

advertising section, and their plans and methods have the endorsement of the Journal.

**Gas and Oxygen**—Hospitals and physicians are interested in gas and oxygen exactly as they are interested in drugs, instruments or any other substance in the practice of medicine and public health. Legitimate interest concerns itself in any of these products essentially in quality, price, adequacy of supply and the ethics of marketing.

There are several sources of gas and oxygen in California. There are also several prices, some variation in qualities and quite a variation in the ethics of marketing.

The Journal with this issue carries an advertisement of the Western Nitrous Oxide Company, one of the latest firms to enter the market in California. As in all other advertisements, the Journal has considered carefully for several months the methods and policies of this company before accepting their advertisement. They have complied with all the requirements made by the State Society, and their copy appears in this issue.

Comments regarding the product of this company, as well as upon the general question of the supply of anesthetics for hospitals, will be welcomed by the Council of the Medical Society.

#### PACIFIC COAST ASSOCIATION OF ANESTHETISTS

Joint Session With the Section on Anesthesiology of the California State Medical Society, Yosemite Valley, May 15-16, 1922

##### Minutes First Scientific Session

George P. Waller, President of the Pacific Coast Association of Anesthetists, called the meeting to order for the first scientific program, May 16, in the Hotel Sentinel, Yosemite village.

After preliminary announcements by the chair concerning transportation and entertainment, F. H. McMechan, Honorary Secretary of the Pacific Coast and Secretary of the American Association of Anesthetists, was introduced as the guest of the Association and recognized leader among anesthetists. In a few well chosen words Dr. McMechan expressed his pleasure at being present and commended the progress made by the organization in so short a time. In token of his appreciation and as a memento from Mrs. McMechan and himself, he presented to the Association, through Eleanor Seymour and George P. Waller, a beautiful silver mounted gavel engraved with the names of the first president and secretary, to which succeeding ones shall be added. After acknowledging the gift of the general secretary the following program was presented:

1. Spasticity from Inflammation in Relation to Anesthesia. (President's address.) Dr. George P. Waller, Los Angeles. Discussed by Doctors Botsford, Palmer and Wilson.
2. Anesthesia and Its Relation to the Patient, from a Surgeon's Standpoint; Type of Anesthesia in Relation to Existing Pathology; Emoluments to the Anesthetist. Harlan Shoemaker, M. D., secretary Los Angeles County Medical Society. Discussed by Doctors Huggins, Botsford, Wilson, Seymour and McMechan.
3. Sacral Anesthesia—A New Method of Administration with Report of Use in Four Hundred Urologic and Gynecologic Cases. Albert J. Scholl, Jr., Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn. Discussion by Doctors Robert Day, Harlan Shoemaker, Mary Botsford and F. H. McMechan.
4. Suggestive Leads in Anesthesia. F. H. McMechan, M. D., secretary American Medical Editors'

Association. Discussed by Doctors Waller and Crane.

Omitted because authors were detained—Time as an Element of Safety in Anesthesia in Children. Mary T. Murphy, M. D., San Francisco.

The Heart in Surgery. E. E. Fisher, M. D., Salem, Oregon.

##### Executive Session.

After the completion of the scientific program, the president called the members to order for a brief business meeting.

A charter roll of sixty names was read and all having been duly passed upon by the executive board were unanimously elected to membership.

There followed the reading of the organization meeting during the session of the State Medical Society at Coronado Wednesday, May 12, 1921. Minutes adopted as read.

On behalf of the executive board the following resolutions were presented by the secretary and each adopted in turn:

##### Resolutions Adopted.

1. Be it resolved that the Pacific Coast Association of Anesthetists hereby extends its hearty appreciation of the splendid efforts of the State Board of Medical Examiners and their legal advisers in interesting themselves in protecting of the public health and welfare by limiting the administration of anesthetics to legally qualified physicians.

2. Be it resolved that the Pacific Coast Association of Anesthetists hereby extends its hearty appreciation of the splendid efforts of the League for the Conservation of Public Health, its officers and legal advisers in interesting themselves in the protecting of public health and welfare by limiting the administration of anesthetics to legally qualified physicians.

