures. This, in my opinion, may be accounted for in a large degree in that the process of extraction removes the oil not only from the flax seeds, but also from all foreign seeds present which contain volatile and fixed oils. Commercial flax may contain up to 6 or 8 percent of foreign seed, and if such is present, the results above indicated may be anticipated, working by the new process. In the case of the old process of hot pressure, these foreign oils are not usually present. Will say that upon filtration, the sample in question yields a clean, normal-appearing oil, with the exception that the viscosity appears a little low."

Mr. F. A. U. Smith spoke upon "The Relative Value of Ether Extractive and Dilute Alcohol Extractive of Digitalis."

"In the PHARMACEUTICAL JOURNAL for February 7th, Thomas Stevenson referred to an article on Digitalis, by Louis Kolipinski, which appeared three weeks earlier in the Interstate Medical Journal.

Kolipinski concluded, from observed effects, that the regulated strength of the heart-muscle and the gastro-enteric irritation pro-

duced by digitalis, are the results of different principles, and that the principle which acts best on the heart is the least poisonous.

In the leaf of foxglove there is present an acid resin. This resin has always been regarded as inert.

Kolipinski proposes to name this resin, "Digitalic Acid." He regards it as the mother source of the various principles found in digitalis, and states that it is the least poisonous of digitalis-constituents and the best in its effect on the heart.

The purest form of "Digitalic Acid" is obtained by digesting the dried leaf with ether, although Kolipinski states that, for medicinal use, a sufficiently pure product may be obtained by digesting the dried leaf with sodium hydroxide and subsequently neutralizing with sulphuric acid. The product, "sodium digitalate," occurs as deep-green, non-crystalline lamellæ of considerable lustre, soluble in water, with formation of a greenish-blue solution. When prepared from the precipitated resin, it occurs as a brownish-colored powder, which forms a greenish-brown solution with water.

Kolipinski states, that experiments upon guinea pigs showed that, in large doses, sodium digitalate arrests the left ventricle in bloodless systole. Chemical results, he states, show that it gives uniformly all the good results of digitalis, without its toxic effects, and that it can be given hypodermically, without producing local inflammation or irritation. He recommends a single daily injection of 1/33 grain (0.0022 gm.). In urgent cases, the dose may be repeated later in the day, until the severity of the symptoms is mitigated.

After reading this account of Kolipinski's work, I began immediately to prepare some of the substance which he terms "Sodium Digitalate," because I realized that such a preparation would be of great medicinal value if Kolipinski's assertions were correct.

Allen's digitalis leaf was taken, exhausted with ether, the ethereal extract dried by spontaneous evaporation and the residue dissolved in a minimum of sodium hydroxide solution. The strength was adjusted by the addition of water so that the finished solution contains the ether extraction of 10 gms. of dried digitalis leaf in 100 cc., (same strength as the U. S. P. twelve). A specimen of this liquid is here shown and you will notice that the color is green with a brownish tinge.

A sample of the ether-exhausted powdered

leaf is also shown, together with a tincture made from 10 gms. of the ether-exhausted leaf of the strength of the U. S. P. tincture. Owing to the claims of my business, I have not been able to compare the physiological strengths of these preparations until to-night, when I hope to be able to show you how such experiments are performed.

In the interval since these preparations were made, there has appeared in the PHARMACEUTICAL JOURNAL, for March 14th, an article by Gordon Sharp, of Edinburgh, a noted physiologist, entitled "Digitalic Acid (Acid Resin) the Active Principle of the Digitalis Plant." Dr. Sharp had prepared preparations similar to those I have described. He tested the products on frogs and found that the solution of digitalic acid caused no stopping or slowing of the heart, in fact showed no action at all, whereas, the tincture prepared from the ether-exhausted leaf, stopped the heart within four hours, except in one frog, in which the beat was slowed to 3 to 5 a minute. Dr. Sharp intends to try the chemical action of these preparations, bearing in mind that pharmacological experiment is not always confirmed by the therapeutical effect. Until this has been done all that Dr. Sharp can say is, that pharmacological experiment fails to find evidence of toxicity or activity in the acid resin or so-called "Digitalic Acid" of Kolipinski.

Let us now try the effect of the solutions I have prepared, on some frogs and guinea pigs and find out for ourselves whether the ether extracts the valuable properties of the drug. Incidentally, you may be interested in seeing how this work is carried out. As you know, it is necessary to use a number of animals before it is possible to standardize a preparation with exactness. This is due to many causes, including the age, weight and sex of the animals, and so forth. Take the case of frogs. At this time they are waking up from the period of hibernation and they may or may not have quite reached a condition of normal physical activity.

