

## EDITORIAL NOTES

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### CHRISTMAS SEAL SALE FOR 1921.

Pharmacists everywhere have always interested themselves in the sale of Christmas Seals, the income from which goes to help along the work of the National Tuberculosis Association. These lines note the coming of the annual opportunity.

### PEKIN UNION MEDICAL COLLEGE TO BE A MEDICAL CENTER IN THE FAR EAST.

The Pekin Union Medical College is now being built by the Rockefeller Foundation. It is planned to make this college a medical center in the Far East, where undergraduate and graduate courses in medicine will be offered, as well as special laboratory and clinical research courses. Special attention will be given to diseases peculiar to the Far East and a general knowledge of hygiene will be disseminated.

### FORMALDEHYDE AND OTHER MEDICATED SOAPS.

Arthur H. J. Keane writes in the *Scientific American* of August 20, 1921, on recent developments in "soap science" in the German industry. He states: "Oxy-acid potash soaps possess the property of being dissolved by formalin; this, however, is not the case with the common sebacic acids or with unsaturated acids. Now if a mixture be used consisting of oxy-acid and ordinary sebacic acid, if this mixture be treated with potash-lye and formaldehyde be added, then the oxy-sebacic-acid potash will be dissolved, but the sebacic potash will be left practically undissolved. The result is that a solution of the formaldehyde-oxy-acid potash forms in the remaining texture of the sebacic-acid potash; this produces a transparent soft soap, such as can, otherwise, only be obtained by means of saponification with alcohol

or sugar. The mixture of sebacic acid and oxy-sebacic acid is effected in such wise that only so much oxy-acid is used as can subsequently be brought into solution again by means of the formaldehyde. On the other hand no more formaldehyde is used than is equal to about  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 per cent of the total quantity so that all irritant phenomena may be avoided when the soap is being used practically.

"These soaps are now undergoing commercialization in Germany. They are intended to be used for direct contact with the skin and, in this case, the natural heat of the body takes the place of the warm water otherwise needed to dilute the liquid formaldehyde soap. Owing to its absolutely neutral composition the soap does not attack the skin, so that it can be allowed to remain upon the skin for hours at a time if necessary without the hands being prejudicially affected in the slightest degree. For practical use a modification of this basic soap is provided for, *viz.*, by the addition of glycerin. . . . Whether this new preparation will give full satisfaction as a disinfectant for the hands, especially for surgical requirements, remains to be seen; so far no practical tests in that direction have been carried out; however, fair practical tests made in the laboratory have shown that its disinfectant action on bacteria is fully equal to that of formalin soap solutions of similar strength containing the same percentage of formaldehyde at temperatures of 30 to 35 deg. Cent. Hence the inference is that this soap should give satisfactory results in all cases where it is necessary to secure a rapid disinfection of the skin by rapid and simple means. The soap is rubbed upon the skin of the hands, or any other part of the body that has to be treated and, after being allowed

to act for a few minutes, is washed off with cold or warm water. When the soap is applied to the skin it produces a pleasant cooling effect, and after removal leaves a certain dryness which is by no means unpleasant, especially in summer.

"It is proposed to place this preparation upon the market in tubes so as to render its use as general and popular as possible, and with a view also to affording the public at large an opportunity of obtaining a pleasant and easily applicable toilet disinfectant. It could also be used after handling railway and other tickets, after journeys, in factories and offices containing bacterial dust and in all similar cases. Of course it can also be used in all cases where formaldehyde has, hitherto, been medically prescribed, and more especially when it is desired to produce a hardening effect upon the skin.

"Another interesting development is in the field of solid and molded soaps. It is already known how to mix various chemicals, including soaps, in the form of powder and then to press the mixture into pieces of certain shapes. It is also known to mix soaps with medical additions, the mixture being then allowed to dry, whereupon it is disintegrated and finally, by means of moderate pressure, formed into balls or tablets. . . ."

#### HARD WATERS AS A PHYSIOLOGIC SOURCE OF CALCIUM IN THE BODY.

An editorial of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, August 20, 1921, states that "the human body contains 1 percent of the element calcium, or a total of nearly 2 pounds (about 1 Kg.), most of which is represented by calcium phosphate deposited in the skeletal structures. This is assuredly a very large supply of an inorganic material for physiologic purposes. How adequate this seeming abundance really is, however, will depend on the extent to which drafts are made on it in the every-day performances of the living body. The daily 'waste' has been estimated to exceed 0.5 Gm., so that the normal supply would not be exhausted in less than two or three years if it were entirely available for physiologic uses. Obviously, a growing deficit cannot be tolerated indefinitely; hence one is led to inquire whether the daily losses are ordinarily made good by the majority of mankind in their usual regimen, or, if not, to what extent deprivation of lime can continue before untoward evidences manifest themselves."

