

American Pharmaceutical Association Papers.

A circular has been issued by the Committee on Scientific Papers of the A. Ph. A., suggesting subjects for papers to be read at the next meeting. The list is as follows:

1. A comparative examination of the various methods for solutions of formaldehyde is desirable.
2. Is mercuric chloride formed in tablets of calomel on standing? Examine (quantitatively) various commercial samples.
3. Does the addition of linalool acetate to oil of bergamot exert any uniform influence on the results of assay?
4. A convenient method of assay for oil of cinnamon is desirable. It is claimed that the "sulphite" method is unsatisfactory.
5. What is the alkaloidal strength of the various specimens of "Norwood's tincture" found in the market?
6. Comparative assays of the various commercial brands of iodoform and sublimate gauze are desirable.
7. To what extent is powdered acacia adulterated with dextrin?
8. Commercial litharge is grossly adulterated; what are the adulterants, and in what proportion are they present?
9. An inquiry into the nature and composition of "morruol" is desired.
10. Witch hazel water. Is it desirable to make witch hazel water (generally termed witch hazel extract) official? Does it contain formalin? What percentage of alcohol should it contain?
11. Under what conditions can the diastatic power of malt preparations be preserved?
12. Is the use of suppository machines advisable for general prescription work?
13. A process for a fluid extract of wild cherry miscible with water is desired.
14. What is the character and quantity of fixed oil in *pareira brava*?
15. It has been stated that samples of potassium acetate have an alliaceous odor. To what is that due?
16. What is the influence of a low temperature in percolation?
17. Would it be practical or advisable for pharmacists to undertake the dispensing of a sterilized and adapted (humanized) milk for infants? What process would be most advisable for this?
18. Is glucose or grape sugar of any value as a preservative in syrups of hydriodic acid and syrup of ferrous iodide?
19. What is the influence of filtration on solutions?
20. Salol is often ordered in powdered form. How can pure powdered salol be easily prepared?
21. Rubber substitutes. It is claimed that articles under this name are largely used by manufacturers as admixtures to Para rubber, being prepared of sulphur or chloride of sulphur and vegetable or

animal oils, glycerin, and turpentine. Investigation invited.

22. Acetone alcohol. An article under this name has been introduced as a substitute for ethyl alcohol. What is it, and how is it made?

23. It is claimed that the deep green color of some extracts and fluid extracts in the market is traceable to copper vessels used in their manufacture. Investigation invited.

24. Precipitated sulphur seems to be grossly adulterated. Is it possible to obtain it pure in the open market?

25. To what extent is selenium found in "flowers of sulphur"?

Pharmaceutical Questions.

The Pharmaceutical Association of Belgium, who are organizing the Eighth International Congress of Pharmacy, to be held at Brussels in August next, have drafted a scheme for an international competition in essays to be submitted for that congress. (C. & D.) Three prizes are to be given for the three best papers on questions of scientific or practical interest, and three for papers on professional interests. There is no specific limitation of the subjects on which papers may be written, but the association has drawn up a series of twenty topics as examples. They will serve to indicate at least twenty different channels in which young pharmacists may usefully direct their brain-power:

- (1) Give a concise and practical treatise for a summary of the drugs and medicines employed in pharmacy.
- (2) What is the most practical mode of pharmaceutical book-keeping? Produce a specimen register answering these desiderata.
- (2) Present a complete treatise on the different specimens of aconite root.
- (4) Give a practical formula for the preparation of formol.
- (5) What is the value of the substances called "Essential oils without terpenes"?
- (6) Present the advantages of an universal pharmacopœia, and give the means of obtaining this result.
- (7) Resume the principal arguments in favor of the suppression of the united medico-pharmaceutical profession.
- (8) Propose a good way of estimating the active principles in oily infusions.
- (9) Show the actual state of our acquaintance with the alkaloids, ptomaines, and the leucomaines. Explain the difference as between the ptomaines and the leucomaines and natural alkaloids.
- (10) Is it not necessary to modify the legal formalities as actually applied to pharmaceutical apprenticeship? If so, state the possible changes. If a jury for the examination of apprentices be necessary, give its composition and the subjects for examination. State what you know of the study of this question in other European countries.

(11) Is professional dignity compromised by the examination by Government inspectors or by private agents on their delivery? Is there any way of opposing this examination?

(12) Is there any danger in occasionally freeing the chemist from his civil responsibility? If so, where could this exemption be granted? What warranty would the substitute be required to give?

(13) Propose a legal way of preventing patent medicines from being sold under marked price.

(14) Indicate the rules for supplying medicines to the poor in all European countries. Show the advantages of each system from general and pharmaceutical points of view.

(15) Is it not advisable to put doctors under the obligation of adding to their prescription the manner in which the medicine is to be taken, and mention the age and sex of the patient? Without this knowledge can the chemist estimate the doses with accuracy?

(16) The different actions of chloroform mentioned by authors appear insufficient; most of the common chloroforms in trade are sufficient for their purpose, but it would be imprudent to use them for anesthesia. Define the necessary qualities of a perfect drug.

(17) Researches on the purity of naphthol β and of benzonaphthol.

(18) Show a practical way of taking from simple drugs for the preparation of galenical medicines, the pectical, gummy mucilaginous matters they contain, without destroying their therapeutical properties.

(19) Would it not be better to suppress from the official codex all hard or soft extracts, and to replace them by dry extracts? Show by comparative dosages if evaporation has any effect on the active principles contained.

(20) Show the most certain ways of discovering abortives in complex mixtures (milk, tea, coffee, chocolate, powders, medicines, etc., etc.).

The Association Generale.

The Association Generale Pharmaceutique de Belgique is a national organization, membership of which is open to every Belgian pharmacist who is willing to pay a subscription of two francs. It was formed between thirty and forty years ago for the purpose of uniting the pharmacists of the country in the attempt to secure better laws for pharmacy. But during the past year the association has been re-organized with a view of developing the scientific side of the profession. The president is Professor Ranwez, and the secretary is M. Duyk, both of whom have had the advantage of a special scientific training. Professor Ranwez occupies the chair of Pharmacy in the University of Louvain, and is an enthusiastic worker. M. Duyk practises as a pharmacist in Brussels.—*Phar. Journal*.