

EDITORIAL NOTES

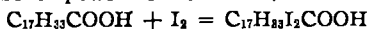
Editor: E. G. EBERLE, Bourse Building, Philadelphia, Pa.

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STAINLESS IODINE OINTMENT.

W. P. McEwen, writing in the January *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy*, states that responsive to call from the medical profession for a stainless iodine ointment, he has devised a formula based upon the absorbent power of oleic acid:



In round numbers 286 parts by weight of oleic acid will, theoretically, combine with 254 parts by weight of iodine. In making the ointment, oleic acid is taken in excess of the amount required. An ointment containing four percent of iodine can be prepared with $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce of iodine, 1 ounce of oleic acid and 11 ounces of soft paraffin. The iodine is reduced to a fine powder, the oleic acid added and thoroughly mixed, and gently warmed on a water-bath till combination is effected, stirring well; the soft paraffin is then added, the ointment mixture stirred, and allowed to cool.

PHARMACY IN FINLAND.

The following notations have been prepared from an abstract of the annual report for 1920 of the pharmacies in Finland, printed in the *Chemist and Druggist*, July 23, 1921, p. 50. The report states that there are 343 pharmacies in Finland (population nearly $3\frac{1}{2}$ millions), and lists the owners and employees. The highest number of prescriptions was dispensed in a pharmacy of Viborg, namely 80,622; the personnel is represented by the owner, two fully qualified pharmacists, seven assistants, of which four were women, and three apprentices. Helsingfors, population 187,544, has fourteen pharmacies, in which, during 1920, 568,715 prescriptions were compounded, the highest number for one pharmacy being 75,583, and the lowest 15,582. Finland can lay claim to the phar-

macy nearest the North Pole—the one in Enare (latitude 69), in which the owner, working alone, made up 2,165 prescriptions.

Finland has adopted prohibition and the lawful sources of alcohol supply are the pharmacies; the pharmacists have petitioned the government to relieve them of this duty, and that supply depots be established; however, the request has been declined.

CAMPBOR INDUSTRY OF FOOCHOW.

In the course of a report dealing with the camphor industry in his district, the United States Vice-Consul at Foochow states that trees fit to be used for camphor distillation must be at least 20 years old. When a suitable tree is found a crude native distillery is set up at the spot. This consists of a boiler, with an iron base and a wooden top, connected to a distilling vat partially filled with water. The camphor upon being conducted to the vat precipitates on the inner walls, while the non-precipitable portions drop down as oil, which floats upon the water. About $5\frac{1}{4}$ pounds of camphor and camphor oil, in the proportions of 70 percent camphor and 30 percent camphor oil, can be produced from 240 pounds of chips. The districts where most of this initial distillation is done are Kienning, Yuchi, Yungan, Yenping, Tatien, Shaowu, Shahsien, and Ningte. The crude product is carried by porters to the Min River, or one of its tributaries, and then carried to Foochow by native boat.

The product as it leaves the distillery in the interior consists of "crystals," and camphor oil; the former are ready for marketing but the latter is redistilled, producing about half its weight of an inferior camphor; the deprived oil is used as a base for dyes and paints.

ITALIAN PUMICE INDUSTRY.

The highest grade of pumice known to the trade is of Italian origin. The seat of the industry is the volcanic island of Lipari, one of the group of the Aolian Islands lying off the north coast of Sicily about 40 miles from the Italian mainland. The town of Lipari, with a population of 10,000 inhabitants, is said to be one of the most prosperous communities in Italy, as most of the Italian pumice mines belong to the municipality, and the city collects an export duty in normal times amounting to a total of not less than 300,000 lire annually.

Roughly speaking, pumice is divided into three grades. (1) The crude material as it is taken out of the mine is known as "pumice chips" or "pezzame" and forms about 80 percent of the total exports to the United States. (2) Italian powdered pumice is a product of the local mills and is handled in bags for the export trade. The bulk of the exports to Great Britain, France, and countries other than the United States is in this form, the United States being the only country where the crude product is imported and converted into pure powdered pumice. (3) Lump pumice. The shipments from Lipari, during 1919, amounted to over 20 thousand tons, and exports are said to be increasing.

THE BRISTLE INDUSTRY OF RUSSIA.

According to a Memorandum prepared by the Russian Division of the United States Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, the difference between the American and the Russian methods of feeding hogs is as follows:— In America they are fed in pens on corn and other foods, while in Russia they run freely on pastures and fields and around the villages and are fed on domestic food refuse. Owing to the systematic feeding in the pens, the American hogs are ready for slaughtering within a few months, while in Russia it takes several years. Russian bristles grow coarse and long, first, because the pig spends the greater part of his life in fresh air on pastures, and, second, because of the comparatively cold climate, particularly in Siberia, from whence the finest grades of bristles come—the region between the Ural mountains and Lena River.

The preparation of the assorted bristles is mainly in the hands of the Jewish population of the cities, who own small bristle factories, where workers sort, straighten, turn and drag the bristles. The chief centers for the prepara-

tion of bristles are the many towns in the north-western Provinces of Minsk, Vitebsk, Vilna, Kovno, Baltic Provinces, Poland, and the Ukraine. The essentially Jewish character of the Russian bristle industry was the principal cause for the bristle market being held at the Leipzig fairs in Germany, where the Russian Jews had the right to enter without any restrictions. Although Petrograd was in many respects another important center for bristle-exportation, the restrictions on Jewish traders entering Petrograd prevented that city from being the principal trading center for bristles. Germany received, in 1913, 4,288,828 pounds, and the amount of the previous year was considerably larger.

PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

Prof. Dr. Hermann Schelenz, well-known-historian of pharmacy, records that the name "erythroxyline" was first given to cocaine, that it was isolated by pharmacist Dr. F. Gaedeke in the laboratory of Franz L. Sonnenschein, a Berlin pharmacist; the former later became owner of the pharmacy in Dömitz. Dr. Schelenz was elected to honorary membership in the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1912.

Prof. Adolph Ziefle, dean of the School of Pharmacy, Oregon Agricultural College, reported to the Oregon Pharmaceutical Association that, "it is the plan of the faculty of the College of Pharmacy to get more publicity for druggists in city and country papers. This work will be done in coöperation with the Department of Journalism at the college, which maintains a regular system for sending news to the press of the state. The work will be along the lines of advising the public regarding the responsibilities of the pharmacist, the kinds of service the pharmacists can render to the public, and something regarding the use and care of certain druggists' sundries, etc. Articles will also be published in the *Oregon Countryman*, a quarterly bulletin issued by students in the School of Agriculture and through other channels."

Bernard C. Ruppe is known as leader in New Mexico pharmacy, and is responsible for the first pharmacy law of that state. Major Ruppe has a ranch home in Tijeras Canon, near Albuquerque.

Dean W. G. Gregory, of the Buffalo College of Pharmacy, expresses the hope that the cornerstone of the chemical laboratory build-

ing, that is to house the pharmacy department of the college and the chemistry course, will be laid next month.

Dr. Armando Garcia, Havana, Cuba, has been instrumental in effecting the organization of a pharmaceutical society which has for an object the furtherance of pharmaceutical education and promotion.

Charles J. Clayton, secretary of the Colorado Pharmaceutical Association, announces that the Association will meet for one brief session on September 19, just before the convening of the National Association of Retail Druggists, in Denver. The thought is of organized effort in supporting the latter meeting.

Edward T. Hahn, of Philadelphia, became a benedict June 11; Mrs. Hahn was formerly Mrs. Sara Richards Brooks. Mr. Hahn is well and favorably known for his activities in state association work and in the Philadelphia A. Ph. A. Branch.

George M. Beringer, ex-president of the A. Ph. A., is about to enter manufacturing business on a large scale, in Camden, N. J. The organization is to be known as George M. Beringer, Inc.

Mme. Pierre Curie has put aside her habitual reticence in matters relating to herself and has written an article in a recent issue of *Je Sais Tout* in which she gives a glowing account of the reception in the United States, calling America a "nation of enthusiasts." She states that in her brief inspection of many laboratories she noted above all that the greatest care was taken in developing scientific activity and in perfecting methods.

Dr. O. Schmiedeberg, formerly and for many years professor of pharmacology in the University of Strassburg, died July 13, in Baden Baden, aged eighty-two years. He is perhaps

best known to us in connection with his research work on digitalis.

Business was suspended for an hour in Lafayette, Ind., August 15, during the funeral of Dean W. E. Stone. Many visiting educators attended the service as well as state officials. Purdue trustees and faculty members marched in a body to the church as the casket was carried in. The members of the State Board of Education also attended in a body.

The *Zeitschrift des Allgemeinen Oesterreichischen Apotheker-Vereins* has been merged with Dr. Heger's *Pharmazeutische Post*, under the latter name. The former was founded in 1847, the latter in 1868. The former became the official organ of the Society indicated by its name and the latter publication has been under the editorship of Dr. H. Heger since 1882.

David R. Mantell and editorial staff of *Atoms and Molecules*, the journal of the alumni association of Fordham College of Pharmacy, toured by automobile to White Lake, N. Y., where they spent the week ending July 17th. —*The Practical Druggist*.

The *Chemist and Druggist* of August 6 states that the fact the Paris Faculty of Pharmacy now possesses a handsome collection of old drug-pots, etc. (presented by M. Fialon some years ago), explains the circular recently issued by M. Bruntz, Dean of the Nancy Faculty of Pharmacy, in favor of a "Museum of the History of Pharmacy" for the capital of French Lorraine. The Dean has, it appears, already collected some 300 objects, and asks further contributions—old books, documents (diplomas, labels, etc.), photographs, drug-pots, weights, measures and scales, glassware, and obsolete drugs and medicaments.

OBITUARY.

ERNST SCHMIDT.

Honorary Member of the American Pharmaceutical Association since 1899.

One of the best teachers and most successful research workers pharmacy ever had is no more among us. Ernst Schmidt died July 5, of this year. Born on the 13th of July, 1845, at Halle, Germany, he began his career in pharmacy as a boy of sixteen, and from then on spent his entire life in the interests of phar-

macy, publishing his first scientific work on the preparation of tannin when twenty-three years of age.

All who knew him, even only from his publications, foremost among them his "Lehrbuch der Pharmaceutischen Chemie," must have admired his wide knowledge and his broad interest in the practical and scientific problems relating to pharmacy. Those who knew him as a teacher will likely never cease to be grate-