After citing conditions in which there is an unusual need of lime, the *Journal* states further, "it is quite conceivable that shortage of lime may become a reality if the diet is not well selected; for meats and cereals, fats and sugars—all of which enter so largely into present-day rations in this country—are at best very inadequate sources of lime.

"Lime salts are found in certain waters which are designated as 'hard' when the content of calcium exceeds a minimum. Whether hard waters actually represent any noteworthy source of calcium for human needs is not clearly established. Recently the pharmacologist, H. H. Meyer<sup>1</sup> of Vienna, a careful scientific observer, has presented statistics regarding the military fitness of young men from different regions in Europe considered in relation to the quality of the water supplies at their homes. His data are interpreted to indicate a smaller incidence of diseased teeth and a larger proportion of persons with healthy teeth in areas where harder potable waters are used. Meyer even ventures the statement that, in general, the percentage of young men fit for service in the armies was larger in calcareous regions than in those in which other formations prevail. He also cites specific instances of a 'deterioration' in the quality of the recruits at Gotha after the population was compelled to change its supply of drinking water from one of hard quality to softened water."

The editorial concludes by saying that "experience has shown that it is not easy to enrich the body suddenly by therapeutically prescribed lime compounds. We must therefore learn the 'natural' ways in which the calcium equilibrium is ordinarily prevented from showing a negative balance in man."

#### SEX EDUCATION IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

The returns from 65 percent of the normal schools in the United States show that 75 percent are doing some work in sex education and that 92 percent of the principals think that work should be given. The opposition seems at least in some cases to be due to wrong interpretations of the work. Our boards of education have done comparatively little, though three states are giving some organized work and five states are considering more. New England educators, as represented by normal school principals, are more opposed to than in favor of this work. The rest of the

<sup>1</sup> Meyer, H. H., "Ueber Kalktherapie, Oesterreich," *Ztschr. f. Stomatol.*, 18, No. 11, 1920.

United States is more in favor than opposed, the degree varying. The western states favor it most; the southern states in a slighter degree than the central and middle Atlantic states. That sex education will be organized is inevitable. Why delay it for years, when with a thorough study of a method of instruction it might be introduced into the curriculum of our training schools? With the teachers prepared in this work, the boards of education could consider more seriously the question of sex education in the public and high schools. In the meantime, there is need for the training of teachers in the subject and the extensive education of the public to the need of sex instruction.—V. H. Harris, *Social Hygiene*, 7, 180, 1921.

#### PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

##### GORGAS MEMORIAL INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.

Basic plans were laid this month for the Gorgas Memorial Institute of Tropical and Preventive Medicine. Government officials and distinguished workers in the field of human welfare participated. The people of Panama have donated the site for the institution, and its maintenance will be secured by a foundation similar to that supporting the work of the Carnegie and Rockefeller enterprises.

The fruits of General Gorgas' conquest are marked by the canal and the victory over yellow fever, and the memorial will "carry on" his work. Rear Admiral William C. Braisted is president of the Board of Directors, and Rear Admiral Stitt a member of the Board; the latter is a graduate in pharmacy and the former is president of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. Surgeon-General Merritte W. Ireland and Drs. C. H. and W. J. Mayo, whose interest in pharmacists was shown during the War, also are active in the undertaking and were present at the meeting.

##### CANCER WEEK.

The *Journal of the A. M. A.* says editorially that "the purpose of Cancer week is to acquaint the lay public with the essential facts concerning the disease, to encourage early diagnosis and treatment, and to reënlist the interest of the medical profession in controlling the disease. A large majority of fatalities in cancer have resulted from delay in treatment due to lack of recognition of the disease in its early stages. The responsibility rests on the public for delay in securing competent medical

attention, and on the medical profession for delay in diagnosis and procrastination in treatment."

In another editorial the same publication directs attention to misstatements and overstatements in the press. The subject is of grave importance and pharmacists have opportunities to inform the afflicted that early attention insures possibilities of cure.

##### OREGON SOIL SUITABLE FOR PEPPERMINT GROWING.

A. M. Todd has made the statement that Oregon soil and climatic conditions are favorable for the production of peppermint. He recently inspected the land in Klamath County.

##### EXPORT OF NATIVE DRUGS OF VANCOUVER.

A company has been formed at Vancouver, British Columbia, to collect and export native British Columbia pharmaceutical herbs and barks. Most of its employees are to be former soldiers who are to be instructed in industrial botany and encouraged to take up pre-emptions in the forested areas between the rich agricultural valleys along the Canadian National Grand Trunk Pacific railway lines.

