

EDITORIAL NOTES

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PUBLICITY FOR PHARMACY.

Recently pharmacy and the American Pharmaceutical Association have received good publicity in the daily press. The grant from the A. Ph. A. Research Fund has been mentioned in many papers, and, in quite a number of them, editorially. The Ebert Prize also has received favorable comment. While the attitude of pharmacists on the "Malt Prescription" has been generally approved, there seems to have been in some instances evidence of disappointment in that there could not instead have been the opportunity for headlines of decidedly different character, but the firm opposition of pharmacists to the scheme of converting their places of business into dispensaries of malt beverages made other suggestions impossible except, perhaps, to say that some will do so.

"THE DRUG-STORE MAN HAS A MORE INTIMATE ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE PEOPLE IN HIS NEIGHBORHOOD THAN EVEN THE PREACHER AND THE DOCTOR."

Sarah D. Lowrie, on the editorial page of a recent issue of the *Philadelphia Evening Ledger*, says: "I once asked a keen observer of human society what profession to his thinking combined the most elements of neighborliness. I supposed he would say the ministry, with second choice of that of the physician. But not at all! He said the person who had the most points of contact with the men, women, young persons and little children in his neighborhood was the 'drug-store' man.

"When there is an illness in the houses of rich and poor he knows it, and from a hot-water bottle to a saline solution he is a factor with the nurse and doctor in every variation of treatment of the case."

There is a column of this comment, and perhaps we should mention that our attention was directed to this by Mr. F. W. E. Stedem. Our conclusions, based on a letter printed in the article, are that the latter is entitled to further credit; we quote: "I feel sure the letter was never meant to be printed, but it is, like many things not meant to be printed, worth printing. And so I quote it here:

"To the *Evening Ledger*:

"A careful reading of your regular contributions has made me feel that I have the right to address you on a subject near and dear to me.

"I am an old druggist. I have been in business almost forty years, and within that time I have contributed my mite to pharmaceutical literature and taught many an apprentice. While I know that we have here and there a black sheep in the family, I also know that most of us are so minded and so constituted that we constantly strive for the physical and spiritual good of those needing our services.

"Now why all this palaver?

"Well, I want you to help build up a healthy sentiment respecting the druggist and his real work. The public featuring of drug raids and the recovery of narcotics illegally got seriously reflects on the honor of druggists as a body. Thanking you for any interest you may evince in the matter and assuring you of our willingness to continue by a responsive exhibit of our real worth, I am, yours sincerely,

"AN OLD DRUGGIST."

That the contributor to the columns in the *Ledger* has studied the habits of the druggist and his profession is clearly evident by the following quoted paragraphs:

"He is sometimes surly, sometimes slovenly and sometimes unscrupulous, but he is generally placidly kind, exquisitely neat and sternly

law-abiding. He is the master of a science where one-twentieth of a grain counts for life or death, and in his position of father confessor for his neighborhood has a power of imparting common sense and sympathy that a clergyman or teacher or even doctor may well envy.

"It is not a profession where those who follow it honorably are apt to get rich, and the hours of responsible work begin early and last till late in the evening, with Sunday vigilance included. The men who enter it, therefore, must do it from a real aptitude for its exacting and skilful practice and for some quality of temper and mind that makes the constant call on their patience and helpfulness and kindly experience a congenial and gracious task."

KEEPING QUALITIES OF NEOARSPHENAMINE.

The U. S. Public Health Service reports that several lots of neoarsphenamine submitted during the last three years, comprising samples from various manufacturers, have shown signs of deterioration since their first examination. Many preparations of neoarsphenamine were encountered in which striking changes were noticed in many of their physicochemical properties, such as changes in color, toxicity, solubility, mobility in ampul, and odor. No instances of such changes were found in any of the arsphenamine examined. Examinations have also led to the conclusion that commercial neoarsphenamine is a relatively unstable substance in ampul, and that age, heat, and incomplete drying of the substance before ampuling are factors in causing deterioration in commercial neoarsphenamine.

To Treasurer Whelpley.

With Apologies to Kipling.

What makes the cash come in, come in?

Said member fully paid.

'Tis Dr. Whelpley's writin' 'em, the secretary said.

What makes it come so fast, so fast?

Said member fully paid.

