

EDITORIAL NOTES

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COMMISSIONED HOSPITAL CORPS PROPOSED FOR NAVY.

SURGEON GENERAL SUBMITS RECOMMENDATION
FOR REFERENCE TO CONGRESS.

PHARMACISTS WITH NOT LESS THAN FOUR
YEARS OF WARRANT SERVICE ELIGIBLE.

Rear Admiral Edward R. Stitt, surgeon general of the Navy, has recommended establishment of a commissioned personnel for the Navy Hospital Corps, and he submits his proposal in the form of a bill for reference to Congress.

The bill provides for the rank of lieutenant-commander, lieutenant (junior grade), and ensign in the hospital corps, for the purpose of affording opportunity for promotion to commissioned rank of meritorious enlisted and warrant personnel of the corps. The number of commissioned Hospital Corps officers would not exceed 50, with the further limitation that only one of the number would have the rank of lieutenant commander.

The personnel eligible for examination and appointment in the commissioned Hospital Corps would be chief pharmacists and pharmacists who have had not less than four years of chief warrant or warrant service, and when appointed would be given the rank of ensign. The bill proposes that there shall be appointed originally 25 officers with the rank of ensign, and 5 annually hereafter, until the authorized number have been commissioned. Promotion to the higher ranks of lieutenant (junior grade) and lieutenant would be governed by the same laws as now or hereafter may pertain to officers of the other staff corps of the Navy in the same grades or ranks, with the same pay and allowances, and with the same rights of retirement as now pertain to other officers.

The submission of this project by the surgeon general is in accordance with recommendations that have been made by him annually since 1913. The reasons set forth are: That the duties of pharmacist and chief pharmacist are such as make them deserving of commissioned rank, and with rank conferred the scope of their activities can be extended and their responsibilities increased to material advantage; that other classes of warrant officers have or have had opportunity to attain commissioned rank in the regular Navy, and that the experience of the Army with its analogous medical administrative corps has been highly satisfactory.

Officers serving in the Navy with the warrant rank of pharmacist and with the chief warrant rank of chief pharmacist for many years have been seeking an opportunity to attain commissioned rank, which is open to all other officers of the warrant classes, with the possible exception of carpenters and chief carpenters.

Dr. E. R. Stitt (Rear Admiral) is a graduate in pharmacy.

PHARMACY IMPORTANT IN MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Weekly Roster and Medical Digest (Philadelphia) for October 8th comments on the address of President Joseph W. England, Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association; the following is quoted from the comment, covering two pages:

"Despite the commercial appearance of the average drug store, the profession of pharmacy is not dead. It is in danger of being submerged by ultra-commercialism, but it is undergoing an evolution, not a devolution; and with higher education, legislation to protect the profession of pharmacy against com-

mercial exploitation, and the encouragement and support of the medical profession, it is believed that the profession of pharmacy will emerge from its present travail and give birth to a newer and better pharmacy. The continued existence of the profession of pharmacy is too important a factor in the practice of medicine—too vital to the public health to be permitted to die. The profession of pharmacy has a history of which it may well be proud."

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS FOR PHARMACOGNOSIST AND PHARMACOLOGIST.

The United States Civil Service Commission announces the following open competitive examinations for Junior Pharmacognosist and Junior Pharmacologist.

Applications for these positions must be on file with the Civil Service Commission at Washington, D. C., not later than December 30th. The examinations are to fill vacancies in the Department of Agriculture, and the Public Health Service, for duty in Washington, D. C., or in the field.

The entrance salary in the District of Columbia is \$1860 a year. A probationary period of six months is required; advancement after that depends upon individual efficiency, increased usefulness, and the occurrence of vacancies in higher positions.

The duties of junior pharmacognosist are to examine under the direction of an associate pharmacognosist all crude drugs and spices coming within the jurisdiction of the Federal food and drugs act, and to determine whether or not they are adulterated or misbranded.

The duties of junior pharmacologist are to assist in the study of pharmacological action of drugs and to act as a research assistant to the pharmacologist; to conduct bioassays upon U. S. P. drugs and glandular products; and to assist in the development of bioassay methods for various drugs.

Full information may be obtained from the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., or the Secretary of the United States civil service board of examiners at the post office or customhouse in any city.

NEW AND NONOFFICIAL REMEDIES.

The following additional articles have been accepted as conforming to the rules of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association for admission

to New and Nonofficial Remedies. A copy of the rules on which the Council bases its action will be sent on application.

