EDITORIAL NOTES

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MORE LIQUOR, LESS OPIUM IN CHINA.

According to a report to the Commerce Department from Consul-General William H. Gale at Hong Kong, more liquor is going into China as the use of opium falls off. The net revenue collected in Hong Kong from liquor duties and licensed warehouses, during 1920 was $779,000 compared with $749,000 in 1919. The revenue from the opium monopoly in 1920 was $4,300,000 as compared with $6,000,000 during 1919.

FROM PIMENTO TO VANILLIN.

The Department of Agriculture, in Jamaica, announces that an important trade secret has been solved in the extraction of vanillin from oil of pimento. During 1920 a small beginning was made by the Department in the production of pimento oil in the hope of extracting vanillin. The first output of pimento oil was sold in England to manufacturers of vanillin at 10s. per pound. Experiments have since resulted in the conversion of pimento oil made at the Government Laboratory into vanillin, but the researches have not as yet been completed, for the present yield is only about one half of what should be produced. It is confidently expected that this difficulty will be overcome.

SCIENCE COMING INTO ITS OWN.

Charles Frederick Carter in the *Scientific American* of July 9, in an article under above caption, states that: "It is one of the ironies of fate that a nation so little inclined to war, so given to industrial self-complacency, as the United States should owe so much to war as a stimulant to the scientific development upon which industrial progress is built. Yet history records that Lincoln requested the creation of the National Academy of Sciences to help solve problems vitally affecting the conduct of the civil war; and that more than half a century later Wilson asked that the organization founded on Lincoln's initiative should be expanded into the National Research Council to assist in mastering the technical difficulties encountered in the conduct of the greatest of all struggles. It is directly due to the efforts of this National Research Council that the activities of scattered research agencies have been coördinated and given fresh impetus pursuant to former Chairman Angell's position that it is essential that we conceive of research as the organized technique of science itself, working for its own propagation.

"Now that this great organization, embracing some forty scientific societies with memberships running into the thousands, is becoming more fully readjusted to peace conditions it promises to exert a more potent influence on industrial progress than it did on the conduct of the war; and that is saying much. Science is, indeed, coming into its own."

JOHN WESLEY'S KNOWLEDGE OF MEDICINE.

A. Mortimer, writing in the "Special Issue" of the *Chemist and Druggist*, June 25, 1921, states that in all references to John Wesley and his life-work, he has read, the knowledge of medicine possessed by Wesley seems to have been ignored. Mr. Mortimer presents a number of abstracts from "Primitive Physic: or an easy and natural method of curing most diseases," by John Wesley. These books were advertised to be sold *at the Rev. Mr. Wesley's Preaching-Houses in Town and Country*. The preface to the first edition is dated June 11, 1747; a bibliographer has ascertained that the book treats of 243 ailments and contains 725 recipes. The history of medicine is briefly traced in the preface and the following is taken from the article referred to: 'In the early days physic', says Wesley, 'as well as religion was chiefly traditional. Father handed down to son what he himself had in like manner received, concerning the manner of healing both outward hurts and the diseases incident to each climate, and the medicines which were of the greatest efficiency for the cure of each disorder. Then, when it was seen how the beasts would use certain natural remedies to cure their ills, they were tried for human beings with good results, and experience and physic grew up together. In addition to this knowledge, many accidental discoveries were made which led to the wider use of many hitherto unknown remedies. Hence rules for the application of these, and medical books were immensely multiplied, till at length physic became an abstruse science, quite out of the reach of ordinary men. Physicians, men who knew a little more about medicine than the average person, now were held in esteem, as persons who were something more than human. Profit attended their employ as well as honour; so they had now two weighty reasons for keeping the bulk of mankind at a distance, that they might not pry into the mysteries of the profession.' Wesley then goes on to show that the medical men of the time of which he is speaking insisted that a knowledge of anatomy, natural philosophy, and even astronomy and astrology were necessary to the understanding of the art of healing. They introduced complex medicines consisting of so many ingredients that it was impossible to know which wrought the cure."

ON THE NATURE AND COMPOSITION OF IRISH MOSS MUCILAGE.