He's sent 'em number 23, the secretary said.

For they're payin' in their money, you can hear
the shekels clink,

The treasury's a fillin' up. He's after every
gink

Who's got behind in payments, and it makes
his spirits sink.

For he'll hear from Dr. Whelpley in the
mornin'.

The foregoing was sent in for publication by one who has had opportunity to observe the results of the treasurer's efforts. Neither of the secretaries have vied with Kipling in these lines; they were written by one who has been active in membership work, and omission of the signature is responsive to his request.

PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

Walter V. Smith, who was secretary of Executive Committee of the Committee on Arrangements and Entertainment, N. W. D. A., Atlantic City meeting, was presented with a handsome silver basket by his co-workers on the Executive Committee. The presentation was made by General E. D. Taylor, of Richmond, Chairman of the Executive Committee, as a testimonial of appreciation.

William Horlick, Sr., contributed \$25,000 to the Racine Memorial Building Fund. Several years ago he presented the City with a park.

Henry M. Whelpley is a member of the Executive Committee of the St. Louis-Missouri Centennial Association. St. Louis celebrated the centenary of Missouri's statehood October 5 to 15.

The McKennan Pharmacy, Pittsburgh, O. F. Wolf, president, had an exhibit at the recent convention of the Pennsylvania Medical Society. This exhibit of a retail pharmacy attracted much attention; it consisted of cards featuring the work and photographs of a store in which 3000 feet of floor space is occupied by the prescription department. The store employs twenty-two clerks for dispensing prescriptions, manufacturing pharmaceuticals and handling medical supplies; no patent medicines are sold, neither toilet articles, except those coming within the lines indicated, nor soda water, cigars, etc. One of the signs reads: "Ethical pharmacy as a science is part of medical science and as a practice is a part of medical practice."

Dr. Francis Carter Wood, director of the Institute of Cancer Research, Columbia University, in an address to the students of New York College of Pharmacy during "Cancer Week," advised "that pharmacists must be the pioneer missionaries in turning patients to seek the right treatment if they are to be cured, early attention is essential."

Prof. Heber W. Youngken, recently spoke to a Philadelphia audience on "Strawberries at the North Pole and Apples at the Equator." He explained modern processes

of dehydration and made the statement that "dehydration is destined to stabilize the crops of the nation and conserve food materials."

Charles H. LaWall recently addressed the American Public Health Association, Section on Foods and Drugs (New York City), on "Unsuitable Forms of Cheap Candies." November 10, he spoke to the Kiwanis Club, at Atlantic City, on "Food Adulteration."

The surviving partners of the late Prof. H. P. Hynson, J. W. Wescott and H. A. B. Dunning have purchased the interest of the estate of former, in the store at Calvert and Franklin streets and laboratory on Hamilton Street, and will erect a commodious building to house the latter two establishments.

Prof. L. Grimbart, Paris Faculty of Pharmacy, delivered one of the lectures arranged by the "Society of Friends of the Paris University" at the Sorbonne this year. The subject was "Remedies of the Past and Present" in which he gave an interesting account of the polypharmacy and organotherapeutic remedies of the apothecaries of the 17th century.

Prof. Walther Nernst, director of the Institute of Physics and Chemistry at the University of Berlin, has been awarded the Nobel prize for 1920 in chemistry. The prizes in chemistry and physics for 1921 are being reserved.

The *Missouri Druggist*, Missouri Pharmaceutical Association, for September commented on recent items of Association interest in the *JOURNAL A. P. H. A.*: "The Status of Prerequisite Laws and Pharmaceutical Licensure," by J. W. England; "Coöperation in American Pharmacy through the House of Delegates," by Jeannot Hostmann; "Selection of Place for Meetings of the A. P. H. A.," by Theodore J. Bradley.

Town Gossip, "the smallest medical publication in the world," published by Fred I. Lackenbach always has something of interest and some of the items find their way into the public press. Mr. Lackenbach uses some of his messages for publicity, also with the object of acquainting the public with developments and progress in modern medicine, sanitation, and hygiene. A few examples are given: "Talking about flies, there are billions of them

breeding out on the Marina, where refuse has been dumped to fill in. That Marina is no credit to our city." "Typhoid Mortality Rate: Civil War, 240 in 10,000; Spanish-American War, 320 in 10,000; World War, 1 in 10,000. Prophylactic vaccination accomplished the miracle."

