

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to the Association and its branches shall become the property of the Association, with the understanding that they are not to be published in any other publication than those of the Association, except by consent of the Committee on Publication."—By-Laws, Chapter X, Art.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 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.

BALTIMORE.

The February meeting of the Baltimore Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held on February 24, 1917, at Harris Hall, in the University of Maryland, with the Vice-President, Dr. Frontis Lentz, presiding.

Omitting the reading of the minutes of the January meeting, the Secretary read a letter from Dr. H. A. B. Dunning, declining to serve as President of the Branch. Regrets were expressed and Mr. Robert S. McKinney was nominated and unanimously elected to the chair.

Dr. Clifford O. Miller, of the State Board of Health, gave an interesting and instructive talk on the "Determination of Alcoholic Percentages of Pharmaceutical Preparations," amplifying his lecture with practical demonstrations.

He made a general statement concerning the determination of alcohol by the evaporation method, but pointed out that this method does not give altogether satisfactory results where the evaporation of the alcohol causes the separation of substances which do not dissolve in the added water. He showed the general types of distilling apparatus in use, such as the goose neck, the Kjeldahl distilling bulb, and the Hempel column. He then demonstrated a column he had devised, stating that this column is extremely useful where very small quantities of alcohol are present and where concentration of the alcohol in the distillate means a more accurate determination of the alcoholic percentage.

In this apparatus a thermometer is used to record the temperature of the vapor, and this serves to show the character of the distillate as well as the completion of the distillation, the temperature dropping to approximately 30° C. when the vapor no longer contains alcohol.

A pycnometer fitted with a thermometer is used to obtain the specific gravity of the dis-

tillate, 25° C. being found a more convenient temperature at which to work than 15.56° C., as given in the U. S. P. IX.

Dr. Miller explained the use of the immersion refractometer in the accurate and rapid determination of the percentage of alcohol in the distillate, as well as the detection of any methyl alcohol which may be present. If the reading of the refractometer indicates a percentage of alcohol agreeing with that obtained from the specific gravity, it may be assumed that no methyl alcohol is present. If, however, there is an appreciable amount of methyl alcohol present, the low refractometer reading will indicate the fact at once.

After giving the general method of alcoholic determination, Dr. Miller gave methods for overcoming some difficulties likely to arise. A carbonated liquid may be freed from carbon dioxide before distillation by pouring from one vessel to another. The foaming of new wines may be overcome by the addition of tannic acid or paraffin, the paraffin being more satisfactory as it forms a layer over the liquid and almost entirely prevents foaming.

The bumping which often occurs in distillation can be overcome by adding a few pieces of pumice which have been heated to red heat, plunged in distilled water, and left under water until used. Pieces of broken glass or glass beads, or capillary tubes closed at one end also serve very well.

In cases where the preparation contains fats, volatile oils, soap, volatile bases or acid, or other volatile substances such as ether, iodine, etc., these are eliminated before the distillation is carried out.

In those preparations containing volatile acids, the acids are best fixed by adding sodium carbonate to the distilling flask. Those containing ammonia are best fixed with phosphoric acid.

Preparations containing free iodine are first freed from iodine by decolorizing with zinc and adding a few mils of sodium hydroxide

solution. The iodine may be eliminated by means of sodium thiosulphate, but in this case sodium hydroxide solution must also be added to prevent the sulphur from distilling over with the alcohol.

If volatile alkaloids are present, these may be fixed with tannin.

Volatile oils, camphor, oils, fats, and soaps are removed by adding saturated salt solution and shaking out with petroleum ether. The petroleum ether extract is washed with saturated salt solution and the washings are added to the distilling flask. In soaps containing ammonia acidified salt solution is added, the acid being used to fix the ammonia. Alcohol-ether mixtures are miscible with either water or petroleum ether alone, but with the simultaneous addition of both, the alcohol mixes completely with the water and the ether with the petroleum ether. Spirit of ether, for instance, is mixed with an equal volume of saturated salt solution and shaken out with petroleum ether.

Preparations containing glycerin present no difficulties when estimating the percentage of alcohol in the column devised by Dr. Miller, as no glycerin is carried over even when present to the extent of more than 10 per cent.

After a general discussion of the matter presented, a rising vote of thanks was tendered Dr. Miller.

Dr. Charles C. Neal gave a history of the determination of alcoholic percentages. He referred back to the period immediately following the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Law when the average percentage of alcohol was estimated and stated on the labels, and made comparisons with the more definite and accurate processes used at the present time, this improvement being due to the important data gathered since that time.