3. Whereas the safety of those coming to operation under anesthesia is a paramount issue in public health work, be it resolved that the Pacific Coast Association of Anesthetists hereby urges the Health Department of San Francisco to eliminate nursing anesthesia and the dangers attaching thereto, by introducing the administration of anesthetics by expert medical anesthetists in the San Francisco City and County Hospital and providing adequate funds for such purpose.

4. Resolved that Dr. F. H. McMechan be instructed to extend the greetings of the Pacific Coast Association of Anesthetists to the Canadian Association of Anesthetists at Winnipeg in June and to the joint meeting of the Interstate, Research and World's Congress in Columbus in October, 1922.

5. Resolved that Dr. Eleanor Seymour be instructed to extend the greetings of the Pacific Coast Association of Anesthetists to the joint meetings of the American Association of Anesthetists, Mid-Western, and the Anesthesia session of the American Medical Association in St. Louis the week of June 22, 1922.

6. Resolved that the Pacific Coast Association of Anesthetists, appreciating the influence of the International Congress of Medicine, on the advancement of anesthesia, hereby appoints Dr. Mary E. Botsford as official representative to the section on anesthesia, to convey its compliments and carry its scientific message to the London Meeting in 1923.

7. Whereas the protection of the patient be advancement of surgery and the development of hospital service demand the administration of anesthetics by qualified physicians, therefore be it resolved that the Pacific Coast Association of Anesthetists urges the American College of Surgeons through its members and hospital standardization to eliminate the nurse technician and to confine the administration of anesthetics exclusively to physicians.

The next order of business was the presentation

of the seal specially designed and artistically executed by Mrs. Neil C. Trew, wife of the incoming president of the Southern California Society of Anesthetists. After admiring inspection, the design was accepted and a rousing vote of thanks extended Mrs. Trew for her artistic creation. The motto suggested by Dr. McMechan, "Divinum est sedere dolorem"—"It is God-like to relieve pain," was also unanimously adopted.

Election of officers then followed and the ticket as proposed by the nomination committee was unanimously endorsed, as follows:

#### Officers Elected.

George P. Waller, M. D., Los Angeles, Cal., president; Mary E. Botsford, M. D., San Francisco, Cal., vice-president; Eleanor Seymour, M. D., Los Angeles, Cal., secretary-treasurer; Walter R. Crane, M. D., Los Angeles, Cal., executive board, 1924; David E. Hoag, M. D., Pueblo, Colo., executive board, 1924; M. J. Rand, Elko, Nev., executive board, 1925; Robert L. Charles, M. D., Denver, Colo., executive board, 1923; Caroline B. Palmer, M. D., San Francisco, Cal., executive board, 1925; Louise A. Oldenbourg, M. D., Oakland, Cal., executive board, 1923.

It was moved, seconded and carried that a cordial invitation be extended to the American Medical Association and its session on Anesthesia, and to the American Association of Anesthetists to hold a joint session with the Pacific Coast Association of Anesthetists in San Francisco in June, 1923. Adjourned.

#### Scientific Program Continued.

May 16

1. Ethyl Chloride as a General Anesthetic. Louise A. Oldenbourg, M. D., Oakland. Discussed by Doctors Walker, Botsford and Crane.

2. Physiological Effects of Nitrous Oxide. Neil C. Trew, M. D. Discussed by Doctors Botsford, Bunnell and Crane.

3. Symposium on Intratracheal Anesthesia. Mary Kavanagh, M. D., and Edith Williams, M. D. (The latter read by Dr. Botsford.) Demonstration of apparatus and general discussion.

#### Omitted.

Anesthol, a Most Useful Anesthetic Mixture. Louis H. Maxson, M. D., Seattle, Washington. (Unable to be present.)

Nitrous Oxide Anesthesia in Infants. Mary E. Botsford, M. D., San Francisco. (Points Previously covered in discussion.)

At the close of the program and before adjourning, Dr. McMechan exhibited photos of the cups to be presented to James T. Gwathmey and Isabella Herb for distinguished work in the specialty of anesthesia. Dr. McMechan also extended congratulations on the success of the initial P. C. meeting and pledged the co-operation of all the regional organizations.