The American Druggist, in its November issue, published an article by F. Ashford White, Paris, France, on "Portraits of Pharmacists." There are twelve reproductions of oil paintings which adorn the walls of the Salle des Actes of the Paris Faculty of Pharmacy. Of the three earliest portraits little is known—Jehan Chesnau, Sylvain Roiger, and François Fraguier—they lived during the period about 1600; the real interest lies in the fact they were among those who founded the "Apothecaries Garden," which by the process of evolution has become the Faculty of Pharmacy of Paris. Among those of a later period, and better known, are: Antoine Baumé, Boillon Lagrange, André Laugier and Henri Buignet.

The Chemist and Druggist of October 29 says, "the very strong hold that American drug and chemical houses secured in the Chinese market during 1915-19 appears to be slackening, as American houses in Tientsin are closing their drug departments and returning stocks to their Shanghai branches. German and Swiss firms have, however, commenced operations in this market and they are much more to be feared than American firms. Merck's and Boehringer's have opened agencies or branches, * * *. There are many firms of Japanese wholesale druggists who hold stocks and who have their containers almost an exact copy of Merck's well-known packages, but Chinese buyers take any European or American goods in preference to Japanese, and frequently when buying stipulate that the goods are not of Japanese origin."

Miss Helen Timmermann, daughter of our fellow-member, Richard H. Timmermann, holds a New York State University Scholarship, awarded to honor students in New York State High Schools. She is using this grant in the B.S. course of Columbia University College of Pharmacy.

SOCIETIES AND COLLEGES.

MILWAUKEE VETERANS MEET WITH THOSE OF CHICAGO.

Nineteen of the twenty-one members of the Milwaukee Veteran Druggists' Association met at the round table with thirty-one members of the Chicago Veteran Druggists' Association, November 10. Letters were read from Honorary President Fuller and Founder Jamieson, also from fraters Whelpley, Irwin, Kantowitz and Dyer. Sol Eckstein was poet-laureate of the occasion, and quite a number of the hosts and guests made brief remarks.

PLANT INSTITUTE PART OF OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY.

The board of trustees of the Ohio State University has authorized the establishment within the college of agriculture of the Plant Institute of the Ohio State University. All members of the staff of the college interested in plant studies may be members, and all graduate students doing their major work with plants are associate members.

PRESIDENT C. F. THWING RESIGNS.

President C. F. Thwing, after thirty-one years of service at the head of Western Reserve University, has resigned. Very few presidents of universities have served so long with the one institution.

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

The American Public Health Association, with a national membership of 5000, is the largest organization devoted to public health matters and, accordingly, influential in shaping public health opinions. It is interesting to note that the first president of the Association, Dr. Stephen Smith, was present. He will be 99 years old next February; asked for his longevity prescription, he gave as the first essential: "Work and keep out of the easy-chair."

MENTAL TESTS FOR PHARMACY STUDENTS.

The University of Michigan School of Pharmacy requires students with poor scholarship to take a mental test given by the department of education. These tests resemble the Army Intelligence Test, and afford information in cases where it is difficult to determine whether poor work on the part of the student is caused by lack of ambition, or whether he is incapable of carrying on the work.

HON. A. W. MELLON AIDS UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH.

A. W. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury, and his brother, R. B. Mellon, have given to the University of Pittsburgh a plot of land acquired at a cost of \$1,500,000, it was announced by John G. Bowman, chancellor, last night. The property, of fourteen acres, lies between the university and Carnegie Institute, in the educational center of the city, and on it will be erected laboratories dedicated to chemistry, physics, mathematics and biology.

The gift supplements a former gift of the Mellons which several years ago resulted in the opening of the Mellon Institute of Research as a part of the university.

FRATERNITY ACTIVITIES IN UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

The Phi Delta Chi Building Association has been organized for the purpose of acquiring a home for the Theta Chapter of Phi Delta Chi, University of Minnesota, the pharmaceutical fraternity. The building fund now amounts to \$7,000, and steps have been taken for the incorporation of the Building Association.

In this same institution, by an arrangement with the School for Nursing, some of the training of a class of seventy of the latter is given in the College of Pharmacy.

