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THE HYDRASTIS SITUATION.

The timeliness of the paper on Hydrastis Cultivation by Prof. John Uri Lloyd is emphasized by the following item clipped from a recent market report:

"Golden Seal Root—Continues to advance, the market displaying great firmness, \$6 @ \$6.25 per pound for whole root, and \$6.25 @ \$6.50 for powdered being asked. It is reported from a leading quarter that a canvass of three counties in West Virginia, disclosed but one small patch of the root."—*Pharm. Era*.

Prof. Lloyd's long study of the subject enables him to speak as one having authority, and not as the scribes who have only second-hand information. His paper presents several

new and interesting items regarding the cultivation of this highly important drug that have not been previously published.



EX-POST-FACTO OBJECTION TO LEGISLATION.

In the past, members of the drug fraternity have been famous for filing their objections to proposed legislation or executive action after these had become established facts, when objections were useless.

In this issue appears a proposed ruling of the U. S. Board of Food and Drugs Inspection regarding the importation, transportation and sale of certain narcotic drugs and their preparations.

The proposed ruling is far-reaching, and in some respects perhaps merits the adjective, drastic. If any legitimate use of these drugs will be interfered with by the operation of the ruling, now is the time to present the evidence.

The same advice will apply in regard to the standards for certain National Formulary drugs and chemicals proposed by the Committee on Unofficial Standards. Objections to these will be useless after they have been incorporated in the National Formulary and have become a part of the law.



WHEN IS AN APOTHECARY NOT AN APOTHECARY?

Some light—or the reverse—is thrown upon this subject by a recent decision of the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals in the cases of H. K. Mulford & Co., Smith, Kline & French, and Hance Brothers & White, plaintiffs in error, vs. United States, defendant in error. Each of the plaintiffs in error sought to have set aside a judgment of the District Court by which they have been held liable to the payment of \$200.00 revenue tax as rectifiers of spirits, because of the recovery of alcohol from the marc left in the preparation of tinctures of vanilla, ginger, etc. The Circuit Court affirmed the judgment of the District Court and denied the relief asked for. The portions of the law construed by the Court are as follows.

"Rectifiers of distilled spirits shall pay \$200.00. Every person who rectifies, purifies or refines distilled spirits or wine by any other process than by original and continuous distillation from mash, wort or wash, through

continuous closed vessels and pipes until the manufacture thereof is complete * * * shall be regarded as a rectifier, and as being engaged in the business of rectifying."

Also the exempting provision that no tax shall be imposed "upon apothecaries as to wines and spirituous liquors which they use exclusively in the preparation or making up of medicines."

The learned judge says: "The exemption does not embrace one who recovers alcohol from a substance with which it has been previously mixed. Such a person is not one of the apothecaries referred to in the exempting clause." And again: "The recovery of spirits from the dregs of vanilla bean or ginger root is not the business of an apothecary; the compounding of medicines is:"

In the light of the learned judge's dictum, the Professors of Pharmacy have been making a mess of it; for ever since colleges of pharmacy have existed they have been teaching their students that the recovery of alcohol from marcs and percolates was an essential and important part of the apothecary's business. Even the esteemed U. S. P., which, by act of Congress, is presumably a part of the law of the land, makes the same great blunder, since it frequently directs the humble apothecary to "recover" or "distill off" the alcohol from percolates, etc., and if he should fail to do so, he should be liable for the sale of adulterated drugs. Evidently he is to be fined if he does not, and fined if he does.

Of course, what the Court says is law, but it is somewhat disconcerting to discover that a judge who has never studied pharmacy, after listening to the arguments of a couple of lawyers whose knowledge of the subject was coextensive with his own, should know more about what constitutes the proper business of an apothecary than those who have devoted their lives to the teaching of the subject.



HONORS TO PROF. CHARLES CASPARI.

The resolutions of appreciation, ordered by the Council to be presented to the retiring General Secretary, Prof. Charles Caspari, were presented to him by the chairman of the committee, Professor Remington, at the Hotel Stafford, Baltimore, on the evening of December 26, 1911. The occasion was informal, John F. Hancock, our veteran ex-President, in the chair. The resolutions,

beautifully engrossed, bound in blue leather with white superscription, represented the colors of his college. The recipient was then thoroughly surprised by the presentation of a gold watch and jeweled fob, the gift of twenty appreciative friends, whose names were obscured by the presenter under the seasonable title of "Kris-Kringle," and his son, Charles E. Caspari, was present and responded appropriately. To say that Professor Caspari was overwhelmed by these marks of appreciation of his seventeen years devoted service as General Secretary does not fully describe the situation. The happy event was thoroughly enjoyed by all the participants.

J. P. R.

Communications and Correspondence

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Authors

CHEER FROM PHILADELPHIA.

In January, 1912, the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION was published for the first time: in some such prosaic fashion, History will in the dim future record the events which we are celebrating today. There will be no expression in this brief record of the long debates at the annual meetings, the "ifs" and "ands," the "buts" and "hows," the "pros" and "cons," and even J. W. England's thorough and illuminating reports to the Council, which have proved so convincing to the Association, might probably escape the future historian's eye and pen. There is, therefore, a reason while the facts are fresh in our minds to remind the future great recorder of "events pharmaceutical" that the founding of the JOURNAL was not accomplished without much labor and travail on the part of those who have now brought the venture to the point, of the issue of the first number.

The writer does not include himself among those who have borne the burden and heat of the day, for a word of counsel or advice now and then was all that he could give. What is needed now is the enthusiastic and persistent financial support of our members and non-members. Our editor is able and more than willing to give his best services. Congratu-