

of reducing sugar). Allow the flask to remain in the boiling water-bath, just fifteen minutes after the addition of the sugar solution, remove, and with the aid of a vacuum, filter the contents rapidly into a platinum or porcelain Gooch Crucible containing a layer of prepared asbestos-fiber about 1 gm. thick, the Gooch, with the asbestos, having been previously ignited, cooled, and weighed. The cuprous oxide precipitate, is thoroughly washed with boiling distilled water until the water ceases to be alkaline.

(The asbestos should be of the long-fibered variety and should be especially prepared as follows: Boil first with nitric acid (sp. gr. 1.05 to 1.75) washing out the acid with hot water, then boil with a 25 percent solution of sodium hydroxide, and finally wash out the alkali with hot water. Keep asbestos in a wide-mouthed flask or bottle, and transfer it to the Gooch, by shaking it up in the water and pouring it quickly into the crucible while under suction.)

Dry the Gooch with its contents, in the oven, and finally heat to dull redness for fifteen minutes, during which the red cuprous-oxide is converted into the black cupric-oxide. After oxidation as above, the crucible is transferred to desiccator, cooled, and quickly weighed. From the milligrams of cupric oxide, calculate the milligrams of dextrose from table accompanying the method.

The results by both methods were as follows:

Gravimetric	2.806% sugar
Volumetric	2.777% sugar

.029% difference

Another sample of urine tested by the same methods contained, by the

Gravimetric method....	6.34 % sugar
Volumetric method....	6.29 % sugar

.05 % difference

These results clearly indicate that the volumetric method of Benedict modified as above, while rapid and easily applied, is capable of yielding just as accurate results as the longer gravimetric method.

I am now conducting a series of experiments, to determine the relative accuracy of all the methods commonly used to quantitatively determine glucose in urine, and hope in the near future to publish the results of same.

THE SIXTY-FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

M. I. WILBERT, PH. M., WASHINGTON, D. C.

The 1914 meeting of the American Medical Association was held in Atlantic City June 22-26 and 3,958 members registered as present at the convention. This registration is reported to have been considerably larger than that of any of the previous sessions of the Association in Atlantic City. The work of the House of Delegates and its committees, and the proceedings of the several Sections of the Association are reported at length in the Journal of the American Medical Association for July 4, 1914, v. 63, p. 73-130. The scientific papers, because of the restrictions imposed by the House of Delegates at the Minneapolis meeting, were fewer in number than in former years but the subject matter dis-

cussed was correspondingly good, the programs for the several Sections being generally well carried out.

The Section on Pharmacology and Therapeutics had as usual a program containing many papers of pharmaceutical interest. Delegates from the American Pharmaceutical Association were recognized and Prof. Joseph P. Remington, the Chairman of this Delegation, in extending the felicitations of the organization he represented, said:

"The American Pharmaceutical Association brings greetings to the American Medical Association. It is meet and proper that two National bodies should exchange greetings for however they may differ in function and scope, they are united in principle in the one great object of promoting the health of the Nation in combating disease.

"It is gratifying to know that the Pharmacopœia is practically completed so far as the bulk of the work is concerned. The printing of the Appendix with the Tables, Reagents and Volumetric Solutions will be sent to the printer this week, for this part of the book must be printed first, in order that members may have it for reference in checking up the text of the book.

"During the past year a number of older remedies have been deleted and new remedies admitted. The Committee on Scope, which reports upon proposed admissions and deletions, have finished their work but there are still a few questions which can be settled after the printing is started. One of these questions is the form of so-called Bichloride Tablets. As is well known, the enormous use of these Tablets is a menace to the future growth and prosperity of the Nation. The Pharmacopœia cannot check the use of these Tablets, but it can at least direct the form for their use which will tend to prevent accidental administration.

"The American Pharmaceutical Association during the past year has used its influence in every possible way to control and limit the use of habit-forming drugs.

"The body which I have the honor to represent, asks the assistance of your body to aid in framing wise laws which will make it difficult for 'dopesters' to continue their habits, and to limit the use of these drugs to the legitimate use of properly educated physicians.

"In educational matters Pharmacy has progressed by raising the standard of education of those entering Pharmacy, and enlarging the curricula of the colleges. May we not hope that Medicine and Pharmacy will be more closely linked in the future, and that crimination and recrimination will cease, or take the form of constructive criticism, with the intention of remedying the evils and correcting abuses, and inculcating harmony between the two professions."

