

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to the Association and its branches shall become the property of the Association, with the understanding that they are not to be published in any other publication than those of the Association, except by consent of the Committee on Publication."—By-Laws, Chapter X, Art.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

Chairman Ivor Griffith, of the Committee on Local Branches A. Ph. A., has addressed a letter to the Branches which conveys a good suggestion that should be productive of results. It follows the lines of a recommendation made by Secretary J. W. England several years ago of submitting each month a paper prepared by some member of the Association to all the Branches for discussion. The first article of the contemplated series has also been sent out, and this is printed immediately following Chairman Griffith's communication to the Branches of the American Pharmaceutical Association which reads:

As Chairman of the Committee on Local Branches of the American Pharmaceutical Association, and anxious to afford the Committee a tangible reason for existence, I sincerely request your assistance to carry out a plan which the Committee believes will benefit each Local Branch as well as the Association itself.

The plan is to offer to the Branches, at each stated meeting, one or two four-minute papers written by men prominent in the profession and dealing with a timely and appropriate subject which can be utilized as the basis of a general discussion. This need not interfere with the regular program, and the papers may be publicly read by the Secretary or any branch member.

The first paper which accompanies this note is timely and comes from the pen of the present President of the Association, Dean Charles H. LaWall. The subject is one that is of particular interest to the druggist and, coming from the American Pharmaceutical Association, it will give the Association prestige and take away from it the slur that it never does anything constructive for the retail druggist.

The Committee anticipates that it will have your hearty cooperation in this matter,

because it feels that it must and will have the encouragement of every one concerned in furthering the interests of our Association in every conceivable way.

Yours for Pharmacy,
(Signed) IVOR GRIFFITH.

SHORTER WORKING HOURS FOR PHARMACISTS.

BY CHARLES H. LAWALL.

In beginning this brief contribution to a very important subject I wish first to disclaim any intention to give advice to retail pharmacists or to try to solve a very practical problem by proving how desirable it is in theory. What I can, with propriety, do is to refresh the minds of some who hear or read this symposium with facts and recollections.

In the first place, it must be clearly recognized that what is easily possible in one kind of neighborhood may not be at all possible or practicable in another, even in the same city, and then there is the variation, too, in urban and suburban locations. Contrasting present practice, however, with that of twenty-five years ago, we can see that great progress has been made, and judging by modern tendencies, the next five or ten years will see changes now looked upon as the dreams of an idealist.

In most city stores in residential neighborhoods the doors of pharmacies are not opened until 8.00, 8.30 or even 9 A.M. In many of these same stores an afternoon during the week is "taken off" by all hands, and the store is open for business only upon certain hours on Sunday. This is in part made possible by the influence of pharmaceutical associations in bringing together as friends those who otherwise would be enemy rivals, suspicious of each other's every act. There are now large sections of some cities where all stores but one are closed in turn, by mutual

coöperation and agreement. That this practice will increase instead of decreasing, there is not the slightest doubt. Once having tasted the freedom of shorter hours, few go back and ask to have the shackles welded on again.

Another factor, but one that is not so much in the interests of the profession as the voluntary progress described above, is the compulsory shortening of hours which has already been accomplished in some States. This is brought about through the influence of trades unions. In West Virginia, for instance, I have been told that everything is unionized, and that even the drug clerks are not permitted to work more than eight hours a day, except upon the payment of an increased wage for overtime service. This, of course, naturally results in cutting down the hours, but it cannot be looked upon as a satisfactory or healthy method, nor one that will help pharmacists in their aim to obtain professional recognition.

In conclusion, let me say that just as true as is the saying "Old times never return," so true is it that in the near future a pharmacist who ventures to keep open longer than a reasonable time for his neighborhood, will be looked upon as an "old timer" who is unprogressive. The worst of it is and what retards the change even now is that he will not be aware of it. But it is true. Isn't it?

LUZERNE COUNTY.

The Luzerne County Branch, A. Ph. A., held the regular monthly meeting in the Hotel Sterling, Thursday evening, February 13. Thirty-two members were present and after the serving of luncheon the following business was transacted:

Mr. Greenstein, chairman of the Commercial Relations Committee, reported his investigation of the effect the new tax law will have on the business of the pharmacist. Information along this line, he reports, is not very definite and will not be until the bill is signed.

Mr. Lynn, chairman of the Membership Committee, presented fourteen applications for membership.

A resolution was adopted in which the members agreed not to purchase any more patent preparations for the treatment of venereal diseases and to coöperate with the Public Health Bureau in discouraging their sale.

The next meeting will be held the second Thursday in March.

J. D. MORGAN, *Secretary*.

NEW YORK.

The February, 1919, meeting of the New York Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was called to order by President Lehman in the Lecture Hall of the New York College of Pharmacy Bldg. on Monday evening, the 24th, at 8.15 o'clock.

Thirty members were present.

The Treasurer's report was received and showed a balance of \$64.00 on hand.

Auditing Committee: Dr. Diner reported that he passed all the bills he had on hand.

