

# EDITORIAL NOTES

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## THE DES MOINES MEETING AND PHARMACY HEADQUARTERS.

The meeting of pharmaceutical organizations in Des Moines was successful; while the attendance was not very large and quite a number of regular attendants at the annual gatherings were missed, the representation did not fall far short of the average.

### RESEARCH CONFERENCE.

The Research Conference on Saturday, August 22, was attended by about 30 delegates. The Census of Research of 1925 was approved and the Chairman was directed to conduct a similar census in 1926; it is worthy of noting again that the former included 239 research workers. A list of research topics is to be published; the project to publish research achievements in pharmacy received favorable consideration and a committee was appointed to report thereon. H. V. ARNY and J. H. WEBSTER were reelected and JOHN C. KRANTZ, Jr. was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

The Ebert Medal replaces the Ebert Prize (in money) and was favorably commented on. This year's Medalist is Dr. Heber W. Youngken of Boston. "The Anatomy and Botanical Position of *Miré*" was the subject of investigation—published in March JOURNAL, A. PH. A., p. 195.

### A. C. P. F. AND N. A. B. P. MEETINGS.

The meetings on Monday and Tuesday, of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical

Faculties and National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, were well attended and interesting, and also the Pharmaceutical Laboratory Conference. As this report must be brief, the programs of these bodies are referred to, as printed in the July and August issues of the JOURNAL. Among the subjects of the latter were: "Presentation and Discussion of Outlines showing Instruction for a Three-Year Pharmacy Laboratory Course," "Discussion and Demonstration of Laboratory Teaching Methods," "How to Teach Prescription Pricing in a Dispensing Course," "How Should Percentage Solutions be Prepared at the Prescription Counter?"

Quite naturally, the three-year course in Pharmacy received consideration in the sessions of the N. A. B. P. and A. C. P. F., and, certainly, the report on Progress of Pharmacy Survey was most interesting and satisfactory. While we must forego the publication of extended excerpts from the report, the picture of the typical pharmacist which the college of pharmacy is to train is reprinted.

### THE TYPICAL PHARMACIST.

"He is a man with interests and obligations outside of his profession; his personality and character should be of a high degree of competence. In his profession, he buys and sells a wide variety of products, he fills prescriptions and manufactures those products which it is advisable not to purchase. He assists in the control of insects, fungi and germs. He is a valuable source of information on public and private health and other scientific matters.

\* See item following Council Letter No. 9, p. 842.

As a pharmacist, he intelligently reads the authoritative treatises of his profession; he endeavors to understand and obey the laws of his country; and he continually labors to keep abreast of his profession."

#### PHARMACY WEEK.

The Sections held interesting sessions and to do justice to them will require complete reports; these will be published in a succeeding issue of the JOURNAL.

The Pharmacy Week plan, *as a means of acquainting the public with the professional services of the pharmacist*, was heartily endorsed. The following resolution was adopted:

#### BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Publicity Committee of The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION be requested to draft the following label:

"Do not neglect to do your part in helping to make Pharmacy Week a success. See to it that your store and display windows demonstrate the high type of professional service which you are capable of rendering to the public in the interests of the conservation of public health."

PHARMACY WEEK—beginning OCTOBER 11th. (This label attached at the request of The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.)

"That a sample of this label be mailed to the manufacturing and wholesale druggists of the country, asking that they, *as their contribution in helping to successfully carry out the purpose of Pharmacy Week*, cause a sufficient number of similar labels to be printed to permit them to attach one to each invoice which they send out between that time and October 11th."

#### HISTORY OF AMERICAN PHARMACY, MUSEUM AND LIBRARY.

Progress was shown in the preparation of the History of American Pharmacy by Editor Clyde L. Eddy, and several co-authors presented parts of their chapters, others reported progress. The Historian exhibited historical matter linked with the first U. S. Pharmacopoeia, all of which will become part of the A. PH. A. Museum and Library; through the kindness of Senior Ex-President J. U. Lloyd a Wedgwood mortar has been donated and with it a sketch of the maker, Josiah Wedgwood. The Historian requested all who had articles, manuscripts, etc., of historical value, to wrap the same and mark "for the

AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION" so that, as soon as a safe place has been provided, these may be properly taken care of.

