

A new Pasteur Institute was recently established; also a new mobile laboratory for investigation of outbreaks of disease in villages. Provincial laboratories have been erected in Luxor, Asyut, Suez, Port Said and Alexandria for bacteriological investigation of disease. An institute of hygiene has been created for the training of sanitary inspectors. In three years 16 general hospitals and 28 village hospitals have been completed. There is a total of 35 ophthalmic hospitals, of which 21 are permanent and 14 traveling. In addition to hospitals, there are 14 clinics for the treatment of venereal disease. Several tuberculosis clinics have been established. A sanatorium containing 135 beds was opened in 1927 at Helouan.

For the treatment of *bilharzia* and *ankylostomiasis*, with which the agricultural population is heavily infected, there are traveling tent hospitals. There are 40 traveling child welfare clinics.

Among numerous future projects contemplated is the establishment of a new tuberculosis sanatorium intended to be the nucleus of a tuberculosis colony and the creation of a leper colony.

PRODUCTION OF CITRIC ACID.

H. T. Herrick, Principal Chemist in Charge and O. E. May, Chemist, Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, Department of Agriculture, in a report on the production of citric acid, refer to the fact that while the employment of molds in the production of foodstuffs is of very ancient origin, their utilization in the chemical industries has lagged far behind that of yeasts and bacteria, for the outstanding example of such employment was discovered as recently as 1890, and not translated into factory procedure until within the last five years. A German scientist first discovered that a certain variety of mold, when grown on cane sugar solutions, would produce citric acid. He gave the name of *citromyces* to his mold and took out patents to cover his discovery. When, however, an attempt was made to go from laboratory to factory scale, so many difficulties were encountered that the project was abandoned. For the next 20 years the work on this problem was chiefly confined to the laboratory, then an investigation was undertaken at the United States Department of Agriculture which led to the discovery of a different mold, better adapted to the production of citric acid from cane

sugar. After several years of laboratory work, the results were published and the project was taken into industry for trial there. Ten more years were necessary before the process emerged in a finished industrial form, but it is now in operation so successfully that Italian citric acid (the natural variety), has been driven from the American market, and even in Europe is on the defensive against the synthetic product. The total production of citric acid by this process is not known, but it is variously estimated as between five and ten million pounds.

DENTAL CEMENTS.

Analyses of various dental cements show that the powder consists of either zinc oxide or alumina and silica, or of a mixture, the fluid being phosphoric acid or a solution of acid zinc phosphate. All depend for their setting on the production of a phosphate gel. The plastic qualities depend on the fineness of division of the powder and the viscosity of the liquid. The authors have investigated new cements in which various oxides formed the powder and silico fluorides the liquid. Good results were obtained with zinc oxide or alumina and zinc fluosilicate. The zinc oxide cement gave quicker setting and greater final strength. The reaction of formation is $ZnSiF_6 + 2ZnO = 3ZnF_2 + SiO_2$. Another new cement is prepared by heating to 1400° 1 mol. of lanthanum oxide (La_2O_3) and 2 mols. of silica and mixing with phosphoric acid or acid zinc phosphate. The qualities of this cement are equal to those of standard dental cements.—O. Ruff, C. Friedrich and E. Ascher (*Z. Angew. Chem.*, 43 (1930), 1081-1087, through *B.C.A.-B.*, January 30, 1931).—*Jour. & Pharm.*, 72 (1931), 283.

PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

Resolutions were adopted by the Michigan Legislature citing the accomplishments and contributions to medicine and chemistry of Dr. Frederick G. Novy, professor of bacteriology, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor; Moses Gomberg, Sc.D., professor of chemistry, University of Michigan, and Reuben L. Kahn, Sc.D., who devised the Kahn precipitation test. The ceremony was attended by Gov. Wilber M. Brucker, Henry Ford, the Supreme Court justices, and other state officials and many physicians. Governor Brucker, in opening the program, stated that

the idea had been originated by Dr. James T. Upjohn, chairman of the Senate public health committee.

Ura O. Musick, of Colorado Springs, has been appointed a member of the Colorado State Board of Health. He received the endorsements of pharmacists and physicians for the place. Colorado now enters the lines of a number of other states having a pharmacist on the State Board of Health.

We were pleasantly surprised last month by a visit from pharmacist **John Cameron** of the Peiping Union Hospital, who recently made a partial tour of the world. In his journeys he took notes of the status of pharmacy and contributed a report to the *Pharmaceutical Journal and Pharmacist*. Before leaving he promised to give the JOURNAL a related account of his visit in Canada and the United States.

Dr. John R. Minehart, dean of Temple University School of Pharmacy, is recovering from a surgical operation and is attending to his duties again.

Walter D. Adams, president of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, and **James M. Pendland**, president of the National Wholesale Druggists' Association, were honored at a dinner June 6th at the Adolphus Hotel by the Dallas County Retail Druggists' Association, Ladies' Auxiliary, and Drug Travelers' Association. **Walter H. Cousins**, Secretary of the Texas Board of Pharmacy, presided as toastmaster.

Former President **L. L. Walton** of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION recently delivered a lecture before a graduating class of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science on "The Legal Phases of the Practice of Pharmacy and Sale of Drugs and Poisons." Mr. Walton is completing his 25th year as a member of the Pennsylvania Board of Pharmacy; his long experience with the pharmacy laws enables him to speak with authority on the subject.

