

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to the Association and its branches shall become the property of the Association, with the understanding that they are not to be published in any other publication than those of the Association, except by consent of the Committee on Publication."—By-Laws, Chapter X, Art.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

THE NARCOTIC LAW TROUBLE.

BY DR. A. R. L. DOHME, Baltimore.

Contribution of Committee on Local Branches for reading and discussion at the May meetings. Ivor Griffith, *Chairman*.

The abuse of narcotics commonly known as the "Drug Habit" has been for many years, and is to-day, the most insidious and dangerous vice existing in the world. Immorality, alcoholism and cigarettes are all three very bad vices and habits and have caused and are causing much domestic trouble and unhappiness and, as well, undermining the health of the people, but none of these three destroy moral fibre and destroy character to the extent that does the abuse of narcotics.

Immorality, or vice, as it is commonly called, breaks up homes and spreads disease; alcoholism disturbs the peace of communities and causes want and suffering and sorrow in homes; cigarettes cause early deaths and indolence, as well as inefficiency; but the narcotic habit destroys self-control, moral fibre and character, as well as undermines health. Those who have studied all these vices and bad habits will agree that the drug habit is the worst, both in its effect upon the individual and upon the community.

The move to enact the Harrison anti-narcotic law had its origin with the drug trade and its enactment into a federal law was made possible by the National Drug Trade Conference, who persisted for over two years and finally succeeded in securing its passage. Unfortunately, as we know now, its execution was placed in the wrong hands and that has been the cause of all the trouble with its success in preventing the continued securing of narcotic drugs by the unfortunate habitues who are slaves to these drugs such as morphine, opium, laudanum, cocaine, codeine, etc. Ample provision is made in the law to control the securing of these drugs and to plug up the

channels by which it gets through the meshes of the sieve intended to keep it from reaching the habitues. The trouble has been that the law has not been enforced by the Government, and the reason the law has not been enforced is that it was put into the hands of the Internal Revenue Department, when the law is not a revenue, but a health measure. Every one who imports, manufactures, jobs, retails or dispenses any narcotic drug must keep accurate and complete files of every order he receives for said goods, made on the numbered and registered order blanks issued for that purpose by the Federal Government. This accumulation of these order blanks has been going on for some years, but they are seldom made use of and inspected by the inspectors of the Internal Revenue Department and in consequence the users and buyers of abnormal quantities of narcotic drugs are not traced up and apprehended. This is in my opinion due to the fact that the anti-narcotic law produces no revenue to speak of and should not, since it is not a revenue measure. In consequence the Internal Revenue Department is not especially interested in the law or in its enforcement, because if properly enforced it would require the expenditure of much more money than it produces. This would produce a deficit in the Internal Revenue Department for this law and no collector of revenue feels justified in producing deficits and probably correctly and naturally so. The fault is hence not really his own, but should rather be put upon the shoulders of those that enacted the law, the joint responsibility for which would probably belong to Congress and the National Drug Trade Conference. There was, however, a condition at the time of the law's enactment which excuses this blame. We all realized at the time that there was grave doubt whether the law would be passed at all because it was not a revenue measure, although referred to the revenue department for en-

forcement. There was, however, no other agency of the Government at that time to which it could be referred and the analogy with the alcohol law caused it to be referred for enforcement to the revenue department. Alcohol regulation, while it is also a health measure, is, however, primarily a revenue measure; in fact, one of the largest revenue producers of the Federal Government. Since that time, however, another department of the Government has developed and grown into prominence—the Public Health Department, over which Surgeon General Blue presides. This department has the facilities and as well the interest to properly enforce the anti-narcotic law and besides these has obtained the prominence and importance to make it one of the important federal departments.

The solution of the narcotic trouble, therefore, appears to be the amendment of the Harrison anti-Narcotic Act, known as the Act of Congress approved December 17, 1914, to the effect that its enforcement shall be placed in the hands of the Public Health Department and taken from the hands of the Internal Revenue Department. Then the study and following up of the record of sales of these narcotic drugs would be thoroughly and continuously done and the loop-holes through which the narcotic drugs now escape detection and reach the habitue would be gradually and effectively closed and eliminated.

CINCINNATI.

The Cincinnati Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association held its monthly meeting in connection with the Ohio Branch of the National Pharmaceutical Association at the new Y. M. C. A. building, Tuesday evening, April 22nd. About sixty covers were laid, and the members and friends spent a very enjoyable and instructive evening.

After Secretary Charles A. Apmeyer had given a résumé of the activities of the Association for the previous year, which report was duly approved, President Louis Werner introduced the speakers of the evening.

Professor E. Fullerton Cook, of Philadelphia, who was to have spoken on "Pharmaceutical Service," was unable to be present; he had, however, telegraphed his regrets and mailed his paper, which was read by Dr. Frank Cain.

The next speaker, Dr. Charles T. Souther, M. C., U. S. A., with Evacuation Hospital at

St. Mihiel Sector, France, and Base Hospital 25, Allevey, France, Hospital Center with 20,000 beds, spoke on "Medical and Pharmaceutical Work in the Army and Navy," giving such a graphic and realistic account that his interested auditors could feel and almost see the splendid accomplishments performed by the medical and pharmaceutical forces in their dangerous positions.