W. A. PUCKNER, *Secretary.*

BROMURAL. — $(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2\text{CHBr.CO})\text{HN.CO.NH}_2$.—2 - monobromoisovalerylurac, obtained by the interaction of urea with bromoisovaleryl bromide.

Actions and Uses.—Bromural is a nerve sedative which produces sleep in mild cases of insomnia without markedly affecting the circulation or respiration. All action by bromural is said to cease after from three to five hours. In many cases, however, the sleep caused by the preparation continues beyond the limits of its action. It is claimed to be useful as a nerve sedative and for the purpose of inducing sleep in functional nervous disease. Bromural is not effective in cases of insomnia associated with pain, cough, angina pectoris or delirium.

Dosage.—As a nerve sedative, 0.3 Gm. (5 grains), three times daily; as a hypnotic at bedtime, 0.6 Gm. (10 grains), which dose may be repeated if advisable during the night, after the action of the first dose has ceased.

Manufactured by E. Billhuber, Inc., New York, by license of the Chemical Foundation, Inc. U. S. patent 914,518 (March 9, 1909; expired). U. S. trademark 61,165.

Bromural Tablets, 5 grains (0.3 Gm.).

Bromural forms small, white, almost tasteless needles which are easily soluble in hot water, ether, alcohol and alkalis, but less readily in cold water. It sublimes on heating and melts at from 147 to 149 C.

Bromural can be precipitated from a 10 per cent sodium hydroxide solution with acids. The presence of bromine may be demonstrated by fusion with sodium carbonate and potassium nitrate and testing for a bromide with silver nitrate solution. On heating the alcoholic solution of bromural with sodium ethylate for several hours on the water-bath, sodium bromide will precipitate. If this is filtered off and the filtrate evaporated, a crystalline mass remains which can be recrystallized from water. This is dimethylacrylic acid, melting at 280 C. If 1 Gm. of bromural is boiled for about one minute with 10 per cent solution of sodium hydroxide, ammonia obtained from the urea will be given off. If the hot liquid is then cooled, acidified with nitric acid and extracted with ether, and the ether evaporated, an oily fluid, 1-brom-isovaleric acid, which has the specific odor of valeric acid, will remain. The biuret reaction cannot be obtained. On melting bromural and adding concentrated sodium hydroxide solution and copper sulphate, no color reaction will take place.

From *Jour. A. M. A.*, Oct. 8, 1927.

ERYSIPELAS STREPTOCOCCUS ANTI-TOXIN (See New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1927, p. 337).

Parke, Davis & Co., Detroit.

Erysipelas Streptococcus Antitoxin Refined and Concentrated P. D. & Co.

This antitoxin is prepared by immunizing horses with cultures of streptococcus isolated from erysipelas. The blood serum is withdrawn from the immunized animals and is concentrated and refined by methods similar to

those used for other antitoxins. The antitoxin is standardized by determining how many skin test doses of toxin each cubic centimeter of the antitoxin will neutralize. The potency of the marketed product is declared in "units," a unit representing the amount of antitoxin required to neutralize one skin test dose of toxin. The product is claimed to possess both antitoxic and antibacterial properties. It is marketed in packages of one piston syringe containing 500,000 units.

From *Jour. A. M. A.*, Oct. 15, 1927.

MESUROL. — Benzobis. — Basic Bismuth Methoxy Hydroxy Benzoate.—A basic bismuth salt of methoxyhydroxybenzoic acid, of variable composition, containing from 54 to 57 per cent of bismuth.

Actions and Uses.—Mesurol is proposed as a means of obtaining the systemic effects of bismuth in the treatment of syphilis (see New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1927, p. 99, Bismuth Compounds).

Dosage.—Mesurol is administered intramuscularly in the form of emulsion mesurol, 20 per cent. The initial dose is 0.5 cc., increase to 1 cc. at the second dose and continued until from eight to twelve doses have been administered.

Manufactured by the Bayer Company, Rensselaer, N. Y. (Winthrop Chemical Company, Inc., New York, distributor). U. S. patent 1,522,054 (Jan. 6, 1925; expires 1942). U. S. trademark 226,373.

Emulsion Mesurol, 20 per cent: A suspension of mesurol in sesame oil, each cubic centimeter of which contains mesurol equivalent to from 0.103 to 0.117 Gm. of bismuth (Bi).

Mesurol is a yellowish gray powder, insoluble in water and in most organic solvents.

