

IN MEMORIAM.*

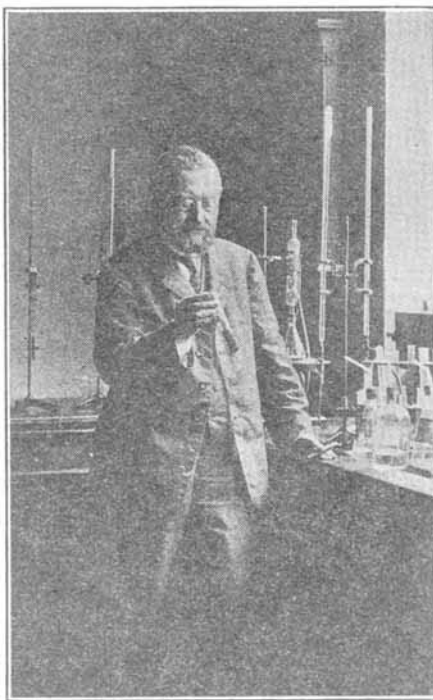
ERNST SCHMIDT, PAST MASTER OF PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH.
HONORARY MEMBER, AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION SINCE 1899.

BY ARNO VIEHÖEVER.¹

A short notice by the author, published in the August number (1921) of the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION reports the death of Ernst Schmidt. The loss of this man is, of course, most keenly felt in his native country, Germany. There he had been for many years a very successful teacher in pharmaceutical chemistry, to whom students came from all parts of the civilized world. His research work has well established his reputation as a leader in pharmacy, even in the minds of those who have never had the good fortune to become personally acquainted with him. It seems, therefore, fitting to review in some detail the life and life-work of this great man who is no longer among us.

Born, 1845, in Halle, he began his pharmaceutical career at the age of fifteen or sixteen years and in 1870 passed the State Examination as pharmaceutical chemist. In 1871 he received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, his thesis dealing with the action of phosgene upon amides. In 1874 we find him in Halle as instructor of pharmaceutical chemistry, toxicology, analytical chemistry and history of chemistry; in 1878 he was appointed professor, and in 1889 he was called to Marburg as director of the Institute of Pharmaceutical Chemistry. Here he taught, and worked in his laboratory, practically unto the end. The number of his students grew steadily and the number of publications emanating from his laboratory also. No year passed in which there were not some interesting results of his work published. The majority of these publications appeared in the *Archiv der Pharmasie*. His line of work was not re-

his exceptionally fruitful research are based on most painstaking work. His book, "Ausführliches Lehrbuch der Pharmaceutischen Chemie," is published in the sixth edition and represents a wealth of information for both the scientific and the practical pharmacist. His "Anleitung zur Qualitativen Analyse" is also well known and liked for its preciseness and clearness, as well as usefulness in the practical separation of chemical elements and their salts. The *Archiv der Pharmasie*, of which he, together with Beckurts, was editor, may well be considered a model for the presentation of scientific data of interest to the pharmacist.



PROF. ERNST SCHMIDT IN HIS LABORATORY.

Photo taken on his 25th anniversary as Director of the Pharmaco-Chemical Institute at Marburg.

stricted to a limited field. We find him engaged in the improvement of general and analytical methods, in problems of organic synthesis, and in the chemical examination of medicinal plants. The last-named field, especially, kept his interest from the first to the last. While he studied problems connected with animal products, such as beeswax and neurine, and plant products, such as tannins, volatile oils, pigments, toxins and glucosides, the alkaloids and their constitution, their presence and distribution in related plants, their disappearance or increase during the various stages of growth, and their transmission into the hybrids, were preferred problems that occupied Schmidt's lifetime and brought many honors to him. All the results of

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His heart was with the student, whose work he encouraged in many ways and whom he sometimes assisted financially. I recall here the Albert Schmidt Endowment, given by Ernst Schmidt in memory of his father, to enable needy students to continue their studies after graduation as pharmaceutical chemists. He set a high standard for his own work and expected the same from his students. He was among the first to enter his Institute in the morning and practically among the last to leave at night, being so deeply engaged in his studies that he knew no limit of time. It was the rule rather than the exception for Schmidt to lecture on Saturdays in order adequately to cover the field of pharmaceutical chemistry. These lectures were well prepared and very clear. It was an evident joy to him to perform a difficult experiment and to interest and stimulate his audience.

Since 1891 he had been a standing member of the State Commission on the revision of the German Pharmacopoeia. He was a very active member of the Apotheker Verein and was an honorary member of it for many years. His interest in pharmacy was recognized by his colleagues and by associations in other countries, among them those in America. He had been elected an honorary member of the American Pharmaceutical Association as early as 1899. In the year 1883 Schmidt was elected an honorary member of the New York College of Pharmacy, and in 1896 the same honor was bestowed by the Netherlands Pharmaceutical Association.

He received the first prize, with medal, of the Hager-Buchholz Endowment in 1870 for his work on cubebs; the Ebert Prize, 1905, for his paper entitled "Concerning Choline, Neurine and Allied Compounds," published in the *Proceedings of the American Pharmaceutical Association*, 1904, Vol. 52, 417-426. He also published in the *Proceedings*, 1902, a paper entitled "Scopolamine and Scopoline," Vol. 50, 279-287, and in 1905, another entitled "Concerning Scopoline," Vol. 53, 201-208. He received the Flückiger medal and in 1905 the Hanbury medal. In 1915, on the occasion of his seventieth birthday, a bronze bust of himself was presented to him, and another in 1920 on his seventy-fifth birthday. One of these is now in the Apothecaries Hall, Berlin, while the other was placed in the entrance hall of the Pharmaco-Chemical Institute of Marburg, in order to remind the living and the coming generations of this great master of pharmacy.

SECTION ON HISTORICAL PHARMACY, AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF SESSIONS HELD IN NEW ORLEANS, SEPTEMBER 8 AND 9, 1921.

The First Session of the Section on Historical Pharmacy was convened at 9:30 A.M., September 8; Chairman Curt P. Wimmer presided. In the absence of Secretary A. W. Linton, E. G. Eberle acted in his stead.

The first order of business was the reading of the

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

By Curt P. Wimmer.

We are about to open the 20th annual session of the Historical Section of the American Pharmaceutical Association organized in 1902, mainly through the efforts of Messrs. Edward Kremers, H. M. Whelpley, Albert E. Ebert and others; it has up to date accomplished the purpose for which it was called into being.

It has, no doubt, created interest in historical matters; made sentiment for the study of events of the past; afforded hours of pleasant enjoyment; and, last but not least, it has laid out a store of valuable information. Due credit must be given to the Section for its influence in the establishment of a permanent exhibit of pharmaceutical subjects in the Smithsonian Institution at Washington. There can be no doubt, therefore, that progress has been made and that this Section has fulfilled its mission.

Your chairman, in the year's incumbency of his office, has found that there exists a deep and widespread interest in pharmaceutical history. The program laid before you at this session abounds in excellent papers of great variety and makes a creditable showing. Twenty-six original papers are announced, of which three will be illustrated by lantern slides. This program in itself is ample proof of the interest existing in such matters.