

EDITORIAL NOTES

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BRITISH EDITORIAL COMMENT ON U. S. P. REVISION METHODS.

An editorial of the *Pharmaceutical Journal* is concluded by stating, "we are not prepared to advise imitation or emulation in their entirety of the revision plans and procedure of the American Pharmacopoeia Committee; there are points in them which, with adaptive modification, might advantageously be adopted in connection with B. P. revision."

It is evident that British pharmacists have not the recognition they should have in the revision of the British Pharmacopoeia. There is also too much secrecy in preparatory revision work.

FOURTH EDITION OF THE JAPANESE PHARMACOPOEIA.

The Japanese Government has just issued the fourth edition of the Japanese Pharmacopoeia. There are a number of new features and many changes. Japanese pharmaceutical and chemical manufacture is encouraged. The Pharmacopoeia becomes effective December 1921, when all drugs and medicinal chemicals in the Japanese market must conform to the new standard. The standards of quality are raised and many new tests have been introduced. Substitutes for certain products that may be used are included.

The new edition has 94 deletions and 73 additions, thus the total number of titles has been reduced from 703 to 682.

PAUL EHRLICH'S COLLEGE DEGREES.

Paul Ehrlich, according to Dr. Simon Flexner (Lane Lecture 1917), "was a kind of a medical student who never succeeded in winning his degree. It was one of the facts of his life of which he was inordinately proud. 'I will say for his professors in this connection

that they got tired of him and determined to get rid of him.' And to give him his degree they went through the form of an examination and graduated him."—*Town Gossip*, February 19, 1921.

THE TITLE OF DOCTOR.

A movement is under way at the University of Virginia to reserve the application of the title of doctor to those who have earned it in the study of medicine, and to call the rest of the teachers Mr. An English philosopher has said, "When every one is somebody, then no one's anybody." We are reminded of the relief expressed by one, who had many titles, when he was called by his first name or in a more formal way as Mr. The application of a title means little when many are given it, and especially when it is not deserved. The movement should receive encouragement; after all, the world does not care so much what degrees have been taken, but is interested in what the individual can do.

THE SMITH-TOWNER EDUCATIONAL BILL.

The Smith-Towner Bill seeks to create a Department of Education, with a Secretary in the President's Cabinet. It provides federal aid for education to the states, but prohibits federal control of education within the states. It is not the purpose to interfere with private schools. Among the requirements exacted of states that participate are the following: Public school opportunities for at least twenty-four weeks must be provided; compulsory attendance at a public or private school for all children between the ages of seven and fourteen; English language as the basis of instruction; and an appropriation of at least as much money as the respective states expect to receive.

TO LINK OUR SCHOOLS AND INDUSTRY.

The following paragraph is taken from an article by Frank S. Slutz in *Forbes*, March 5, 1921, on the subject indicated by the title:

"The schools rank first among the industries which put the *man first*—for the man is their product. The schools are the engines for constructing out of the coming generations a spirit and practice of industry which shall contribute to the abundance of life. The schools can, quietly and surely, create an American Industry which will include all workers, which will put the making of men first, which will be a potent example of sharing, which will insist upon the truth in all relationships, which will preserve the heart of American independence, and which will be founded upon right individual choices of vocations."

ROMANTICISTS AND REALISTS IN MEDICINE.

Current Opinion for February—under above title in which an article by Dr. Pierre Mauriac of the University of Bordeaux is largely drawn upon—states "complaint is heard everywhere among physicians that medicine has become too scientific. There is much talk of experiments, of laboratories, of serums. The physician as such seems to have disappeared and the world has in his place one who may be a chemist or a physiologist or an operator with a strange Greek name using queer instruments and employing a mysterious jargon. There are controversies about the right attitude of medicine. The opposition between the physician who has absolute faith in his 'remedies' and his brother who employs with suspicion the best tested 'cures' is ancient but it grows more bitter daily."

"The doctors of our generation seem often to prefer the curative power of nature, as they call it, to any discovery. Let nature do it—that is the cry now. This blind confidence in the power of nature—undefined and unknown nature—is but a form of the prevailing skepticism, however it be covered by formulas."

Claude Bernard complained "that the physiologist who would not administer a remedy unless he understood beforehand through laboratory tests what its action was, arrived finally at a state of mind that kept him from prescribing anything. The spirit of realism rushing to an extreme, the very thing the romanticists, who set such store

by imagination, vision and idea, are accused of doing."