Membership Committee: No new members were reported.

Fraternal Relations: Dr. Lascoff brought in a report that the Booklet on useful Formulas be sent to each member.

Education and Legislation: Mr. Kennedy brought in a lengthy report which after some discussion was ordered accepted.

Dr. Dana S. Hubbard, Acting Director, Bureau of Public Health Education, now delivered his talk on the work of his bureau. Considerable discussion followed and a vote of thanks was tendered the speaker.

Under regular procedure the meeting was declared adjourned.

HUGO H. SCHAEFER, *Secretary*.

PHILADELPHIA.

The February meeting of the Philadelphia Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held Tuesday evening, February 25th in the quarters of the Philadelphia Clinical Association, with the President W. W. McNeary occupying the chair. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and other business matters dispensed with, the Secretary read a communication from the Chairman of the Committee on Local Branches of the Association, explaining a plan which is being put into effect whereby prominent members of the Association furnish monthly a four-minute paper which is read at every local section in the Country. The first paper which was read by the Secretary was one written by Prof. Charles H. LaWall, the incumbent President of the A. Ph. A., dealing with "Shorter Hours for Pharmacists." The presentation was interestingly discussed by Messrs. Cliffe, Peacock, and Hendrickson. The scientific program of the evening was then opened by Dr. W. A. Pearson, dean of the Hahnemann College, who delivered a highly interesting lecture on the "Wonders of Physiological Chemistry." It is rarely that

such a highly scientific study is presented in such a thoroughly interesting manner, as was done by Doctor Pearson. He primarily analyzed the chemical constitution of the human being, pointing out the simple as well as the more complicated constituents of flesh and bone. His explanation and classification of protein compounds, his story of the analysis and synthesis of the amido-acid compounds by the Germans Fischer and Abderhalden, his introductory remarks concerning the cycle of changes through which proteins injected into the human economy must necessarily undergo in order to be fitted into their place in the human structure, were agreeably received by the audience.

Speaking particularly of some of the phenomena of physiological chemistry, which were as yet only vaguely understood, Doctor Pearson treated consecutively the following subjects:

(1) Enzyme action in the gastric and intestinal juices, explaining that pepsin and other proteolytic ferments existed in these digestive fluids in an inactive condition to be released for use in direct proportion to the amount of food to be digested. This happy balance was in some mysterious way calculated to a nicety by nature's own mathematical methods. In other words, the enzymes secreted were in direct proportion to both the amount and character of the food to be acted upon.

(2) *Thermoregulation of the Body*.—The lecturer pointed out the similarity that exists in degree of body temperature in the case of the Eskimo at the Pole or the Peruvian at the Equator. He also explained why the temperature of the body is raised when certain fevers or diseases oppress it. This elevation is partially the cause and partially the effect of the chemical reduction of the foreign bac-

terial proteins produced in the body fluids by the invading bacteria. Normally the happy balancing of forces in the body regulates and maintains the normal body temperature. Disease upsets this balance. Doctor Pearson also referred to the wonderful chemical and physical processes which are daily occurring in our livers and kidneys with the elimination of useless products and the retention and absorption of the necessary principles.

The paper was discussed by Prof. C. H. LaWall and F. E. Stroup.

Dr. George Koch, Agricultural Chemist to the Nulford Company, then presented a valuable paper on the "Cultivation of Medicinal Plants in the United States." This year was the critical year in this industry, the speaker explained, because it will tell whether this new American venture which has apparently been placed on a thoroughly scientific basis can survive foreign competition. He very clearly and thoroughly went into the story of the development of this new branch of American horticultural science and pointed out the fact that in this as in many other sciences, the ingenious Yankee quickly overcame all difficulties and placed the proposition on a paying schedule. The various methods of growing and general peculiarities of the following medicinal plants were discussed in detail: Belladonna, digitalis, hyoscyamus, stramonium and cannabis. Doctor Koch's paper will be published in full in the JOURNAL and consequently it will be unnecessary to abstract it more fully. The paper was discussed by Messrs. Glass, Stroup and Hessler. The Chairman appointed the following committee on Nominations to present their report at the next meeting: Prof. C. H. LaWall, E. G. Eberle and Raymond Hendrickson. The meeting was attended by over 40 persons.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

A. PH. A. COUNCIL, LETTER NO. 11.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., January 31, 1919.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

Motions No. 14 (Election of A. G. DuMez as Secretary of Scientific Section), No. 15 (Additional Appropriation of \$300 to Item No. 4, Miscellaneous, of Budget of Appropriations and No. 16 (Vote of Thanks to Prof. John Uri Lloyd for Services) have each received a majority of affirmative votes.

President C. H. LaWall writes:

"The information contained in Dr. Day's communication relating to the storage of the archives and stock of the A. Ph. A. brings us to a realization of two things: First, the extent of our indebtedness to Prof. Lloyd for so generously accepting such a complicated and tremendous responsibility and fulfilling his obligations thereto in such a satisfactory manner and without remuneration. Second, the dire need of the Association for a home,