Paul Haas contributed a paper on above subject to the British Pharmaceutical Conference, at its recent meeting. The article is printed in full on p. 485 of the *Pharmaceutical Journal and Pharmacist*, June 18, 1921. We reprint the following abstract: "A cold-water extract of Irish Moss differs in some respects from a hot-water extract. After exhaustive extraction with cold water, the residual weed yields to hot water a substance which is distinct from that obtained by means of cold water. The ordinary hot-water extract is a mixture of at least two substances having different physical and chemical properties. The emulsifying power of the cold and the hot extract is also markedly different. Emulsions of cod-liver oil prepared with hot extract are very stable, whereas those prepared with an equivalent strength of cold extract are relatively unstable. The gelatinizing power of carrageen is not affected by prolonged boiling in neutral solution or by sterilization in an autoclave, but is easily destroyed by heating in the presence of acid."

THE GROWTH OF DRUG AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES.

A preliminary statement of the 1920 census of manufactures with respect to the three related industries, druggists' preparations, patent medicines and compounds and perfumery and cosmetics has been prepared by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce. We are making use of an abstract therefrom by the *New York Commercial* of July 13, 1921.

The figures are based upon the returns from 524 establishments primarily engaged in the manufacture of druggists' preparations in 1919, with products valued at $114,596,900; 2,468 in the manufacture of patent medicines and compounds with products valued at $212,185,700, and 570 in the manufacture primarily of perfumery and cosmetics to the value of $59,630,100.

At the census of 1914 the Industry "druggists' preparations" comprised 416 establishments with $48,009,700 in value of products; patent medicines and compounds, 2,903 establishments and $102,463,400; perfumery and cosmetics, 496 establishments and $16,899,100.

In the aggregate these classified industries involved 3,562 establishments in 1919 with products valued at $386,413,000 and 3,815 in 1914 with $167,372,000, an increase in value

of $219,041,000, or 131 percent. In addition, like products to the value of $23,357,100 were made in 1919 and $9,374,809 in 1914 by establishments in other lines of manufacture.

The production of biological products—serums, vaccines, toxins, etc.—in 1919 was valued at $15,876,400, an increase of 155 percent with respect to 1914; patent and proprietary medicines, $162,471,900, (a) for sale in unbroken unit packages to the general public $132,970,300, (b) ethical pharmaceutical specialties $29,501,600, an increase of 94.7 percent; pharmacuetical—tinctures, syrups, pills, tablets, etc.—$77,295,000, an increase of 187 percent, and perfumery, cosmetics and toilet preparations, $69,470,400, an increase of 263 percent.

The consumption of alkaloids, their salts and alkaloidal materials, as reported, cost $6,398,320 in 1919, comprising cinchona bark, 1,220,000 pounds, $450,300; quinine, 183,516 pounds, $2,718,238; coca leaves, 584,000 pounds, $292,800; cocaine, 516 pounds, $90,454; opium, 102,761 pounds, $956,354; morphine, 3,934 pounds, $635,912; caffein, 39,413 pounds, $312,285; strychnine, 16,414 pounds, $272,304; codein, 2,312 pounds, $296,392, and heroin, 702 pounds, $178,585. The industries used 2,980,500 gallons of grain alcohol costing $14,466,200, 796,900 gallons of denatured alcohol $524,000, and 73,200 gallons of wood alcohol $106,100.

PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

R. P. Fischelis has been elected Dean of the New Jersey College of Pharmacy, Newark, N. J., and also Professor of Practical and Commercial Pharmacy. He succeeds **Prof. P. E. Hommell**, who will continue as Professor of Materia Medica, Botany and Physiology. The activities of Dean Fischelis in pharmaceutical and chemical lines are well and favorably known to members of the Association.

Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, President of the last U. S. Pharmacopoeial Convention, has been seriously ill. He is recovering from a severe carbuncle on the back of his neck; for a time his condition was quite serious.

Col. Hubert Work is the new First Assistant Postmaster-General, recently president of the American Medical Association.

J. E. Bartlett, president of Parke, Davis & Company, sailed from New York June 30, for England, to be gone several weeks.

Chairman Hugo H. Schaefer, of the A. Ph. A. Transportation Committee, and Miss Elizabeth Louise Kist were married July 7. The latter is the daughter of Mrs. Theodore Kist, and a pharmacist for some time associated with the faculty of Columbia University, College of Pharmacy. Dr. Schaefer was local secretary of the New York meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association. He is a member of the faculty of the institution referred to.