Suspend about 0.05 Gm. of mesurol in 5 cc. of water, add 5 cc. of ammonium sulphide: the solid blackens. Suspend 0.1 Gm. in 5 cc. of water, acidify with hydrochloric acid and allow to cool; crystals appear, which, on addition of ferric chloride solution, causes the formation of a deep blue color; the crystals, after drying melt at 152 C.

Agitate 1 Gm. of mesurol with 20 cc. of chloroform, filter the liquid and evaporate the filtrate to dryness: not more than 0.005 Gm. of residue remains (*free methoxy hydroxy benzoic acid*). Ignite 3 Gm. in a quartz crucible, cool and cautiously add drop by drop just sufficient nitric acid to dissolve the residue when it is warmed; pour the acid solution into 100 cc. of distilled water, evaporate the filtrate on the water-bath to 30 cc., again filter and divide the filtrate into 5 cc. portions; to one portion add an equal volume of diluted sulphuric acid: the liquid does not become cloudy (*lead*). Add an excess of ammonia water to another portion; the supernatant liquid does not exhibit a bluish tint (*copper*). Add to another portion diluted hydrochloric acid: a precipitate, insoluble in an excess of hydrochloric acid and soluble in ammonia water, is not formed (*silver*). Boil 1 Gm. in 70 cc. of water, add hydrochloric acid in small portions to the boiling suspension until the suspended particles dissolve, saturate with hydrogen sulphide and filter; evaporate the filtrate to a small bulb, cool, transfer to a platinum dish, add 2 cc. of sulphuric acid, evaporate to dryness and ignite: the residue weighs less than 0.005 Gm. (*alkali or alkaline earth salts*). Triturate about 0.05 Gm. with 0.1 Gm. of sodium salicylate and 5 cc. of distilled water, superimpose the mixture on 5 cc. of sulphuric acid: no pink or brownish red zone is observed at the line of contact (*nitrate*). Suspend 0.06 Gm. in boiling water, add diluted nitric acid in small portions until the suspended particles dissolve, cool, dilute to 50 cc., add 1 cc. of silver nitrate solution: a precipitate is not formed (*chloride*).

Transfer about 2 Gm. of mesurol, accurately weighed, to a quartz crucible; dry to constant weight at 100 C.: the loss in weight at 100 C. is not more than 1 per cent. Ignite the dried product and after cooling add 5 cc. of nitric acid drop by drop to the residue,

warming until solution has been effected, evaporate to dryness, carefully ignite it at red heat, and weigh the resulting bismuth oxide: the residue corresponds to not less than 54 per cent nor more than 57 per cent of bismuth. The residue meets the requirements of Bettendorf's test, U. S. P. X. page 430 (*arsenic*).

From *Jour. A. M. A.*, Oct. 22, 1927.

SULPHARSPHENAMINE (See New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1927, p. 80).

Sulpharsphenamine - DePree.—A brand of sulpharsphenamine-N. N. R.

Manufactured by DePree Laboratories, Inc., Holland Mich. (The DePree Company, Holland, Mich., distributor) under U. S. patent 1,024,993 (April 30, 1912; expires 1929) by license of the Chemical Foundation, Inc.

Sulpharsphenamine-DePree, 0.1 Gm. Ampuls.
Sulpharsphenamine-DePree, 0.15 Gm. Ampuls.
Sulpharsphenamine-DePree, 0.2 Gm. Ampuls.
Sulpharsphenamine-DePree, 0.3 Gm. Ampuls.
Sulpharsphenamine-DePree, 0.4 Gm. Ampuls.
Sulpharsphenamine-DePree, 0.45 Gm. Ampuls.
Sulpharsphenamine-DePree, 0.6 Gm. Ampuls.
Sulpharsphenamine-DePree, 1.0 Gm. Ampuls.
Sulpharsphenamine-DePree, 3.0 Gm. Ampuls.

SCARLET FEVER IMMUNITY TEST (See New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1927, p. 374).

E. R. Squibb & Sons, New York.

Scarlet Fever Streptococcus Toxin-Squibb. (See New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1927, p. 375): This product is now marketed in packages of five vials of toxin containing, respectively, 500, 2000, 8000, 25,000 and 60,000 skin test doses; in packages of fifty vials of toxin, ten containing 500 skin test doses, ten containing 2000 skin test doses, ten containing 8000 skin test doses, ten containing 25,000 skin test doses, and ten containing 60,000 skin test doses.

From *Jour. A. M. A.*, Nov. 5, 1927.

BLUEBERRY LEAF EXTRACT.—A preliminary report of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry will be found in *Jour. A. M. A.* for November 5, 1927, p. 1607.