The results confirm the report published by Dr. Gordon Sharp, in that the "Digitalic Acid" preparation appears to produce no effect whatever, while the preparation made from the marc, gives the typical action and toxicity of good digitalis."

Owing to the lateness of the evening, Mr. Haynes deferred reading his paper on spices and spoke briefly on the subject of the adul-

teration of Santonica. He stated that several samples had recently come to his attention which contained no true Santonica, probably due to the scarcity and consequent high price of the genuine, another article having been substituted entirely. The false article resembles very closely Santonica and is probably from a closely related species of Artemisia. A microscopic examination shows the false flower-heads to be a little smaller, greener, and more stemmy than Santonica. The odor and taste are seemingly identical with the true drug. Upon examination with the microscope the false sample shows distinctive and apparent differences from Santonica. A chemical examination of the spurious article yields little or no santonin, the largest amount obtained being but one-fourth of one percent.

Samples of Santonica and the adulterant, were exhibited in which the members were greatly interested.

EDWIN L. NEWCOMB,
Secretary N. W. Branch A. Ph. A.

On Monday evening, April 27th, Prof. E. L. Newcomb, the Secretary of the Northwestern Branch, gave a lecture before the Ramsey County Medical Association on crude drugs, their production and valuation. He pointed out the many difficulties encountered in collecting or growing medicinal plants of good quality and warned his hearers that the cultivation of medicinal plants was not the bonanza that the lay press had represented. Plant enemies, bad seasons, lack of experience in sowing and harvesting and other causes militated against the grower of herbs in his efforts to produce good drugs.

A fine collection of growing plants and dried drugs was shown, the latter illustrating the great need for the exercise of care in a druggist's purchases, by contrasting good and bad specimens of important drugs, such as: Belladonna Folia, Digitalis, Stramonium, Rheum, Aconitum, Gentian, and others.

Dr. Newcomb described the work of the students at the School of Pharmacy of the University of Minnesota, especially in the growing of medicinal plants and the harvesting of them in proper condition for the laboratory or dispensing counter.

The Chairman, Dr. Ritchie, invited a discussion on Dr. Newcomb's paper, in which several physicians and druggists joined, including Drs. Savage, Renz and Gilfillan, and Messrs. Rietzke and Frost.

Dr. Savage thought that the physiological standardization of vegetable drugs was of vital importance, especially when the effect of the drug was alike on the lower animals and man.

Dr. Renz spoke of the importance of having prescriptions filled by pharmacists who were well informed and capable of supplying medicines in the best possible condition.

Dr. Gilfillan congratulated the speaker on his admirable discourse, and expressed the hope that this evening would not be the last one devoted to so important a subject. He wondered how many druggists took the pains to keep such drugs as digitalis in good condition, free from moisture, and other deteriorating influences.

Mr. Frost replied that druggists were very much alive to the importance of buying good drugs and storing them properly.

Mr. Rietzke expressed his pleasure in being present at this "get together" meeting of St. Paul physicians and pharmacists.

After adjournment of the meeting refreshments were served.

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COLUMBUS.

The first steps in the formation of a local Branch, in Columbus, were taken at a meeting of a number of the prominent pharmacists of this vicinity, including those from the Government Post, in response to an invitation from the Acting Editor of the JOURNAL to meet him at lunch at the Chittenden Hotel on May 27.

This invitation was heartily responded to, and the feeling was evinced that the formation of a Branch in Columbus, the home of the JOURNAL, had been too long deferred; that immediate action should be taken to form a local organization and that efforts should be made to secure the adhesion of a sufficient membership. The meeting adjourned to be called together at a later date.

On the evening of June 5, the druggists of the vicinage were the guests of Professor George B. Kauffman, in the Dutch room of the Hotel Chittenden. After the serving of a bountiful repast, Mr. Marshall called the meeting to order and stated the object of the gathering. He then called for the nomination of a temporary chairman, and Professor Kauffman was elected to that position, Mr. Edward Spease being selected as Secretary *pro-tempore*.