The American Pharmaceutical Association is indebted to **Cornelius Beukma** for a Dutch botanical book of 1696. Brief reference is made on page 308 of the April 1921 issue of

CORNELIUS BEUKMA, Dallas, Texas.

the JOURNAL A. PH. A. The valuable book was donated by Mr. Beukma and sent from Denver by his son William Beukma, a member of the Association. The donor is shown on the summit of Mount Tamalpais, in 1915, during the San Francisco meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

Mr. E. M. Holmes, who was beginning to get about on crutches, slipped and fell one day last week. On medical examination it was found that the humerus of the left arm was fractured and the shoulder and hip badly bruised, and as there is a good deal of extrava-

sated blood to be absorbed, and the humerus will take some time to knit together, Mr. Holmes fears that it will be October before he is able to travel. His many friends will sincerely sympathize with Mr. Holmes in this second serious casualty. The *Pharmaceutical Journal and Pharmacist*, July 2. Mr. E. M. Holmes has been an honorary member of the American Pharmaceutical Association since 1899. The members of the Association will regret to learn of this second serious accident and sympathize with Mr. Holmes.

Prof. Henry G. Greenish is the President of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, 1920–1921. His father, the late Mr. T. Greenish, filled the presidential chair in 1886. The President-elect is an honorary member of the American Pharmaceutical Association and the JOURNAL extends best wishes for a successful term of office. Professor Greenish was one of five foreign men of science upon whom in 1919 the University of Paris conferred the diploma of *"Docteur honoris causa."*

Members of the American Pharmaceutical Association have doubtless read, and with sincere regret, of the dreadful accident which resulted in the death of **Professor W. E. Stone,** of Purdue University, and sympathize with Mrs. Stone and son. Dr. Stone, on a number of occasions, exhibited his deep interest in Pharmacy and, we have no doubt, this extended to the Pharmacy Department of Purdue University. Dr. Stone, who was President of Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana, with his wife had been missing since July 15, when they left the camp of mountain climbers for a three-day trip in order to condition themselves for the big Alpine Camp meet at Lake Ohara. Dr. Stone and his wife were both experienced Alpinists.

Joseph Jacobs, pharmacist, of Atlanta, Ga., was honored with the degree of Doctor of Science by the University of Georgia.

Elmer D. Morrill, director of the Philippine Bureau of Science has published a work of three volumes on Philippine botany. Systematic enumeration of all Philippine plants from earliest botanical records is given.

Dr. Stefan Minovici, Professor of Analytical and Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the University of Bucharest, is a leader in the Roumanian pharmaceutical activities. He is founder and editor of the *Roumanian Bulletin of Chemistry*, and it is due to his efforts that the Ministry of Education has recognized the pharmaceutical faculty as part of the medical faculty. He is an ex-president of the Roumanian Pharmaceutical Association. He holds the degree of Doctor of Chemistry of Berlin University, and is one of Emil Fischer's pupils.

A. B. Adams, chief of the permit division of the Federal prohibition force, has resigned. Dr. Adams addressed the American Pharmaceutical Association and has contributed to the pages of its JOURNAL.

Walter G. Campbell, formerly assistant chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, succeeds Dr. Carl L. Alsberg. Mr. Campbell has been in the Bureau since 1907. He is a native of Kentucky, and a graduate of the University of Kentucky.

Dr. W. W. Skinner, Chief of the water and beverage laboratory of the Bureau since 1908, becomes assistant chief. He is a native of Baltimore, and an alumnus of Maryland Agricultural College and George Washington University.

Dr. Alfred S. Burdick succeeds the late Dr. W. C. Abbott as president of The Abbott Laboratories. Dr. Burdick is a graduate of Rush Medical College. He is a member of various Chemical, Medical and Pharmaceutical Associations, among the latter, the American Pharmaceutical Association.

Editor Ivor Griffith, of the *American Journal of Pharmacy* is recovering from a serious surgical operation; complications which developed created some doubt as to his recovery. He is now convalescent, but the advisability of undertaking a long journey is questioned and he may not be able to attend the New Orleans Convention. Mr. Griffith was looking forward to the meeting with more than usual interest on account of being chairman of the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing.