

EDITORIAL

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THE LIBERTY BELL IS THE SPIRITUAL HEART OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL.

THE *Philadelphia Evening Ledger* of a few weeks ago had a most interesting editorial under a caption the substance of which is embodied in the above. The historic symbol is revered by visitors to this country as well as by us. Li Hung Chang, when standing before the Liberty Bell the first time, has been represented as saying to himself:

"I could not hear the voice in my ears;
But in my heart its tones took hold,"

and so it is that there is a procession of visitors almost daily, and at the present time the lines of patriots are long. Many eyes are dimmed, many a heart swells with pride and patriotism during these visits to the "Shrine of Liberty." It may well be questioned whether any nation preserves a relic of so great historic significance, one that speaks so clearly the language of freedom and proclaims its message so soul-stirringly.

Whatever we may see at the Exposition, and this will be a comprehensive, artistic, dignified exposition, the commemorative thought is after all uppermost. Every citizen loves dearly the emblem spoken of and the celebration in Philadelphia offers the opportunity of seeing it or standing by it again, as the case may be. Though silent, it proclaims a message sounding loud throughout the world.

It may be said that men of all lines of activities visit the resting place of Benjamin Franklin, because he was not only a pioneer but the things he promoted were of great value to the people of his country, of the world. He appealed to all because whatever he did had a wide application. He was not only patriotic and loyal, but he possessed the scientific interest and professional spirit. No one of his period was more highly esteemed and regarded and to-day he is accepted by many as the greatest of our citizens—the qualities mentioned contributed thereto—his activities were many-sided; he studied problems for their general worth and value and then interpreted their meaning, importance and service to the public.

The connection of the Liberty Bell with Pharmacy may not be close but application can be made without shocking the feelings of our readers, for Pharmacy has a mission of service and it is that which will have a clearer meaning and tone at the Philadelphia meeting, if we listen to the intonations of service for Pharmacy and rightly interpret its meaning to the public.—E. G. E.

ADDITION TO SPECIAL NOTICES, NATIONAL FORMULARY V, PAGE XLI, BY AUTHORITY OF THE NATIONAL FORMULARY COMMITTEE.

Vegetable Drugs.—The official definitions and standards for vegetable drugs apply to all forms in which they may enter commerce, whether whole, cut, ground, powdered, or otherwise prepared for use, unless specifically exempted in the monograph or admitted under authority for manufacturing or for a special purpose.

Vegetable drugs are to be as free as practicable from insects or other animal life, animal material or animal excreta. They are to be free from moldiness and show no discoloration, abnormal odor, sliminess, or deterioration due to any cause.

For the preservation of vegetable or animal substances from the ravages of insects, it is directed in special cases that they be preserved in tightly closed containers with a few drops of chloroform or carbon tetrachloride added. It is not intended that this precaution should be obligatory for drugs in bales or large original containers where it may be impracticable.

The following drugs are particularly liable to the attack of insects: *Angelicae Radix*, *Anisum*, *Arnica*, *Avena Sativa*, *Bryonia*, *Coriandrum*, *Crocus*, *Foeniculum*, *Ficus*, *Humulus*; *Inula*, *Iris*, *Juniperus*, *Lappa*, *Matricaria*, *Myristica*, *Pinus Alba*, *Prunum*, *Rhamnus Cathartica*, *Rumex*, *Sabal*, *Stillingia* and *Taraxacum*.

In commerce it is not possible to obtain vegetable drugs in a state of absolute purity, and a limited amount of innocuous, extraneous, or foreign matter adhering to the drug or admixed with it is usually not detrimental. The presence or admixture of any poisonous or dangerous foreign substance, however, is not permissible. Foreign organic matter refers to any part of the plant or plants yielding the drug, except that part or those parts designated as constituting the drug, and to any other plant parts, vegetable tissues, or substances.

In order that vegetable drugs be of a uniform quality and as free as practicable from foreign substances, it is required that in each vegetable drug recognized in this National Formulary the amount of foreign inorganic matter, estimated as acid-insoluble ash, be not more than 2 per cent of the weight of the drug unless otherwise specified in the monograph of the drug, and that the amount of foreign organic matter be restricted to the allowable percentage specified in the monograph of the drug. Before vegetable drugs are ground or powdered, all lumps of dirt or other foreign inorganic matter which can be separated by mechanical means should be removed.

[This matter came too late for inclusion in the first printing of National Formulary V, and is printed here for your information. If you have purchased a copy of the first issues of N. F. V, you may secure a loose leaf of these "Additions to Special Notes," gratis, by writing to the Chemical Catalog Company, 19 E. 24th St., New York City.]

THE PROCTER MEMORIAL AND THE MUSEUM OF THE A. PH. A. HEADQUARTERS.

AFTER rendering his report at the recent meeting of the Maryland Pharmaceutical Association, Chairman James E. Hancock of the Procter Memorial spoke, in substance, as, follows:

"It might be well to explain that part of the report which says—'It has been the policy of the Committee on the William Procter, Jr. Memorial Fund to wait for more definite plans of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION Headquarters Building Committee, rather than attempt something that might be regretted in the near future.'

"Some time ago I gathered together certain materials with the idea that one of the features of the proposed AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION Headquarters Building will include a museum on Pharmacy. My hopes are that this