

Correspondence

Davis Memorial Fund

To the Editor:—The committee appointed to secure funds for the Davis memorial feels assured that the medical profession is in a large degree ignorant of its scope and purpose. This committee was appointed at the Portland session of the Association and at once organized in the expectation of securing the fund promptly.

The national disaster caused by the destruction of San Francisco induced the committee to defer its work in the interest of the medical profession of California. The financial crisis of two years ago was sufficient reason for causing a still further delay. The committee thinks that the time has now arrived for pushing its work to a completion. The committee has requested of the various state societies to take this matter actively in hand and name the sum which seems to them an equitable apportionment. The committee has suggested that half of the respective sums be furnished by a vote of the society, thus causing indirectly the enrolment of every member of the profession in contributing toward this worthy object. The committee feels sure that the other half of this apportionment will be gladly furnished by private subscription, as a privilege rather than a burden. This plan was adopted in Massachusetts and on a personal appeal of the chairman the subscription greatly exceeded the sum allotted. We feel assured that an effort of this sort, inaugurated by the officers of the state medical societies, will be successful. The committee urges the different state organizations to complete their subscriptions without further delay, knowing that the great body of the medical profession feels a debt of gratitude which can be publicly expressed only in this way.

We would ask every reader of THE JOURNAL to take up this matter actively with the officers of the state society. The funds should be forwarded to Dr. Frank Billings, treasurer of the American Medical Association, 100 State Street, Chicago.

HENRY O. MARCY, Chairman of the Committee, Boston.

Pharmacology

Radical Revision of the Pharmacopeia

It is interesting to note that pharmacists are moving in the direction of a radical revision of the Pharmacopeia. At the May meeting of the Baltimore branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association the following resolutions were offered and accepted for future discussion:

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Baltimore Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association that the Ninth Revision of the U. S. Pharmacopeia should not contain formulas for compound preparations and should present matter relating to simples and preparations of simples, only; that the National Formulary should contain only such formulas for compound preparations as are consistent with prevailing advanced knowledge of chemistry, pharmacology, pharmacy and therapeutics and that all titles therein contained should be true to content and in accord with accepted medical and pharmaceutical ethics. It is further

Resolved, That the parent body be requested to consider the advisability of publishing a General Receipt Book, with frequent supplements, to contain all formulas dropped from the U. S. P. and N. F., and such other formulas as may be useful to pharmacists.

Mr. H. P. Hynson, a pharmacist of Baltimore, discusses these resolutions in a recent paper (*Bull. Am. Phar. Assn.*, November, 1909) in which he says that the effect of such a rule would be to dismiss about 40 articles from the Pharmacopeia, or 3 per cent. of the pharmacopeial titles, relegating them to the National Formulary. For instance: Cataplasm of kaolin, antiseptic solution, and the compound acetanilid powder would not be admitted, and compound mixture of glycyrrhiza, compound syrup of sarsaparilla and some other well-known mixtures would have to be dismissed. A broad construction of the resolution would not necessitate the dismissal of

preparations in which a small amount of another substance is added for the purpose of effecting solution, but slight changes should be made in the titles and formulas, whereby such preparations might be made to comply with the new rule. Solution of iodine in solution of potassium iodide of sufficient strength need not be called compound solution of iodine.

He thinks that it would not be wise to offer argument on either side at the present time. "The whole subject, however, will be more clearly considered," he says, "if we fix in our minds just what the pharmacopeia of to-day should be. Is it to be an authority as to standards, alone; standards of identity characteristics; standards of pharmacodynamic or adjuvant worth; standards of relative potency, or is it to be a book of both standards and suggestions? Its chemistry and pharmacy must be beyond reasonable question, but it can scarcely presume to establish therapeutic standards or even attempt to do so, when so little has been done to make such standards possible."

The proposition is one of considerable importance and may be taken as pointing to a distinction to be made between the Pharmacopeia and the National Formulary. It is questionable if the dismissal of compound formulas from the Pharmacopeia would be desirable if there were no other official standard book. As the National Formulary has been in a sense legally recognized and is now generally accepted as containing official preparations, there could be no objection to assigning all compound mixtures to that book. This would logically involve the authorization of the National Formulary by the same representatives of the medical and pharmaceutical professions as now determine the character of the Pharmacopeia. Or if this is not feasible and it is deemed advisable to continue the work as a publication of the American Pharmaceutical Association, the value of the book might be enhanced if physicians should cooperate in its preparation.

The Public Service

Medical Corps of the Navy

Changes for the week ended Dec. 18, 1909:

Benton, F. L., surgeon, detached from the *Franklin* and ordered to the *Prairie*.
Shippen, L. P., asst.-surgeon, detached from the Naval Prison, Portsmouth, N. H., and ordered to the *Prairie*.
Steepe, J. P. A. surgeon, detached from the Naval Station, Newport, R. I., and ordered to the *Franklin*.
Baker, M. C., asst.-surgeon, detached from the *Ohio* and ordered to the Naval Recruiting Station, Cincinnati.
Clifton, A. L., asst.-surgeon, detached from the Naval Recruiting Station, Cincinnati, and ordered to duty in connection with the fitting out of the *Michigan* and to duty on board that vessel when placed in commission.

Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service

List of changes for the seven days ended Dec. 15, 1909:

White, J. H., surgeon, granted 8 days' leave of absence from Dec. 11, 1909.
Stoner, J. B., surgeon, on being relieved by P. A. Surgeon R. H. Creel, directed to proceed to Port Townsend, Wash., and assume command.
Blue, Rupert, surgeon, granted 4 months' leave of absence from Jan. 1, 1910, with permission to go beyond the seas.
Lavinder, C. H., P. A. surgeon, granted 4 days' leave of absence from Dec. 13, 1909, under paragraph 191, Service Regulations.
Lumsden, L. L., P. A. surgeon, granted 7 days' leave of absence from Nov. 29, 1909, under paragraph 191, Service Regulations.
Corput, G. M., P. A. surgeon, granted 16 days' leave of absence from Dec. 15, 1909.
Korn, W. A., P. A. surgeon, granted 1 day's leave of absence. Dec. 22, 1909.
Schereschewsky, J. A., P. A. surgeon, granted 5 days' leave of absence, under paragraph 191, Service Regulations.
Wille, C. W., P. A. surgeon, granted 2 days' leave of absence from Dec. 8, 1909.
Francis, Edward, P. A. surgeon, granted 6 days' leave of absence from Dec. 6, 1909, under paragraph 191, Service Regulations.
Creel, R. H., P. A. surgeon, relieved from duty at Baltimore and directed to proceed to Evansville, Ind., and assume temporary command. Granted 1 day's leave of absence en route to station.
Pettyjohn, Joseph, P. A. surgeon, relieved from duty at San Francisco and directed to proceed to New Orleans and report to the medical officer in command for duty and assignment to quarters. Granted 1 month's leave of absence en route to station.
de Valin, Hugh, P. A. surgeon, directed to proceed to Washington, D. C., and report to the Director of the Hygienic Laboratory for temporary duty.
Hunt, Reid, Chief Division of Pharmacology, Hygienic Laboratory, detailed to attend the meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and affiliated societies, to be held in Boston, December 27, to January 1.