Mr. Kauffman accepted the duties of temporary presiding officer in a ringing speech, stimulating to the loyalty of the members of the A. Ph. A. and also to their fealty to the city of Columbus. It was time he said "to get out and get under" this movement. The journal of the Association, the leading pharmaceutical organ of the country, was edited, printed and published in this city, and every druggist and every citizen in Columbus should be proud that this fact made their city the center of pharmaceutical light for this country, if not for the entire world. Ambition and duty alike, called for them to make earnest effort to show their appreciation of the honor now conferred upon their home-city and to endeavor in every way to retain that



PROF. GEORGE B. KAUFFMAN

honor. During his remarks he paid a gracious tribute to C. Lewis Diehl, "the father of American Pharmacy." He said that he was in communication with the Chamber of Commerce of the city in regard to the retention by it of the proud position it now enjoyed, relevant to American Pharmacy.

Mr. Marshall called attention to the work of Dr. Beal in establishing the JOURNAL upon a firm foundation and to its extensive circulation. By means of it, Columbus was known to every civilized country on the globe, as the JOURNAL is on file in the great libraries of the capitals of Europe, and its pages were scanned from Syria to Canton, China. As was once said of England's banner, "the sun never set

upon it," so it might be as well said that the sun was ever shining upon the open leaves of the JOURNAL!

Mr. Topping moved that a Branch be formed, and it was so ordered. A committee was appointed to present the petition to the Honorable Council of the Association, praying for permission to establish a Branch in this vicinity.

A tentative organization was effected by the choice of Mr. George B. Topping, Ph.C., President; Edwin N. Webb, Vice President; Edward Spease, Ph.C., Secretary; Ernest C. Marshall, Ph.G., Treasurer, and Professor George B. Kauffman as Council Representative. The petition for the formation of the Branch has been brought before the Council and appears in the Council letters of this issue.

It is hoped that this organization will unite all the druggists of Columbus and its vicinity into one strong organization to work for the mutual good of the profession in the district comprised within its zone of influence.

College and Society

THE N. A. R. D. CONVENTION.

The annual meeting of the National Retail Druggists' Association in Philadelphia, the week of August 17th, promises to be a most interesting one in the way of entertainment for all those who attend the Convention.

The entertainment program comprises the following special features: The Officers' Reception and Grand Ball, which will take place in the magnificent ball-room at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel on Monday evening, August 17th; an automobile sight-seeing tour is scheduled for the ladies on Tuesday, and on Wednesday, they will be the guests at a reception to be held at the John Wanamaker's store. Thursday will be "Scottissue Day," when the delegates will be taken on a steamer-excursion, by way of the Delaware river, to the model paper-plant of the Scott Paper Company, and on the return of the delegates, a stop will be made at the League Island Navy Yard for its inspection. Friday will be "Wampole Day," and the Convention will be the guests of Henry M. Wampole & Co. at Willow Grove Park. An elaborate dinner

will here be served to all members. There is no prospect of any visitor to the Convention being afflicted with ennui or nostalgia during the gathering, for the Committee has left no moment disengaged in the program they have planned. In connection with the meeting the exhibits at the Convention will be of much interest and attraction.

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PACIFIC COAST.

The regular monthly meeting of the Women's Pharmaceutical Association of the Pacific Coast was held May 22, 1914, in the Assembly Hall, Pacific Building, San Francisco. Mrs. R. E. White was in the chair.

A large attendance was present. Discussions were held on "A Method of Preparing Solution for Testing Purity of Nitrous Oxide Gas;" "A New Method of Filling Santal Oil Capsules;" "Improved Blaud's Pills," and "Prescription Pricing."

The President appointed the following delegates to the Annual Convention of the California Pharmaceutical Association: Miss Della Crain, Santa Cruz; Mrs. E. Goodman, San Francisco, and Mrs. E. E. Patterson, San Jose.

Mrs. Philip read a paper entitled "A Clerk." The discussion of the evening was on "Laboratory Methods."

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COMMENCEMENT OF THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

The Commencement of the Department of Pharmacy of the University of the State of New Jersey, for the classes of 1913-14, took place at the Masonic Temple in Jersey City, on the evening of June 2d, President Hon. James E. Pope presiding. The invocation was delivered by the Rev. Harry L. Everett, the Chaplain of the University, and the address on behalf of the University was given by Joseph E. Bernstein, the Treasurer.

The principal address of the occasion was made by Geo. M. Beringer, of Camden, N. J., the President of the A. Ph. A. In his usual genial manner, President Beringer gave some of the history of pharmacy and advised the young graduates to be proud of their profession and to follow the example which has been given them by their teachers. He urged them to become members of the A. Ph. A.