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY REPORTS ON YEAR OF WORK.

Increasing national self-sufficiency in agricultural production is reflected in the annual report of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending June 30th, which has been made public. The report, by William A. Taylor, chief of the bureau, also summarizes the activities of the bureau which he describes as "primarily a research organization devoted to the investigation and improvement of plant production and plant industries."

Among numerous efforts toward self-sufficient agricultural production in the Nation, the report mentions continuance of the effort to provide a domestic supply of menthol by establishment of Japanese mint as a crop in the United States. The conclusion from these experiments is that it will be possible to produce such a crop of satisfactory oil content.

Santonin has been controlled by producers in Turkestan who have held it at a high price. Experiments at the Bureau's farm at Hermiston, Ore., and culture in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys in California indicate the possibility of a domestic supply. In California it grows "exceptionally well" and the report comments that "its introduction would be especially helpful as a money crop to the farmers in northeastern Oregon." An increase in the supply "will no doubt reduce the price considerably, but veterinarians express the opinion that its use for dosing hogs will greatly increase as the price declines, thus indicating a considerable opportunity for American producers."

The report covers 34 pages and includes more than 100 topical divisions.

PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

A sketch of Edward Curtis Franklin, former President of the American Chemical Society, researcher, chemist, writer and teacher is printed in the November number of *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*, under "American Contemporaries." The details of facts and years has been made interesting by stories from the life and records of achievements of the well and favorably known scientist who, before coming to the University of Kansas, had some experience in a Kansas drug store.

The Lycoming County Druggists' Association, at a dinner-meeting held November 30th at The Lycoming, was addressed by **L. L. Walton**, former President of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, on the subject, "Changes in the United States Pharmacopoeia." The out-of-town guests were: Hiram Coffee, of Mill Hall; Robert Myers, Oscar Kraemer and Edgar Heffner, Sr., all of Lock Haven; William S. Milliner, Secretary-Manager of Williamsport Chamber of Commerce, also was a guest.

Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, Surgeon-General of the U. S. Public Health Service, returned to Washington on November 8th, after attending the eighth Pan-American Sanitary Conference in Lima, Peru. Dr. Cumming was reelected to his third term of three years as *Director*. Dr. B. J. Lloyd will assist him, as heretofore, in the administration of his duties. Dr. Mario G. Libredo, of Cuba, was elected *Vice-Director*.

Mrs. Alice L. Braunswarth Halstead, of Muscatine, Ia., looks forward to next year

when, by having been a member of the ASSOCIATION for thirty-seven years, she will become a Life Member.

Miss Helen A. Timmerman, daughter of our fellow-member **Richard H. Timmerman**, New York, has been appointed instructor in Materia Medica at the College of Pharmacy, Columbia University. Miss Timmerman is an honor graduate of Columbia University College of Pharmacy, '23 and returned this summer from a two-year course of study abroad with the degree of Ph.D.

Harold W. Hutchins for the past five years with E. L. Patch Company whom he has represented in Philadelphia, has severed his connection with that house and joined the staff of the *Druggists Circular*.

The marriage of **Eli Lilly**, son of **J. K. Lilly** of Indianapolis, with Miss Ruth Allison, daughter of W. D. Allison, of the same city, took place on November 7th. Mr. and Mrs. Lilly left for a bridal tour in the Mediterranean.

Hynson, Westcott & Dunning, manufacturers of pharmaceuticals, Baltimore, has purchased what was formerly the residence of George Appold on Charles Street, adjacent to the laboratories and pharmacy of the corporation, which will be expanded.

The annual meeting and dinner of the Baltimore Drug Exchange Bureau of the Baltimore Association of Commerce, was held the evening of December 15th at the Emerson Hotel, Baltimore. The event was made especially interesting by the presence of State and national officials, among them Prohibition Commissioner, J. M. Doran.

The Pacific Drug Review, for November, has a commendable editorial on the work of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. Liberty is taken in quoting the following: "**** the A. P. H. A. represents all phases of the drug business, and is not scientifically overproportioned, as examination of any copy of the JOURNAL will convince. Even if the entire purpose were scientific, however, that is no reason why the entire store should not profit by any improvement which is thereby produced. The scientific branch of a store is its one excuse for existence and a betterment of this department certainly must raise the whole tone. The accomplishments of the ASSOCIATION in the past have covered every conceivable division of modern pharmacy and there is no reason to suppose that the future will bring any great change in policy."