"The business of the physician is to cure the patient if he can and, if he finds a remedy dating from the eighteenth century and since forgotten, the invalid will forgive the reversion to a dead past if he is healed."

THE REACTIONS FOLLOWING INTRA- VENOUS ADMINISTRATION OF ARSPHENAMINE.

The untoward symptoms that still frequently follow the intravenous administration of arsphenamine have been a cause of much concern to therapeutists. Despite the years that have elapsed since this mode of treating syphilis was first instituted as the result of Ehrlich's investigations, the difficulties encountered have not yet been overcome. Among the explanations advanced to account for the febrile and other symptoms that are occasionally encountered is the view that a rapid destruction of spirochetes by the drugs results in a liberation of microbial endotoxins which bring about the more or less severe reactions in the patient. This hypothesis, however, has been made untenable or at least reduced to a relatively minor significance by the recent demonstration that both syphilitic and nonsyphilitic patients may experience similar reactions following the intravenous injections of arsphenamine. As the result of these observations by Strickler¹ and others at the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, it appears that the most important factor in the production of certain of the undesired arsphenamine reactions is the medication rather than the patient. In fact, it is the conclusion of these Philadelphia clinicians that the untoward phenomena may be produced by some impurity in the arsphenamine or by some chemical reaction between the arsphenamine and the chemical constituents of the blood, or the two factors may be operative at the same time.—Editorial, *Journal A. M. A.*, January 15, p. 183.

SOME STATISTICS ON DRUG ADDICTS.

Thomas S. Blair, M.D., Pennsylvania Bureau of Drug Control, reported on 3,104 cases of drug addiction under the care of physicians. None of the persons listed were

¹Albert Strickler, "A Clinical Study of the Reactions Following the Intravenous Administration of Arsphenamine in Nonsyphilitic Persons," *Arch. Dermat. & Syph.*, 2, 692, 1920.

taking less than sixteen average doses of narcotics daily:

Cases of pure addiction.....	1,069
Diseased persons addicted to drugs....	571
Persons with cancer and other neoplasms taking morphine.....	484
Persons with other incurable diseases taking morphine.....	348
Aged persons addicted, not otherwise diseased.....	189
Aged addicts with demonstrable disease	162
Addiction due to postoperative conditions.....	49
Addicts not classified.....	83
Deaths among addicts, not listed above.	149

Total in all classes..... 3,104

PARSLEY AN ABSINTHE SUBSTITUTE IN FRANCE.

Substitutes for the seductive absinthe are prepared in France from parsley; these beverages are said not only to resemble absinthe, but are more powerful in effect.

AMERICAN DRUGGISTS' FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY TO BUILD.

The American Druggists' Fire Insurance Company proposes to erect a five-story building at the corner of Walnut and Canal Streets, Cincinnati, for the home of the Company. It is to be similar in design to the new Hamilton County Court House.

NEW UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION RATES.

The International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union advises that the U. P. C. maximum postage rate on letters of 50 centimes for the first ounce or fraction thereof and 25 centimes for each additional ounce or fraction thereof became effective February 1, 1921, in Denmark, Finland, Italy, Norway and Switzerland, and became effective February 15, 1921, in France, so that letters mailed in those countries are now subject to those rates. Patrons of the United States Postal Service, who desire to prepay a reply to a letter sent to any one of the countries above named, will be required to forward two reply coupons, instead of one as heretofore.

EXHIBIT OF MEXICAN PRODUCTS IN NEW YORK CITY.

The Department of Commerce of Mexico has been exhibiting in a building in Fourth Avenue, near 18th Street, New York City,

a portion of the display of Mexican natural and manufactured products, which has been shown in Dallas, Texas. The display is to be shipped to Milan, Italy. Oils, fats, waxes, senna and eucalyptus leaves, starch and sarsaparilla root are included among the articles shown.

A COMPARISON OF SACCHARIN TESTIMONY.

Alleging that state and municipal food and drug officials were recently addressed from the Bureau of Chemistry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, with relation to saccharin, in a manner which presented in abstract only the medical testimony introduced by the Government in the "saccharin case" against the Monsanto Chemical Works, the result of which was a "hung" jury, the Monsanto firm has prepared and distributed a broadside paralleling the Government's testimony with abstracts from its defense. It does this, as it says, in the belief that it is only fair that both sides should have a hearing.

JAPANESE BRUSH TRADE HURT BY REPORT OF INFECTED BRISTLES.

As a result of injury to the brush trade manufacture in Japan, the Japanese Government will open a national disinfection office. Bristles to be used in manufacturing brushes must be disinfected, and a fine is imposed for violation of regulations applying to the industry.

PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

Harry B. Rosengarten, president of Powers-Weightman-Rosengarten Company, died at his home in Philadelphia, February 19th, after a brief illness, aged 84 years. A brother, J. G. Rosengarten, one year his senior, died less than two months previously. There was a close attachment between the two brothers, and grief had its part in the passing of the first named. During the long period of his untiring activity, Mr. Rosengarten held the deep respect of all business men he came in contact with, and was popular with the large number of employees of the offices and plants. Aside from his connection in various financial organizations, he was a member of the American Chemical Society, and for many years filled various offices, including the presidency, in the Philadelphia Drug Exchange. Mr. Rosengarten is survived by his widow, two daughters, and four sons, George D., Adolph G., Frederic, and Joseph G.; all of the latter

are associated in the Powers-Weightman-Rosengarten Company.

Prof. Albert Einstein, author of the theory of relativity, is to be in the United States this month. His purpose in coming is to aid in the creation of a fund for the Hebrew University to be erected on the Mount of Olives, Jerusalem.

Dr. Charles H. Herty delivered a lecture at the National Museum in Washington on "The Reserves of Chemical Warfare," February 21.

John Keats, the centenary of whose death was celebrated February 23, passed the examinations at Apothecaries' Hall, July 1816. His letters contain allusions to his experience as a medical student, and his poems references to medical and chemical facts. Keats died in Rome and, on the initiative of U. S. Ambassador Johnson, the house in which he died has been bought by subscriptions, most of which were made by Americans.

Dr. E. A. Ruddiman, former dean of the School of Pharmacy at Vanderbilt University, is now head of the department of standards and research of John T. Milliken and Company, St. Louis. **J. D. Gillis**, formerly of the American Chemical Products Company, is now the general manager of the Company.

Judge Stanley W. Merrell of the Ohio Supreme Court, whose death occurred last month, was a brother of **Charles G. and Thurston Merrell**, Cincinnati. Though the deceased was only 44 years of age, he had made a very high place for himself in the city and state.

H. S. Noel, of Indianapolis, is scheduled for an address on "Getting the Most Out of

Business," under the auspices of the Purdue Pharmaceutical Society, March 19th.

Prof. C. B. Jordan addressed the Tippecanoe County Medical Society on "The Effect of Oxidation and Hydrogen Ion Concentration on the Toxicity of Arsphenamine and Neoarsphenamine."

Peter G. Walter, of Pittsburgh, is prominently mentioned for the position of Prohibition Director of Pennsylvania.

Harry B. Mason has been named secretary of Parke, Davis & Co., Detroit. A year ago he was elected to membership in the board of directors of the corporation.

W. A. Rawls, Pensacola, Fla., retired from active business on his 70th birthday. With the exception of eight years, during which Mr. Rawls was state chemist, he has been continuously in the retail drug business and is the oldest living pharmacist in Florida who regularly attends the annual meetings of the state association.

Cornelius Osseward, Seattle, Wash., has disposed of his pharmacy to Louis Rubenstein; the store has been merged with the other pharmacy owned by the purchaser, and is said to be the largest exclusive prescription pharmacy on the Pacific Coast. Mr. Osseward, at present, has no definite plans for the future.

George W. McDuff, local secretary of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, has been appointed secretary-treasurer of the Board of Police Commissioners of the City of New Orleans.

Members of the ASSOCIATION sympathize with Prof. and Mrs. E. Fullerton Cook in the loss of their youngest son, who died of pneumonia March 4.

OBITUARY.

EMILE BOURQUELOT.

Prof. E. E. Bourquelot died at his home in Paris, France, of pneumonia. The funeral ceremony took place January 29th, at the Church of Notre Dame des Champs, which on that occasion was filled to overflowing by representatives of medicine, pharmacy, military and civic organizations, the universities, etc. The interment was made at Jandin, where the noted pharmacist was born sixty-nine years ago.

At the age of 21 the future professor was apprenticed at the "Pharmacie Lovet," in

Sedan, which bore the quaint sign, "A la truie qui file;" six years later he was appointed chief pharmacist at the historic Hospital Laennec; at the age of thirty-eight he was assistant professor at the School of Pharmacy and then advanced to full professorship, after the death of Professor Bourgoin. He contributed a paper on the International Pharmacopoeia to the International Congress of Pharmacy in Paris (1900), and was a prominent member of the Brussels Conference; at The Hague he read a monograph on "The Synthesis of Glucosides by Ferments."