Referring more particularly to the probable scope of the U. S. P. IX, the following table represents its status at the present time:

Number of articles in text of U. S. P. VIII.....	958
U. S. P. VIII articles deleted in Revision	237
U. S. P. articles retained in Revision.....	721
Number of new articles admitted to U. S. P. IX.....	67
Total number of articles in tentative list of U. S. P. IX.....	788

On motion of Dr. Murray Galt Motter, of Washington, D. C., the Section on Pharmacology and Therapeutics of the American Medical Association, adopted the following resolution which was referred to the House of Delegates, and endorsed by that body, thus becoming officially recognized as the opinion of the American Medical Association:

"WHEREAS, The Pharmacopœia of the United States of America should be, above all, a book designed to protect the public health and prevent the exploitation of the sick and afflicted for profit; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the members of the Section on Pharmacology and Therapeutics of the American Medical Association, request the House of Delegates to urge upon the Revision Committee, to make official in the Pharmacopœia of the United States 'corrosive mercuric chloride pastilles' so that physicians may not be compelled to prescribe this remedy under a proprietary name; be it further

Resolved, That this Section endorses the form and description of corrosive mercuric chloride pastilles, as described in the German Pharmacopœia, namely, of cylindrical shape, twice as long as thick, wrapped individually in paper bearing the name of the medicament 'corrosive mercuric chloride pastilles' and the word 'poison' in suitable and striking letters; be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Secretary of the American Medical Association to the President and to each of the officers of the United States Pharmacopœial Convention and also to the Chairman and to each member of the Committee of Revision of the Pharmacopœia of the United States."

Of the many papers presented in the Section on Pharmacology and Therapeutics the following contributions were of more immediate interest to pharmacy:

Dr. John F. Anderson, the Chairman of the Section on Pharmacology and Therapeutics, in his address, discussed some unhealthy tendencies in therapeutics and referred more particularly to the ill-advised use of certain biologic products such as the Friedman vaccine for tuberculosis, and crotalin in the treatment of epilepsy. In summing up this paper, he suggested that, while advances in therapeutics are necessary and clinical trials must be made, these trials should be with adequate controls of otherwise treated cases, and under circumstances in which every stage can be watched and the various clinical and laboratory observations be made a matter of unbiased record and the best interests of the patients thus safeguarded. It is difficult to secure these conditions outside of a well-equipped hospital. Until a new method of treatment has received abundant confirmation of this sort it is unjust—to use no stronger word—to apply it promiscuously to patients who are not under constant observation and are not amenable to instant emergency relief.

In a paper on "The Medical Treatment of Chronic Intestinal Stasis," W. A. Bastedo, of New York, discussed the uses and limitations of many of the aperients and cathartics. In commenting on the now widely-used paraffine oil, he called attention to a series of ten samples, not one of which complied strictly with the requirements of the Pharmacopœia, and also stated that, in writing prescriptions for paraffin oil or liquid petrolatum, it is unfortunately true that it is practically necessary to specify some established brand, as the material supplied in retail drug-stores very seldom, if ever, complies with the requirements of the Pharmacopœia.

In a paper on Active Immunization in Diphtheria by toxin-antitoxin mixtures, William H. Park, of New York, reported on recent progress in the prophylaxis of diphtheria, and reviewed the present-day knowledge regarding immunization, and the possible recognition of immunization by skin reaction.

In a paper on the use of diphtheria antitoxin in the treatment of diphtheria, Samuel S. Woody, of Philadelphia, recommended the administration of much larger doses than are used at present, and stated that the number of antitoxin units to be administered, should be in keeping with the stage of the disease. He said that, as a prophylactic diphtheria antitoxin was uncertain, and in a great measure unsatisfactory in its results, and that to be efficacious in the treatment of diphtheria, antitoxin must be given at the earliest possible moment and in large doses.

In addition to the resolution endorsing the inclusion of pastilles of corrosive mercuric chloride in the Pharmacopœia of the United States, the House of Delegates also adopted the following recommendation of pharmaceutical interest, suggested by the Council on Medical Education and endorsed by the reference committee:

"Your committee also recommends that the Council be instructed to urge all medical colleges to adopt the nomenclature of the Pharmacopœia of 1910 and to use the metric system in their teaching."

The scientific exhibit was of unusual interest and the work displayed was not alone excellent, but much of it was of immediate practical value to the profession. The commercial exhibit attracted considerable attention, and was unusually free from objectionable features in the way of proprietary and semi-proprietary preparations not recognized by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry.

The officials for the Section on Pharmacology and Therapeutics for the coming year, are: Chairman, R. H. Hatcher; Vice-Chairman, J. Ray Arneil; Secretary, M. I. Wilbert; Delegate, John F. Anderson, and Alternate, Ray L. Wilbur.

At the opening meeting of the Association on Tuesday morning, Dr. Victor C. Vaughan, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, was installed as President, and at the concluding session of the House of Delegates, on Thursday afternoon, Dr. Wm. L. Rodman, of Philadelphia, was selected as the president-elect and San Francisco chosen as the place of meeting for 1915.

BEEF IN 1740.

A writer in the Yale Review who notes that in 1740 beef could be bought in Boston at twelve cents a pound seems to imply that that price was all it was worth. "Invariably a steak for dinner was heralded by the vigorous pounding with the potato masher wielded by the stalwart arm of the cook." The meat, in fact, often came, he tells us, from the carcass of "a cow that no longer gave milk or a bull that had lost its bloom." Still there were many Englishmen in Boston in the eighteenth century, and they must have been able to obtain somewhere roast beef that was worthy of their exacting palates.