ILLINOIS PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Executive Committee of the Illinois Pharmaceutical Association held its semiannual meeting at the School of Pharmacy of the University of Illinois on Tuesday, Nov. 15, 1921.

The meeting was well attended—twenty-three of the twenty-seven members of the Committee responding to the roll call.

After listening to an address by the President and to the reports of the Secretary and Treasurer, there was a discussion of methods of building up the membership and of interesting more widely the druggists of the State through the work of the Committee on Trade Interests. Secretary Samuel C. Henry of the N. A. R. D. addressed the meeting on these subjects and was followed by President Haering of the Chicago Retail Druggists' Association.

Senator John J. Boehm offered a resolution looking toward affiliation of the State association with the County organizations.

Robert A. Clarkson was elected Local Secretary for the 1922 convention which will be held in Springfield June 27, 28 and 29, 1922.

Leo Mrazek of Chicago was nominated for

the Advisory Board of the University of Illinois School of Pharmacy.

A budget amounting to \$3013 was adopted for the year 1921-22.

THE PHARMACIST AND THE LAW.

CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM ON A RECENT RULING OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE, REGARDING SALES OF NARCOTIC DRUGS.

George M. Beringer, by request, has submitted his interpretation and views to the Department regarding a recent ruling of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. The ruling referred to follows:

1. A retail druggist who purchases 100 tablets containing narcotics taxable under the Harrison Narcotic Law, and sells the package as purchased with narcotic stamps attached, to a physician, on an order form, incurs additional liability as a wholesale dealer in Class 2.

2. If the same druggist buys an original stamped package of 200 tablets containing narcotic drugs, breaks the package and from it sells 100 tablets pursuant to an order form to another registered person, he is regarded as the producer of a new package and must stamp same, thereby incurring liability as a member of Class 1.

In other words a retail dealer who wishes to sell non-exempt narcotic drugs to any person duly registered in one or more of the classes 1 to 4, must pursue one of the following procedures, bearing in mind that all narcotic transactions between registered persons must be pursuant to order forms and in general nothing less than an original stamped package may be sold pursuant to an order form, there being one exception to this last rule, that of aqueous narcotic solutions noted in Article 25, Regulations 35, revised:

1. If he desires to sell taxable narcotic drugs to registered persons in original stamped packages he should register and pay additional tax as a wholesale dealer (see Article 28).

2. If he sells anything less than an original stamped package to a registered person he must register and pay additional tax as a producer in Class 1, and stamp all the newly created packages (see Article 28).

It, therefore, follows that with the exception of aqueous solutions above noted persons registered as retail druggists only must confine their narcotic transactions to the filling of

bona fide prescriptions written by reputable physicians for patients.

However, this statement should under no circumstances be construed to indicate that a physician may obtain narcotic drugs on prescriptions in order that he may dispense same in the practice of his profession.

Mr. Beringer's expressed desire is to cooperate with the Department. He believes that the carrying out of the laws for the suppression of the drug habit can and should be done without placing the pharmacist in the category of a violator of the law where he is only performing his proper professional service in accordance with the intent of the Congressional enactment. The greater part of Mr. Beringer's communication follows:

"The Act of December 17th, 1914, commonly known as the Harrison Narcotic Act, and especially the amendments thereto introduced as sections 1006 and 1007 of the Revenue Act of 1918, differentiate between the various classes of producers of and dealers in narcotic drugs, and define with proper limitations the terms importer, manufacturer, producer, wholesale dealer, retail dealer, and dealer in exempted narcotics. It is not within the province of any governmental bureau or officer to change such classifications and definitions as are fixed by law.

"Paragraph 1 sets forth that 'a retail druggist who purchases 100 tablets containing narcotic drugs, taxable under the Harrison Narcotic Law, and sells the package as purchased with narcotic stamps attached, to a physician on an order form, incurs an additional liability as a wholesale dealer in Class 2.' I am compelled to criticize the language of this paragraph in several directions.

"The words 'retail druggist' should read 'retail dealer,' as the phrase used in the Act is the latter, and a dealer other than a druggist would not be exempted although such a suggestion might be drawn from the wording used in this paragraph. It is questionable in my opinion if a physician who dispenses an original stamped package does not incur the same liability as a wholesale dealer.