

EDITORIAL

E. G. EBERLE, Editor

253 Bourse Bldg., PHILADELPHIA

THE 1916 ASSOCIATION MEETINGS.

THE American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy convened in Philadelphia prior to the Sixty-fourth Annual Meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association held in Atlantic City.

The Association of Pharmaceutical Faculties continued the work laid out for them during the past several years, relating largely to teaching and examination methods. An interesting report on the prerequisite of graduation from a school of pharmacy before the candidates are admissible to the examinations of boards of pharmacy was presented. This report seems to indicate that such laws have been helpful in providing better qualified dispensers, and have not created anticipated inconvenience by shortage of clerks. Salaries have not advanced in a ratio with other occupations, requiring a relative degree of experience and knowledge. This report should be helpful to legislative committees in states where prerequisite laws are contemplated, and reprints of the report may be had at cost of production, for distribution among druggists in the respective states.

The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, in order to carry on more effective and efficient work, was compelled to raise the fees for membership and reciprocal registration. The advance made is not disproportionate with the benefits; if a candidate desires to be re-examined when going to another state, he has the privilege; if, however, he prefers to take advantage of reciprocity, the fee of \$15.00 probably involves no more expense than would be incurred by taking an examination and without being subject to the worry connected therewith.

The Advisory Committee on Examination Questions which reports to both bodies continued their work, and this is gradually being shaped into a system that will be both helpful and valuable in determining the fitness of candidates.

The Sixty-fourth Annual Meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association was expected to be the most largely attended convention of its history. However the prospects for a railroad strike and probably also the large number of cases of poliomyelitis reduced the attendance. About four hundred were registered, and on two days of the convention this number was largely increased by delegates of the New York Deutscher Apotheker Verein, who came to honor their fellow-member, President Dr. William C. Alpers, and Philadelphia pharmacists who came to attend the banquet given in honor of Professor Samuel P. Sadtler, who was recently elected Emeritus Professor of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, in which institution he taught for nearly forty years.

The accession of membership was larger than ever before in the history of the Association, nearly 450 new members being added during the year.

This meeting, as every preceding convention, evidenced the sincerity of purpose that prompts the members of this Association to advance the cause of pharmacy and their deep concern for efficient service in behalf of the medical profession and those who are served by the coöperation of physicians and pharmacists.

President William C. Alpers' address related largely to internal affairs of the Association and involved the looking up of references in past proceedings, which were not available in Atlantic City, and will require considerable time for proper consideration, therefore the committee to whom the address was referred made only a preliminary report and asked that further time be given for its completion.

The National Formulary was the subject of much discussion, the improvement made in the fourth edition being recognized by everyone. The American Pharmaceutical Association does not seek to utilize this publication as a money-making proposition, but as the research work of the Association is essential to its production, the National Formulary should not only bring in sufficient revenue to defray the immediate expenses of publication, but provide the means for further revisions.

Several hundred formulas of the A. Ph. A. Recipe Book have already been published in the JOURNAL, and others will follow. Assistance given to the committee will redound to the benefit of every pharmacist.

A supplementary report of the Treasurer on the finances of the Association will be found following the report of the first General Session.

Every Section had an abundance of work and every minute of their allotted time was industriously occupied. These proceedings will be published in the JOURNAL and afford instructive reading during the coming months.

Perhaps the interesting announcement should be made that in the presentation of Dr. J. U. Lloyd's paper the discovery of a colloidal alkaloid in ipecac was announced. This discovery was made possible by the separation with hydrous aluminum silicate and had escaped observation in other separatory methods. The name given to this alkaloid is *kryptonine* (the hidden thing), and the formula, according to Waldbott, is $C_{29}H_{40}N_2O_9$.

It may be emphasized that the programs of all the Sections were interesting throughout, and the conduct of the proceedings expedited so that there were no tiresome moments. The nearness to the publication day of the JOURNAL necessitates that further comments must be made in the succeeding issue.

E. G. E.

ORGANIZATIONS.

IN all organizations there are possible extremes, whether the affairs are conducted by a centralized governing body or an attempt is made to have the conduct directed by all members. The former method may lead to an over-centralization and in the interest of a few, while the latter almost invariably leads to disorganization, because there is no uniform policy.

A governing body is essential to all successful organizations, and the duty of the membership is plain, to see that the management subserves the interests of all and does not usurp powers beyond their authority. The fact that the centralized body directs the affairs, occasionally arouses prejudice that gains expression in such terms as "arbitrary," "autocratic," "bureaucratic," etc. In associations frequently, what is ascribed to arbitrary methods is simply a lack of information on the part of those who make the assertions; not from ulterior motives, perhaps, but because they have not followed the trend of the work carried forward by the governing body, and assume that there is undue usurpation of power by the latter.

To secure efficient service the association assigns duties and delegates authority, and those who are charged with conducting the association affairs must have a right to do their own thinking and planning. There is probably no live association in which there is not prevalent criticism, sufficient to keep the officials informed of their observant fellow-members. The officers have been selected from the body, because of their qualifications or peculiar fitness for the work or, there has been a misjudgment. While in the offices that are largely honorary there should be rotation, those requiring constant attention to the activities of the association should be more or less permanent, for in this way knowledge and experience are conserved and may be efficiently applied in the conduct of association affairs. Constructive criticism is helpful and is the spirit which should actuate all members. A working together, counseling together, building up—not destroying—are just as essential to the growth of an association as efficient officers. An association may be considered as a family or as a business, and the conduct, loyalty, deep concern, high appreciation, protection against outward and inward attack, even love and devotion of the members characterize the organization.

E. G. E.

There is no influence for pharmacy more potent and powerful in the accomplishment of good than that of the business and professional men unselfishly banded together for the purpose of promoting the general welfare of pharmacy and when the paramount thought is service.