Dr. Botsford then moved a vote of sincere thanks for the inspirational visit of Dr. McMechan, general secretary, and for his extensive contributions to anesthesia literature, as the efficient editor of several publications. Adjourned to June 26, 1923. Eleanor Seymour, M. D., secretary.

**American Roentgen-Ray Society**—The annual meeting of this national association will be held in Los Angeles, September 12 to 17, under the presidency of Albert Soiland.

Many members of our State Society and others will be in Pasadena for the Hospital Convention to be held at the Maryland Hotel, September 5, 6, 7 and 8. Why not plan to spend an additional week in Los Angeles and attend the meetings of the American Roentgen-Ray Society? There is no more delightful place anywhere than Southern California in September.

Write to Dr. Soiland, 1407 S. Hope street, Los Angeles, and you will receive a cordial invitation to the meeting.

## Pharmacology and Therapeutics

Edited by FELIX LENGFIELD, Ph. D.

Help the propaganda for reform by prescribing official preparations. The committees of the U. S. P. and N. F. are chosen from the very best therapeutists, pharmacologists, pharmacognosists and pharmacists. The formulae are carefully worked out and the products tested in scientifically equipped laboratories under the very best conditions. Is it not plausible to assume that these preparations are, at least, as good as those evolved with far inferior facilities by the mercenary nostrum maker who claims all the law will allow?

**Evans Cancer Cure**—Dr. R. D. Evans, of Brandon, Manitoba, sells a "positive cure for cancer." The price is "one hundred dollars in advance." The victim who parts with \$100 for this cruel and worthless fake is told to shave a patch about the size of a silver dollar on the crown of the head. The "cure" is applied to this spot. This is for the treatment of internal cancer. "For 'external cancer' the discovery is applied on the spot." From an analysis made in the A. M. A. Chemical Laboratory, it was evident that Evans Cancer Cure is essentially a mixture of 1 part of a fatty substance (such as lard) and 5 parts of dried ferrous sulphate.—Journal A. M. A., June 3, 1922, p. 1739.

**The Intravenous Use of Acacia**—It is now generally accepted that acacia has a limited and uncertain usefulness. The intravenous use of acacia is a recent therapeutic procedure, and apparently sufficient time has not elapsed for the thorough appraisal of its use as a therapeutic remedy. Bearing in mind the accidents from the use of acacia that have been reported, the lack of agreement as to its beneficial effects among surgeons who have tried it, the experimental evidence that has been reported as to its deleterious effects and the paucity of data indicating its clinical usefulness, conservative practitioners will still withhold their verdict. Moreover, the questions of intravenous therapy, which are involved in any discussion on the use of acacia in shock, hemorrhage and allied conditions, are an important and serious complicating consideration.—Journal A. M. A., June 17, 1922, p. 1897.

**Therapeutic Uses of Yeast**—If the medical profession will assist in educational work, patent medicine exploitation of the public in the name of vitamins will undoubtedly fail. Quite a few new yeast products and other so-called vitamin extracts are being put on the market, but, on the whole, the public is not using them, and the advertising seems to be a failure. However, the matter seems sufficiently grave for the State Board of Health to issue warning to the effect that ordinary diet contains enough and more than enough vitamin for all practical purposes, and that vitamin extracts are largely inert. In the few cases in which vitamin is indicated, the vitamin carrier, like Cod Liver Oil, orange juice should be used, and no attempt made to concentrate.

**Laxatives—Untoward Effects of Laxatives**—Lately a number of instances of cutaneous manifestations due to the use of phenolphthalein as a laxative drug have been brought to the attention of physicians, particularly by dermatologists. Now Underhill and Errico have demonstrated that when magnesium sulphate, sodium sulphate and potassium and sodium tartrate are administered experimentally in doses capable of producing diarrhea, a distinct concentration of the blood may take place. The fact that purgatives exert a definite influence, in the direction of concentrating the blood, indicates that care should be exercised in the administration of purgatives in disease conditions, especially in those conditions known to be responsible for concentrated blood. Blood concentrated to some extent, and yet not sufficiently concentrated to be dangerous in itself, may reach a dangerous concentration by the added influence of the purgative.—Journal A. M. A., June 24, 1922, p. 1964.