He pointed out that the variation in the alcoholic percentages of fluidextracts is due to the varying amount of moisture present in the crude drug and the varying amount of extractive present in different lots of the same drug. The time at which the alcoholic determination is made is also a factor, since soon after manufacture there is a deposit of inert matter, which should be allowed to settle before the determination is made.

In the manufacture of elixirs allowance should be made for the shrinkage in volume when alcohol is added to the aqueous portion, and care should be taken to see that such

preparations are thoroughly mixed before an alcoholic determination is made.

B. OLIVE COLE,
Secretary.

CHICAGO.

The regular meeting of the Chicago Branch, A. Ph. A., was called to order at 8 o'clock in the evening of January 25th, at Kuntz-Remmlers, by President Hugh Craig.

The reports of officers and committee chairmen were received and the annual election of officers ensued with the following unanimously elected: *President*, Hugh Craig; *First Vice-President*, A. H. Clark; *Second Vice-President*, John F. Fischnar; *Third Vice-President*, Wm. Gray; *Council Member*, Clyde M. Snow; *Secretary-Treasurer*, E. N. Gathercoal; *Membership*, C. C. Orr; *Legislation*, James H. Wells; *Practice*, I. A. Becker; *Medical Relations*, Dr. B. Fantus; *Publicity*, Thos. H. Potts.

The subject for the evening's discussion was the proposed Health Insurance Bill. Unfortunately, Dr. J. H. Beal could not be with us, but Mr. Craig read several passages from the published copy of the bill and opened the subject for general discussion in which Dr. Hess, Dr. Fantus, Dr. Burdick, Mr. Craig, Prof. Snow, Prof. Clark, Prof. Day, Mr. Gathercoal, Mr. Potts, and others took part.

The Branch duly adopted a motion that the chair appoint a committee to consider this matter of Compulsory Health Insurance to report at a later meeting. The chair appointed on this committee, Dr. J. H. Beal, *chairman*; Dr. Bernard Fantus and Mr. J. H. Wells.

Mr. B. L. Eicher then read a paper on Chlorozone, Dr. Dakin's new antiseptic. This was adopted for publication after discussion by various persons present.

The question of some action by the Branch on the A. Ph. A. Year Book proposition was made by the Secretary, but upon statement by Prof. Day that the results of the general vote on the Year Book questions would soon be announced, further discussion was reserved until a later date.

E. N. GATHERCOAL,
Secretary.

NASHVILLE.

The February meeting of the Nashville Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held in joint session with the

Nashville Drug Club, February 15, 1917, D. J. Kuhn, presiding.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Assistant Attorney-General George M. Thomas spoke on the Tennessee prohibition laws and in his address gave a brief résumé of prohibition legislation, beginning with the enactment of the Four-Mile Law in 1835, which made it unlawful to sell liquor within four miles of a school house. He then spoke of the Holliday Act, passed in 1909, whereby the same restrictions became effective in the entire state and the possession of a United States liquor dealer's license was made *prima facie* evidence of guilt; the Soft Drink law which prohibits the sale of beverages containing over one-half of one percent of alcohol, passed in 1913. Druggists are permitted to fill written prescriptions of a physician who has personally visited the patient at his home. The law passed this year by the Tennessee legislature known as the Bone Dry Bill, makes it unlawful to ship liquors into the state and from one section to another, but exempts druggists from its provisions. Mr. Thomas explained in detail the rights of druggists in handling alcohol, wine, etc.

State Pure Food Inspector Harry Eskew discussed an amendment, now pending, to the Tennessee Narcotic Law, whereby it becomes the duty of county health officers to write all prescriptions for habitues.

A resolution was adopted opposing the passage of bills before the legislature which seek to eliminate the payment of the annual fee for registration of pharmacists and assistants; that which allows persons having ten years' experience in a drug store to become registered in certain counties without examination, and the compelling of dispensing poisons in triangular shaped bottles.

D. S. Sanders called the attention of the meeting to the expiration of the patent to manufacture aspirin, on February 27, 1917. The meeting was well attended and a number of members of the Tennessee legislature were present.

WILLIAM R. WHITE,
Secretary.

SAN FRANCISCO.