Edward A. Lehr, Ph.G., of the 330th Division of the Medical Corps, U. S. A., chose as the title for his discourse, "The Druggist in the Army." He deplored the non-recognition of pharmacists in the service with regard to rank, and praised the uncomplaining sacrifices made in the performance of their duties on behalf of their country.

The Secretary of the Ohio State Pharmaceutical Association, Theodore D. Wetterstroem, told in a unique way of the activities of the Ohio legislative body, mentioning especially those measures affecting the drug trade which have become laws during this session. Over 713 bills were introduced—150 passed.

A message from President Charles H. LaWall, of the American Pharmaceutical Association, was read and also a contribution from President George M. Beringer, of the National Pharmaceutical Service Association.

We had the pleasure of the presence of Professor Edward Kremers, of the University of Wisconsin, who was the honored guest of Dr. John Uri Lloyd.

CHARLES A. APMEYER,
Secretary.

CUBA.

The Cuban Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association held a meeting at the Academy of Sciences of Havana on Saturday, April 19th, at 2 o'clock.

Dr. Eduardo Garcia Faundo, as provisional President, called the meeting to order. Dr. José P. Alacán, Secretary, read the minutes of the last meeting, which were approved.

This being the meeting for the election of officers, the following were elected:

President, Dr. José P. Alacán.

First Vice-President, Dr. Gerardo Fernandez Abreu.

Second Vice-President, Dr. Rogelio H. Ramirez.

Third Vice-President, Dr. Alvaro Porro.

Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. Felipe de Pazos.

The following members were present: Dr. Garcia Faundo, Dr. Goltz, Dr. Luisa Calonge, Dr. Sylvia C. Alacán, Dr. Ortiz, Dr. Herrera, Dr. Varela and Dr. José P. Alacán, Secretary.

JOSÉ P. ALACÁN,
Secretary.

PHILADELPHIA.

The regular monthly meeting of the Philadelphia Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association was held at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, Tuesday evening, May 27, 1919, President Griffith occupying the chair.

The business of the meeting was dispensed with until after the end of the principal address on account of the other engagements of the speaker. The subject of the address was "Conditions on the Italian Front," by Lt. Colonel C. P. Franklin, of the U. S. Ambulance Service, with the Italian Army. Colonel Franklin gave a very comprehensive résumé of the activities on the Italian front, emphasizing the wonderful fighting qualities of the Italians. He contributed a number of the unfavorable impressions concerning the Italians as a part of clever German propaganda. Dr. Franklin illustrated the Italian problems in an entirely different light, and all present were well repaid after listening to the story of the wonderful achievements in the Alpine battlefields.

Before leaving for another engagement Colonel Franklin was given a rising vote of thanks. The business of the meeting then proceeded with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, which were approved. The names of fourteen new members were proposed and were duly elected. The "Four-Minute Paper" was read by the Secretary and was contributed by Dr. A. R. L. Dohme, of Baltimore, on the subject, "The Narcotic Law Trouble." Dr. Dohme called attention to the mistake in having the Harrison Narcotic Law enforcement in the hands of the Revenue Department instead of the Public Health Service. Upon the suggestion of Mr. Hunsberger, the Secretary was instructed to communicate with Dr. Dohme, asking for some definite plan by which to overcome the present difficulties in getting proper police powers for the Federal Government when interstate commerce was not actually concerned.

A "Prescription Clinic" followed. The discussion was led by Adley Nichols, P. D., who presented several interesting incompatibilities. Further discussion followed by Messrs. Hunsberger, Cliffe, Lowe, Griffith, Harrison, Apple, Ehman, Glass and Friedman.

A motion of adjournment was made to meet again in September. There were approximately fifty persons present.

ELMER H. HESSLER,
Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE

UNITED STATES PHARMACOPOEIAL CONVENTION OF 1920.

Article VIII, Chapter I of the By-Laws of the United States Pharmacopoeial Convention provides that the President:

"Shall issue, on or about the first of May of the year immediately preceding that of the decennial meeting, a notice inviting the several bodies, entitled under the Constitution to representation therein, to send delegates to the next meeting. He shall repeat the notification, eight months later, and shall request the medical and pharmaceutical journals of the United States to publish the call for said meeting."

Article II of the Constitution provides:

"The members of the United States Pharmacopoeial Convention, in addition to the Incorporators and their associates, shall be delegates elected by the following organizations in the manner they shall respectively provide: Incorporated Medical Colleges, and Medical Schools connected with Incorporated Colleges and Universities; Incorporated Colleges of Pharmacy, and Pharmaceutical Schools connected with Incorporated Universities; Incorporated State Medical Associations; Incorporated State Pharmaceutical Associations; the American Medical Association, and the American Chemical Society; provided that no such organization shall be entitled to representation unless it shall have been incorporated within and shall have been in continuous operation in the United States for at least five years before the time fixed for the decennial meeting of this corporation."

Section II of the Constitution provides:

"Delegates appointed by the Surgeon General of the United States Army, the Surgeon General of the United States Navy, and the Surgeon General of the United States Marine-Hos-