

residue in 2 cc. of water, acidulate with acetic acid, add 1 cc. of chloroform and a few drops of chlorine water. The chloroform acquires a violet color.

Ash from 0.01 Gm. is negligible.

Dry about 0.02 Gm. of Thyroxin over sulphuric acid for 24 hours. The loss in weight is negligible.

Shake 0.01 Gm. of Thyroxin with 10 cc. of water during 5 minutes and filter. Acidulate the filtrate with one drop of diluted nitric acid and add 3 drops of tenth-normal silver nitrate. The turbidity so produced is not greater than that produced in a control test by one drop of fiftieth-normal hydrochloric acid (*soluble iodides*).

Assay.—Weigh accurately about 0.02 Gm. of Thyroxin previously dried over sulphuric acid for 24 hours. Mix it with about 0.5 Gm. of anhydrous potassium carbonate in a small platinum crucible, cover the mixture with an additional 1 Gm. of anhydrous potassium carbonate and heat gradually until it is completely decomposed. Treat with water and transfer into 100-cc. graduated flask. Heat the solution on the water-bath and add potassium permanganate solution (1 in 20) drop by drop until the liquid remains pink. Then add drop by drop just enough alcohol to discharge the pink color, cool, dilute to the mark with boiled out, distilled water. Mix well and filter through a dry filter into a dry flask, rejecting the first 20 cc. of the filtrate. To 50 cc. of the filtrate add about 0.5 Gm. potassium iodide and 30 cc. of diluted sulphuric acid and titrate the liberated iodine with two-hundredth normal sodium thiosulphate using starch T. S. as indicator towards the end. Correct for any iodine liberated in a blank made with the same quantities of water, sulphuric acid, and potassium iodide. Each cc. of two-hundredth normal sodium thiosulphate corresponds to 0.01058 milligram of iodine.

CORRESPONDENCE

CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO RESOLUTIONS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES A. PH. A.

Secretary William B. Day has received replies to his communications from the Departments of the Federal Government. The following refer to Resolutions Nos. 16 and 24, which read:

16. *Resolved*, That the House of Delegates of the A. Ph. A. request the heads of those departments of the Federal Government having jurisdiction and supervision of matters relating to pharmaceutical practice to employ one or more registered pharmacists in each and every such department.

24. **WHEREAS**, It has come to our ears that the Medical Department of the Army, the U. S. Public Health Service and The General Supply Committee of the Treasury Department have eliminated the metric system from their specifications for the purchase of medical supplies, and

WHEREAS, There exists good reason to believe that the Navy Department and the Veterans Bureau are considering doing likewise,

Be It Resolved, That this House of Delegates of the American Pharmaceutical Association considers the elimination of the metric system for the purchase of supplies as a distinct backward step. This House of Delegates also wishes to express the sincere hope that the use of the metric system will be continued in the hospitals and other institutions under the supervision of the three departments mentioned above.

Be It Furthermore Resolved, That the Navy Department and the Veterans Bureau be requested to continue the use of the metric system for the purchase of medical supplies.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the House of Delegates is hereby directed to send copies of these resolutions to each of the respective departments mentioned.

ACTING SURGEON GENERAL M. J. WHITE.—I am in receipt of your letter of November 6, 1923, quoting a resolution of the House of Delegates of the American Pharmaceutical Association relative to the employment of registered pharmacists in the departments of the Federal Government having jurisdiction and supervision of matters relating to pharmaceutical practice, and bearing upon the use of other standard measures than those of the metric system in the purchase of medical supplies.

It is routine practice in the Public Health Service to constantly employ registered pharmacists who are also officers of the Public Health Service in all establishments where matters relating to pharmaceutical practice are handled. There is such a pharmacist in the Hospital Division Bureau of the Public Health Service, two at the Hygienic Laboratory, Washington, D. C., and one detailed with the Bureau of Supply, Washington, D. C.

In the interest of economy, it has been found desirable to discontinue for the present the use of the metric system in taking proposals for the purchase of certain classes of supplies. The Association of Drug Manufacturers made this request, representing that containers conforming to the apothecaries' and avoirdupois measures are in common use and that containers conforming to the metric system are not in common use, and that the average manufacturer is therefore unable to bid on supplies in terms of the metric system, and is thereby placed at a great disadvantage, the cost to the Government of the supplies being also increased. I am constrained to believe, therefore, that for the present it will not be advisable to discontinue the present methods of purchase, although I have taken the matter up with the Office of the Director of Supply and have ascertained that any bidder may offer proposals in terms of the metric system if he so desires and that due consideration will be given to all such bids.

WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 15, 1923

DAN C. VAUGHAN, DIRECTOR OF SUPPLY.—In reply to your letter of November 7, directing my attention to a resolution passed by the House of Delegates of the American Pharmaceutical Association, you are informed that the General Supply Committee, since its inception, has had the benefit of the services of one or more registered pharmacists in making awards on drugs, chemicals and pharmaceutical preparations.

WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 9, 1923.

FRANK T. HINES, DIRECTOR U. S. VETERANS BUREAU.—Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of November 7th, transmitting certain resolutions adopted by the House of Delegates of the American Pharmaceutical Association at its annual meeting held at Asheville, N. C.

You are informed that the U. S. Veterans Bureau has a registered pharmacist employed in each of its hospitals and, where necessary, in its dispensaries.

In the interest of economy, and in order to adhere to commercial practices, the apothecaries' and avoirdupois systems of weights and measures were adopted by the Veterans Bureau to be used in connection with the purchase of drugs and medicines. This action was taken following similar action by the U. S. Public Health Service and the U. S. Army.

This Bureau will continue to use the metric system in specifying chemicals and reagents.

WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 16, 1923.

Relating to "A New World Survey of Pharmacy," the following communication has been received from the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.—John F. Kelley.

In reply you are advised that this Division recently published Trade Information Bulletin No. 149, "Markets for American Pharmaceutical, Medicinal, and Biological Preparations." This bulletin discusses in a very general way the foreign markets for American medicinals. There is now in the hands of the printer a bulletin which will take up in detail all phases of marketing American pharmaceuticals and medicinals in Brazil, and it is anticipated that from time to time similar publications on the more important countries of the world will be published by this Bureau. It appears to me, therefore, that the necessary action to meet the sentiments of the resolution adopted at your meeting has already been undertaken.

I am inclosing a copy of Trade Information Bulletin No. 149, and I shall be glad to send you such number of copies as you may desire of our Brazilian Bulletin as soon as it comes off the press.

NOVEMBER 10, 1923.