#### THE HEADQUARTERS.

Excellent progress in the Headquarters' Project has been made—enthusiasm was evident at the meeting, which was attended largely by those who had contributed; additional contributions amounting to more than \$10,000 were made. Further activity will be stimulated in states where the quota has not been reached. A rising vote of thanks was tendered Chairmen H. A. B. Dunning and E. L. Newcomb.

#### HOSPITALITY.

The hospitality of Des Moines and Iowa was shown throughout the convention days. The welcome was as genuine as the hospitality, and the only difficulty that obtained was to acknowledge proper appreciation without interference with the working program. The names of the entertainers are so well known, favorably and generally, that mention of names is not necessary; expressions of thanks were voted and made part of the minutes and will be reported therein. Suffice it to say that the entertainments began on Sunday with open house at the Agricultural College at Ames and ended on Saturday with sight-seeing at the "Great Fair;" in the interim banquets, music, visits to the homes of hosts and business establishments, drives, musical and other entertainments filled in every spare moment—the hospitality was unbounded.

#### BULLETINS OF THE DRUG TRADE BUREAU OF PUBLIC INFORMATION.

Director, Robert P. Fischelis has issued Bulletins C-34 to C-38.

Bulletin C-34 relates to Pharmacy Week, to be held during the week of October 11. We are quoting at length from this bulletin:—

Closer contact with the pharmacists of European and other countries, as a result of scientific progress in the last decade, has, it is said, largely inspired the idea of Pharmacy Week. In Europe, for many centuries, the twenty-seventh of September has been set aside by pharmacists in honor of Cosmas and Damian, who are regarded as "the saints of pharmacy."

Practically all of the nation's drug organizations and colleges of pharmacy are aiding the plan, which aims to restore "a professional

background in the drug store, now obscured in an age of commercialism."

Through a united exhibition of pharmacy extending to every city and town, it is hoped to correct the mistaken impression that "the modern drug store is no longer, in the strict meaning of the term, a drug store."

The public should have "a true visualization of the time-honored profession of pharmacy." Other objects are to combat the "drugless" drug store idea, and to sustain the confidence of the medical, nursing, and allied professions.

The displays should feature the advance of pharmacy as a science. Prescriptions written by physicians for distinguished men and women will be shown, among them one prepared for Abraham Lincoln and another for Robert E. Lee. Prescriptions typical of the Middle Ages, in which insects and parts of animals formed a part, and pictures of ancient pharmacists and pharmacies, will be included, as well as serums, anti-toxins and vaccines.

Pharmacy Week, rightly conducted, will tend to bring to national attention the marked progress which has been made in pharmacy in the direction of higher ethics, of sounder standards of education, and of heightened business morality. It is the intention to develop educational plans which will make this profession comparable in dignity to that of law and medicine.

The Headquarters' Project should be featured and public interest created.

Bulletin C-35 relates to the Plant Science Laboratory Seminar. Reference was made in July JOURNAL, p. 637. The program was continued during the week of August 17. Monday, a botanical excursion to the sand dune regions supplied the subjects for discussion—collecting, preparing of specimens, etc. Tuesday was spent in the greenhouses of the University, and methods of drying, garbling and powdering of drugs were discussed. Wednesday, laboratory work, standards, herbarium specimens, pharmacognosy were subjects under discussion. Assay methods were considered on Thursday; Friday was given over largely to a botanical excursion up the Minnesota River valley, and the final session was devoted to a consideration of the work accomplished during the week.

Bulletin C-36 outlined the work in European conferences participated in by American pharmacists; editorial comment was made in the August JOURNAL.

Bulletin C-37 relates to the convention of the

National Association of Retail Druggists in Memphis, September 21-25.

Bulletin C-38 gives interesting data relating to U. S. P. revision work, the new standards and the further promotions of the Board of Trustees. See p. 467 of JOURNAL for June, and editorial comments in the August issue.

#### THE PHOTOSTAT IN LIBRARY WORK.

By use of the photostat drawings, rare manuscripts and printed matter of all kinds are made accessible to researchers and others desiring information. This service is growing in the larger libraries and will become a valuable service of the Library of the American Pharmacy Headquarters. The photostat copies made in the New York Public Library last year totaled almost 60,000, ranging from a copy of less than a page or illustration to an entire book and hundreds of prints.

#### THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

The British Museum was founded 166 years ago. Its beginnings were of the most modest sort; some of the most striking facts concerning the library of the museum, at the present time, are these:

There are three miles of bookcases eight feet high in the library and reading room to-day.

Assuming that the shelves are filled with books of average thickness, the leaves if placed edge to edge would extend 25,000 miles, three times the diameter of the earth.

The shelves in the bookcases are twenty-eight miles in length, linear measurement.

With the bookcases, shelving and the total shelving in the printed book department, the grand total is forty-eight miles.

The number of volumes in the department is in excess of 3,000,000.

#### THE CENTENARIES OF THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHARMACY AND OF THE JOURNAL OF THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE.

The *American Journal of Pharmacy* will celebrate its centenary this year; of this mention has been made in previous issues of this publication. The prospectus of the *Journal of the Franklin Institute* was issued August 1825, and the first number appeared January 1826.

#### GUY'S HOSPITAL, AND PILOCARPINE.

Thomas Guy, founder of Guy's Hospital, died December 27, 1824. He was permitted

to see the completion of the building, but died before the opening day, January 6, 1825. This is therefore the bi-centenary year of the founding of the hospital and of the passing of its founder.

This is also the 50th anniversary of the isolation of Pilocarpine by A. W. Gerrard, the first qualified dispenser at Guy's Hospital, from 1862 to 1872. His story of a self-administered dose of pilocarpine is worth repeating, and is reprinted from the *Chemist and Druggist*, of June 27, 1925.



Guy's Hospital two hundred years ago from an engraving, made shortly after its opening in 1725, showing the double quadrangle which still remains.—“*The C. & D. Annual*.”

“Having extracted from jaborandi two residues, one of which appeared to be the alkaloid and the other an aromatic principle, he arranged with his assistant to take one of these and he (Gerrard) would take the other, giving his assistant first choice. The assistant selected the aromatic body, which was inert; Gerrard swallowed the supposed alkaloid. In about ten minutes his head and face were covered with perspiration, saliva flowing from his mouth profusely. The house physician was called, and ordered weak brandy and water to be taken. At the end of three hours the action had slightly lessened, and the patient was sent home with a nurse. After six hours the action of the drug had ceased, and so scarce was the saliva that well-buttered toast felt like cinders in the mouth. Next morning all was well again excepting some exhaustion. By means of this experiment Gerrard was able definitely to isolate the alkaloid, and eventually crystallized it as the nitrate. Dr. Ringer,

For U. S. hospitals, of a century or more ago, see December *JOURNAL*, 1920, p. 1132; August, 1922, p. 590; June, 1923, pp. 477, 543.

the eminent therapist at University College, thereafter established its physiological and therapeutical properties.”

#### LARGE GIFT TO BRISTOL (ENGLAND) MUSEUM.

Sir George Wills has given £75,000 to the City of Bristol for the enlargement of its museum.

#### PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

The election of a permanent secretary to serve the ASSOCIATION, the House of Delegates and the Council, A. PH. A., brings about several changes. Treasurer E. F. Kelly was unanimously elected at the Des Moines meeting as Secretary. Robert P. Fischelis has efficiently served as secretary of the Council since 1923, succeeding A. G. DuMez, the successor of Joseph W. England. Those who have become acquainted with the work of the outgoing secretary realize how well the work has been done, and this applies also to the precedents. Invariably, what should have been leisure hours were called upon in the discharge of these duties. None of them failed in doing their duty. What has been said of the foregoing applies to the services rendered by Secretary William B. Day, who, however, continues in office until January. The ASSOCIATION has been served by faithful officials throughout the years of its activities; to those mentioned and their predecessors much of the success of the ASSOCIATION is due. Few associations, if any, can point to so large a number of ex-presidents who regularly attend the annual conventions; those who are compelled to be absent, send messages of regret and encouragement. Only five of the past presidents were absent—the others shared the hospitality of Past President and Mrs. Henry M. Whelpley at a dinner during convention week; their good ladies graced the occasion.

A most happy time, at the opening session of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, was enjoyed by those in attendance when the New York members paid tribute to their friend and fellow-member, William L. Du Bois, who had on the day previous celebrated his 87th birthday. The basket of flowers which was presented to him is shown, but only one of the 87 cigars given him by the ladies. Mr. Du Bois came to Des Moines after a visit to his children and grandchildren in Dakota, accompanied by his daughter Miss C. I.