T. N. Jamieson, founder of the Chicago Veteran Druggists' Association, last month had the pleasure of meeting with his fraters at the round table; that he was seated at the head of the table is understood and it gave him pleasure to note the splendid growth and development of the association. The spirit of fraternity is always in evidence here, and it is surprising that not more cities organize along these lines; everywhere pharmacists attend weekly or monthly functions of clubs which keep up their lively interest in affairs, but it should be possible to arrange for an organization, planned after that in Chicago, which maintains the friendly relations among pharmacists. The C. V. D. A. members, on October 20, were guests of Charles Matthews, who contributed largely to the entertainment features of the Chicago A. Ph. A. meeting.

Oscar W. Smith, for many years manager of the New York branch of Parke, Davis & Co., has been elected president of that corporation. James E. Bartlett assumes the management of the New York branch.

Miers Busch is now a member of the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Salt Manufacturing Company. Mr. Busch is a member of the Association and holds a number of

important places in business and other associations of Philadelphia—Director of the Bourse, Board of Trade, American Academy of Music, etc.

Milton A. Miller, Portland, Ore., has retired after eight years of service as collector of internal revenue. He was formerly a druggist of Lebanon, Ore. He is succeeded by Clyde Huntly, also a druggist and an ex-member of the Oregon State Board of Pharmacy.

Joseph F. Young, long and prominently identified with Maine pharmaceutical affairs, has been appointed federal assistant director of prohibition enforcement in Maine.

Edward D. Davy, author of the paper on "Determination of Sodium Benzoate in Oleomargarine," *THIS JOURNAL*, June number, p. 458, calls attention to an error therein; the solution of sodium hydroxide should be  $\frac{N}{20}$  instead of  $\frac{N}{10}$ , as stated.

Dr. Harvey W. Wiley advocated the adoption of the metric system in commerce, before a sub-committee of the Senate Manufactures Committee, October 28. Quite a number of business men, familiar with conditions in South America, also urged early general adoption of the system.

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM O. BLANDING.

William Oliver Blanding, of Blanding & Blanding, Inc., Providence, R. I., a prominent figure in Rhode Island pharmaceutical circles, died October 31. Mr. Blanding was born in Providence, November 24, 1852, and received his earlier education in the public schools of that city, and thereafter in Brown University. He entered the business of his father to which he later succeeded; in 1897, the business was incorporated and he became treasurer of the corporation.

For many years Mr. Blanding was identified with the Rhode Island College of Pharmacy as treasurer. He was a member of many trade associations and fraternal organizations, and joined the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1894.

He is survived by four sons, William C. Blanding of Syracuse, N. Y., and Richard W.,

P. Howard and Allen C. Blanding, of Providence. His wife, who was Rosella Cornell, died in April 1917.

FRANK R. PARTRIDGE.

Frank Reuben Partridge, since 1895 a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association, died October 21, aged 78 years. He was born in Augusta, Maine, and a life-long citizen of that city where, at an early age, he entered the drug store of C. F. Potter & Co., and later engaged in the drug business on his own account.

He was one of the first members of the Maine Pharmaceutical Association; when the Maine Pharmacy law was passed, he qualified by examination, receiving certificate No. 1. Mr. Partridge was appointed State Commissioner of Pharmacy in 1889 and continued in that position until 1898. Three daughters and one son survive the deceased.

SOCIETIES AND COLLEGES.

Clyde L. Eddy is a member of the Committee on Health Insurance A. Ph. A., which is composed of the following members: *Chairman* W. C. Anderson, Clyde L. Eddy, H. C. Christensen, W. J. Teeters and C. A. Mayo. (See October number, *THIS JOURNAL*, p. 783.)

BULLETIN XXIX.

Chicago, Ill., Aug 31, 1921.

To the Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to hand you herewith a financial statement of the Committee.

1920.	Receipts.	
July 20	Balance on hand.....	\$178.35
	20 Natl. Boards of Pharmacy..	25.00
	American Pharmaceutical Association.....	25.00

1921.		
Jan. 13	4 copies 2nd edition Syllabus	5.28
May 26	1 copy 2nd edition Syllabus	1.25
	Conference of Pharm. Faculties.....	25.00
Aug. 31	189 copies 3rd Syllabus.....	284.65
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		544.53

1921.	Expenditures.	
Apr. 2	300 1 cent stamps.....	3.00
	11 500 clasp envelopes.....	11.00
May 2	Rubber stamp and pad....	1.80
	7 Stationery.....	26.00
	7 Multigraphing 1000 circulars.....	3.00
	10 500 1 cent stamps.....	5.00