The regular monthly meeting of the San Francisco Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held on February 8, 1917. President Lengfeld presided. A communication from the New York Branch,

relative to the "Disposition of the Year Book," was received and placed on file. The chairman of the Committee on Drug Market reported that the country is threatened with a shortage of opium and opium derivatives. Advances in prices of many drugs were listed.

Comments on the preparations of the National Formulary resulted in an interesting discussion of the following: Compound Syrup of White Pine, Tincture of Cudbear, Solution of Aluminum Acetate and Antiseptic Solution.

In the formula for syrup of white pine the addition of cudbear was deemed unnecessary. In antiseptic solution the excessive amount of eucalyptol was criticized and also the use of both oil of thyme and thymol. A decided change in the menstruum of tincture of cudbear was noted and some members thought the former menstruum preferable. The solution of aluminum acetate could have been made permanently clear by filtering the solution separately, then mixing and refiltering. The present process, though an improvement on the former one, does not seem to produce a permanently clear liquid.

These informal discussions seem to be more interesting to the members than prepared papers and it was decided to continue them at the March meeting.

CLARISSA M. ROEHR,
Secretary.

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

The January meeting of the Branch was called to order at 8.15 at the National College of Pharmacy, Dr. W. W. Stockberger, presiding.

The minutes of the December meeting were read and approved.

The Secretary read the following communication from the New York Branch, which embodied a resolution adopted by the Philadelphia Branch and which had also been sent to us:

New York Branch
of the
American Pharmaceutical Association.

Jan. 13, 1917.

DEAR SIR:

At the January meeting of the New York Branch of the A. Ph. A., the following communication was read by the Secretary:

DEAR SIR:

At the last meeting of the Philadelphia Branch, during a discussion on the question,

"What Disposition Shall be Made of the Year Book?" the following points were emphasized:

1. The A. Ph. A. gives each member more than his dues will pay for, hence each year there is a deficit. This must be met with an increase in revenue or a decrease in expenditures. The former can be brought about only by an increase of dues; the latter more feasibly either by discontinuing the Year Book or publishing it in the *JOURNAL* from time to time.

2. The continuance of the Year Book is absolutely necessary for the progress of American Pharmacy, for it is only by the use of this and allied works that any progress is made. Were it not for this systematized and carefully indexed account of what has been done, information which can now be obtained in a few moments would only be available after an extended time- and patience-consuming search through many journals.

In accordance with this view, the following resolution was proposed and adopted:

RESOLVED, That the Philadelphia Branch go on record as favoring the continuance of the *JOURNAL* and the Year Book as at present, and that any deficit which might occur be met by an increase in dues; and further, that the Secretary be instructed to send copies of this resolution to the Council and to the Secretaries of the various local branches.

(Signed)

J. ED. BREWER,
Secretary.

After considerable discussion, it was decided not to take hasty action upon such an important matter.

The following resolution was then adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, By the New York Branch that in view of the vital importance to the A. Ph. A. of the step proposed in the resolution adopted by the Philadelphia Branch, and furthermore, in so far as nothing is known by the members, regarding the result of the recently held referendum, that a committee of three be appointed by the chairman of the Branch to thoroughly investigate the question of the continuation of the Year Book and *JOURNAL* and an increase in annual dues, said committee to report at a future meeting of the New York Branch.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary send a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of each local Branch.

(Signed)

H. H. SCHAEFER,
Secretary.

Mr. Hilton stated that this whole question was being made the subject of a referendum

vote and as no report had yet appeared, he moved that no action be taken until the New York Branch had investigated and reported. Passed.

A communication from Miss Cowper was referred to the Secretary for reply.

Mr. Flemer offered a motion to be acted upon at the next meeting, combining the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. Passed.

Dr. Stockberger called for any items of interest to members. Mr. Sievers of the Bureau of Plant Industry, thereupon, reviewed a recent bulletin on "Belladonna Growing," written by Prof. Schneider of the University of California. He showed that the writer exhibited great unfamiliarity with much of the published work on this subject, as he claimed that only one crop of the drug could be gathered in the East when the experience of the Department had shown the possibility of harvesting four crops. He showed that while Prof. Schneider claimed that 0.67 per cent alkaloids was a high content, the Department had grown plants showing over 1 per cent. He showed that Prof. Schneider's advocacy of seed selection from high potency plants had been discussed by the Department for several years and that during that period seeds of high pedigree plants had been distributed.

The general topic of the evening, "Historical Pharmacy Collections," was opened by Dr. Stockberger, who described the efforts made by Southern investigators to delve into the history of pharmacy in that section, and of the discovery in South Carolina of a collection of old prescriptions written during the Civil War, which vividly portrayed the conditions obtaining during those years.

