

SECTION ON PRACTICAL PHARMACY AND DISPENSING
AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.*

ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF THE SESSIONS HELD IN NEW YORK CITY, AUGUST 27 AND 28, 1919

FIRST SESSION.

Chairman R. W. Terry called the first session of the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing to order at 2 P.M., August 27. Secretary Edward Davy was not in attendance at the Convention, and E. A. Ruddiman was selected to act as Secretary, *pro tem*. The address of Chairman Robert Wood Terry follows:

A glance at the program indicates there are so many able contributors to the activities of this Section that I feel it would be a waste of valuable time and an imposition on the members present for me to deliver a lengthy address, however much I might desire to do so.

Much has been said regarding the evils of "commercialized pharmacy" and the inroads it has made upon "ethical pharmacy." No one can contradict this; but we must not have family quarrels, as that will do nothing but retard progress and work against us. Pharmacy must co-operate with itself.

Peculiar as it may seem, I welcome all this commercialism, simply because it hastens the day when the public will see the necessity for the separation of commercial pharmacy from ethical pharmacy. The initiative must come from the ranks of pharmacy itself, but the public must be willing, and will therefore have to be educated to the necessity for the changes.

I am convinced that in the average pharmacy the prescription department is not a financially remunerative department, and that it is kept up merely from custom and weight of public opinion. Figuring in dollars and cents the store would be better off if it discontinued this department, so that the space, money invested, and expensive professional clerk hire could be devoted to more profitable work. Let those who desire to practice commercial pharmacy, which is as honorable as any other line of human activity, do so. Commercial pharmacy is an absolute necessity, hence it is here to stay; but the ethical pharmacy can exist only when the commercial store will absolutely discontinue the prescription department and discontinue the sale of all but simple packaged remedies. It must be a get-together community proposition, and then the one who desires to practice professional pharmacy could afford to discontinue all side-lines and put all his energy and resources in one line. This would be a benefit to all parties concerned, particularly the public.

It will then in course of time be necessary for the various state boards of pharmacy to have a double standard for pharmacists. One might be so radical as to predict the necessity for periodic examination of those who desire to practice ethical pharmacy. This would be raising the standard of the profession far above anything ever before contemplated.

The thoughts regarding the separation of ethical and commercial pharmacy have been enumerated many times before and by persons far more competent than I, and I might continue, but what is more desirable is *action*. I truly hope that some community will have a meeting composed of pharmacists, physicians and representative business men, and try this plan. I am confident of its success.

I desire to call your attention to the necessity for more prompt delivery of papers or titles, intended for the annual meetings, to the Section officers. The officers of these Sections are under a heavy strain from work and worry, endeavoring to obtain sufficient papers for the program. I sincerely trust that in the future contributors will respond early to the letters of the Section officers.

In closing, I again desire to thank the Section for its confidence in conferring upon me this high honor; but I must say that if these meetings are successful the credit is due to the contributors of these valuable papers, and I take this opportunity to heartily thank them for their co-operation.

ROBERT WOOD TERRY.

During the reading of the address, Samuel L. Hilton presided. On motion of Otto Raubheimer, and a second by William H. Glover, the address was referred to the Publication Committee.

*Papers with discussions will, hereafter, be printed apart from the minutes. It is understood, unless otherwise stated, that the papers were referred to the Publication Committee.

Chairman Otto Raubenheimer, of the Committee on A. Ph. A. Recipe book, presented his report (see Minutes of Third Council Session for 1918-1919, November 1918 issue of THIS JOURNAL). The report was referred to the Council.

The following papers were read, discussed and referred to the Publication Committee:

"Fluidextract of Licorice," by Anthony Armentano.

"The Function of Glycerin in Some U. S. P. and N. F. Preparations," (see THIS JOURNAL, October 1919, p. 818), by E. A. Ruddiman.

"A Prescription Clinic," by Ivor Griffith and A. B. Nichols.

"Standardization of Dispensing Pharmacies," by L. E. Sayre.

"Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing in Relation to the Medical Profession," by F. E. Stewart.

"Inorganic Incompatibilities of Organic Drugs," by Carl Braubach.

"Protective Ointments Against Mustard Gas" (see THIS JOURNAL for October, p. 824), by John M. Williams.

"Tincture of Cantharides," by F. W. Nitardy.

"Proposed Changes in the Soaps of the Pharmacopoeia" (see October issue of THIS JOURNAL, p. 813), by E. V. Kyser.

"The Use of Hydrogenated Oils and Fats in Pharmacy" (see p. 816, October issue of THIS JOURNAL), by C. A. Mayo and E. V. Kyser.

"Some Suggestions for National Formulary Revision" (see THIS JOURNAL, September issue, p. 745), by W. L. Scoville.

Nominations for officers of the Section were called for. E. A. Ruddiman, of Nashville, Tenn., was nominated for *Chairman*. Ivor Griffith, of Philadelphia, was nominated for *Secretary*. F. W. Nitardy, of Brooklyn, N. Y., and W. R. White, of Nashville, Tenn., were nominated for Associates of the Section.

SECOND SESSION.