Mr. F. L. Lewton, Curator of Medicine, Smithsonian Institution, U. S. National Museum, delivered an interesting address on the work being done to develop an historical collection at the Museum. This address will be published in full in the *JOURNAL*.

Mr. N. R. Mueller, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, spoke of the historical pharmacy collections at the University of Wisconsin. He mentioned some of the old-fashioned medicines on exhibition and the manufacturing devices showing the development of pharmacy.

Dr. Arno Viehover, Bureau of Chemistry, opened the discussion offering many practical suggestions relative to the arrangement and labeling of specimens. He believed that much attention should be paid to a consideration

of how drugs are cultivated, collected, cured and distributed. He also thought that the manufacturing side should be largely exhibited and that this should embrace the products from natural drugs and synthetic products. He suggested the importance of an exhibit of all of the official drugs and the desirability of showing the portraits of those who have made the profession.

Dr. F. B. Power spoke of the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum in London, which includes the old Liebig laboratory and the oldest pharmacy in London, both intact. He described his own experiences with Par-ri-sh in Philadelphia 45 years ago and said that he had coated pills with gold and silver with the identical apparatus now on exhibition at the University of Wisconsin. He also alluded

to the Tschirch collection at Berne and the Germania collection at Nuremberg.

Mr. Flemer said that the Historic Section of the Association was custodian of a collection which had no repository and thought that our Branch might suggest the placing of this collection in the U. S. National Museum.

Mr. Kalusowski and Mr. Hilton also spoke of this collection and the desirability of having it on exhibition as a loan collection at least and Mr. Flemer moved that a committee, to include Messrs. Hilton and Lewton, be appointed to induce the parent association to place exhibits in the U. S. National Museum and to report from time to time on the progress of its work. Passed.

H. C. FULLER,
Secretary.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

CHICAGO, ILL., February 18, 1917.

Editor of A. PH. A. JOURNAL:

DEAR EBERLE:

Stewart and England have tackled the Patent Law from the scientific and technical trenches. Allow me to say a word about the semi-political-commercial end. In 1889, on my return from Germany, I learned that I could not sell, give away, or even swallow antipyrin, that a friend in Germany had given me for seasickness without coughing up a royalty to the lessee of the patent. I looked into the whyness and have been hollering about "Change the Patent Law Monstrosities" ever since.

Long before this topic had been discussed by anybody I got my facts and figures and in 1893 I read a paper on "Change the Patent Law," before the A. Ph. A. After reading it, my friend, George Seabury said, when I sat down by his side: "Willy, Willy, you are O. K., but the 'interests' are against you."

When the N. A. R. D. was started in 1898, I took this slogan to the N. A. R. D., found attention, listeners, and was requested to ask Jim Mann to father the new patent law, which he did. One of the biggest manufacturing concerns had helped me in 1888-93 to get these facts, helped me enthusiastically, because they could make certain chemicals if it were not for the patent law. At that time the patent law protection was leased out to some concern which exploited the trade to the best of the limit. Later this concern took out some valuable patents itself and got cold feet about changing the law.

A little later on, a Chicago jobber defended a suit against a patent lessee, had him licked to a frazzle, but the lessee took out an appeal. The A. Ph. A. was approached to help defend the *test case*, but declined. Meantime the lessee made an offer, paid the defendant all his expenses and "then some" and the case was dropped.

The Mann Law dragged along, not the white slave, but the Patent Law, and was dropped. Jim Mann told me not long ago that he could have passed that law but the druggists would not let him. Draw your own conclusions! But George was right; the interests were against me. As long as this world stands, passion and interests have been and will be the molders of destinies. Even some of our leading editors helped me when I started to fight the monstrous law, but saw fit to change front since and are silent in seven and a half languages now.

Needless to say, much as I abhor the facts, I am strictly for living up to the law as it is, but also strong for changing the thing. It is not a stimulant but a stone wall against scientific research work—let the process be protected, but encourage scientific research by allowing chemists to work new processes. But—Stewart and England look after the scientific end—I wanted to call attention to the quasi political chicanery behind the scenes, and that to my mind is as rotten as the law itself, and I am for boiling down letters in order to insure attention. The war scarcity of chemicals has thrown a brilliant searchlight on the dire need of changing our laws.

W. BODEMANN.