The second session of the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing was called to order at 2.30 P.M., August 28, by Chairman R. W. Terry.

Owing to the illness and absence of Professor H. P. Hynson, the contribution on "One Thousand Consecutive Prescriptions in 1919, Compared With An Equal Number in 1859, 1879 and 1899," was not presented.

The paper, "A Study of the Pendent Drop," by John Uri Lloyd, was read by title and referred to the Committee on Publication.

The following papers were read, discussed, and referred to the Publication Committee:

"Notes on the Precipitation of Magnesium Hydroxide," by Robert W. Terry and E. D. Davy.

"Notes on the Suspension of Solids in Liquids," by F. W. Nitardy.

"The Abuse of the Shake Label," by J. Leon Lascoff.

"A Suitable Non-Alcoholic Solvent for Acetylsalicylic Acid," by I. A. Becker.

"Solution of Cresol Compound" (see September number THIS JOURNAL, p. 759), by S. L. Hilton.

"Camouflage" (see September issue THIS JOURNAL, p. 752), by S. L. Hilton.

"Dreuw's Paste or Ointment or Vienna Paste," by Otto Raubenheimer.

"Ferrum Reductum," by Charles H. LaWall and J. W. E. Harrison.

The following papers were read by title and referred to the Publication Committee:

"A Prescription Difficulty," by P. J. Kolb.

"The Refractive Index and Optical Rotation of Commercial Volatile Oils," by Azor Thurston.

"The Extraction of Cascara and Senna," by William R. White.

"Solution of Chlorinated Soda, U. S. P., from 1840 to 1920," by H. A. Langanhan and F. W. Irish.

"A Standard Screen Scale for Testing Sieves," by U. S. Bureau of Standards.

The Section approved of the tentative standards and referred the latter paper to the Council.

The following paper was presented by F. W. Nitardy: "Alcohol and Prohibition." After

considerable discussion the Section passed a motion that this paper be referred to the Council with the recommendation that the formulas be submitted to the U. S. Treasury Department.

ALCOHOL AND PROHIBITION.

BY F. W. NITARDY.

With the advent of prohibition the status of alcohol as industrial and medicinal material should receive careful consideration. The nation has declared itself in favor of prohibition and as interested parties in the use of alcohol for purposes other than beverage we owe a duty to ourselves and the public in seeing that the legitimate use of alcohol is safeguarded as well as that it and its preparations are not misused to the end of defeating the prohibition amendment.

Whether or not alcohol as such is of sufficient importance as a remedial agent to make it desirable to preserve its use to the public and with its almost certain abuse by the public, is a matter for the medical profession to decide. It is, however, well within the province of Pharmacy to suggest a modified form of alcohol of such composition that it cannot readily be used as, or converted into a beverage and is at the same time fit for external use as liniment or bathing alcohol. We should even consider the inclusion of such a preparation in the coming issue of the Pharmacopoeia or National Formulary. The restriction of the public to alcohol of such a nature will simplify the question of abuse and relieve the pharmacist of undesirable responsibility.

We should be able to learn from and profit by the experience and actions taken by states who have been dry for some time and have definitely fixed the status of alcohol by law, and in this connection desire to call your attention to the Alcohol Law of Colorado. It provides for the sale to the public of alcohol in two modified forms only—one consisting of grain alcohol containing one-tenth of one percent of croton oil, the other consisting of a mixture of alcohol and water containing one-tenth of one percent of tartar emetic. The latter is especially intended for bathing purposes.

The formulas were adopted after joint and careful consideration of the subject by Medical and Pharmaceutical Associations of the State and have to the best of my knowledge proven satisfactory to all parties concerned.

As such alcohol is thoroughly denatured, it seems that it may even be possible to have these formulas recognized by the Revenue authorities as satisfactory for tax free alcohol.

I understand that there is a bill before Congress concerning industrial alcohol with the object to provide for less restriction in use of tax-free alcohol. I also understand that the Government is ready to receive suggestions in relation to this subject. Pharmacy is vitally interested in the matter and we should see to it that legislation of this nature receives the careful attention from us that it needs.

A communication from Chairman I. A. Becker, of the Sub-Committee on Photographic Formulas A. Ph. A. Recipe Book, entitled "Some Fundamental Considerations in Dispensing Photographic Formulas," was read and referred to the Publication Committee.

Then followed open discussion on the forthcoming revision of the U. S. Pharmacopoeia and National Formulary.

The paper on "Oral Hygiene and Oral Antiseptics," by W. F. Gidley, was read by title and referred to the Publication Committee, also a paper on "Ointment Difficulties," by William Gray (see p. 746, September issue of THIS JOURNAL).

Further nominations for officers of the Section were called for, but none were presented. The following were elected officers for the ensuing year:

Chairman, E. A. Ruddiman, Nashville, Tenn.; *Secretary*, Ivor Griffith, Philadelphia, Pa.; *Associates*, F. W. Nitardy, Brooklyn, N. Y., and William R. White, Nashville, Tenn.

The officers were installed by the retiring Chairman, R. W. Terry, following which the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing was adjourned.