Two mural paintings were unveiled and dedicated at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science on June 8th. These two murals are the first and last of a series of these paintings depicting the progress of pharmacy, and have been painted by **William F. Matthews** of Brooklyn, N. Y. The first of the series representing the beginning of pharmacy has been presented by Mrs. Charles H. LaWall and Miss G. H. Renshaw in memory of their father, **Thomas W. W. Renshaw**, a retail pharmacist who died in 1904.

The last one of the series representing modern pharmacy has been presented by **Dean Charles H. LaWall** in memory of his father, **John Jacob LaWall**, a retail pharmacist 1843-1896.

The presentation was made by **Col. Samuel Price Wetherill** and the murals were accepted on behalf of the college by **President Wilmer Krusen**.

Dr. Townes R. Leigh, member of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and head of the Department of Chemistry and Dean of the College of Pharmacy of the University of Florida has been appointed Florida State Chemist by Governor **Doyle E. Carlton**. During the World War **Dr. Leigh** invented the Leigh fog screen for the protection of vessels against submarines.

Ira W. Rose, for a number of years member of the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy, has been appointed a member of the teaching faculty of the School of Pharmacy of the University of North Carolina.

Erwin M. Joseph has been elected president of the Texas State Board of Pharmacy. He has been a member of the Board for the last six years and was *Vice-President* during the last two years.

The *Washington Post*, of May 31st, paid deserved tribute to the activity of **Surgeon General Ireland**, who recently retired. In speaking of him the article states "General Ireland is a bundle of energy, lightning quick in his decisions, and bustling in his manner." The article throughout speaks of the high regard in which the former Surgeon General is held.

Publicity bulletins of manufacturers evidence deep interest in professional pharmacy—they emphasize that "it is one of the proud boasts of Pharmacy that it coöperates with physicians and health authorities in guarding and promoting public health." The coöperation of manufacturers is most helpful.

Dr. R. L. Swain presented an instructive paper before the recent Economic Conference at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science on "What Can Be Done to Prevent the Sale of Active Therapeutic Substances by Those Not Qualified by Law." A keynote of his address was that professional recognition depends largely on professional activity and behavior.

In his inaugural address Governor **Albert C. Ritchie** asked "Does business want a minimum of government interference?" "Very well,"

he answers, "it can deserve and gain this freedom only by developing a higher order of self government and by tackling those problems which are of its own making instead of passing them on to government."

Rear-Admiral Bradley A. Fiske, retired, has sided with General MacArthur in his criticism of certain clergymen.

"My opinion," he said, "may be briefly expressed by saying that their significance is about the same as would be the replies of those 19,000 clergymen concerning proposed cures of cancer."

Admiral Fiske has stated a truth which applies in other activities. The following statement has been made in these pages, in another connection and is relevant. . . . "The deduction is that men of different professions may work together, but each class is best qualified to render service in the department for which the individuals have been trained by experience and education." The same thought was expressed and put into practice by Dr. John Morgan about 200 years ago.

The New York Pharmacist for May is an interesting number in which much attention is given to State Association matters; an important article is that on "Physician and Pharmacist," by H. V. Arny—it is the first of a series to be continued by other authors.

The Hudson County Retail Druggists Association has adopted a series of resolutions and articles which are being submitted to State associations for consideration. The resolutions are entitled "Prescription Department," "Advertising of U. S. P. and N. F. Preparations," "Combination or Companion Deals." Discussions on the subjects are included, all of them of interest to pharmacists.

In a recent report, Surgeon General H. S. Cumming of the Public Health Service indicates that the year ended June 30, 1930, has been characterized by additional legislation seeking to coördinate and crystallize the functions of the Narcotics Division, now designated by law as "Division of Mental Hygiene."

In the "Magazine Section" of *New York Times* S. J. Woolf sketches **William Jay Schieffelin** as a veteran crusader, whose interest in civic affairs exemplifies his belief that each citizen should perform his civic duties, and that the failure of graft inquiries is the result of citizens ignoring their duties. The wholesale drug firm of Schieffelin & Co., with minor changes in title, has been in

existence since 1794. Mr. Schieffelin is a former president of the National Wholesale Druggists' Association.

BRITISH CHEMICAL PLANT EXHIBITION.

The arrangements for the representative Exhibition of British Chemical Plant and Equipment which is to be held at Central Hall, Westminster, London, during the week of the Jubilee Celebrations of the Society of Chemical Industry from July 13th-18th, inclusive, are now practically complete. The whole of the available space has been booked with the greatest ease, thus showing the wide appeal which the Exhibition has made to owners of British chemical plants. Some fifty firms, among whom are the most important plant manufacturers in the country, will be exhibiting a wide range and variety of products.

OBITUARY.

CHARLES GIETNER.

Charles Gietner, prominent pharmacist of St. Louis, member of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION for thirty years and charter member of the N. A. R. D., died at his home May 17th, aged 65 years. The deceased was a native of St. Louis.

Mr. Gietner, an alumnus of the St. Louis College of Pharmacy, was known as the "father of its alumni association" and served as the treasurer since 1890. In all movements for the betterment of pharmacy he took a leading part and missed only a few of the annual meetings of the A. PH. A.—He was known as "the grand old man of Missouri pharmacy."

Mr. Gietner was active in the Masonic bodies; funeral services were held at Masonic Temple. He is survived by his widow.

Jacob Schrodt, a former president of Texas Pharmaceutical Association and prominent pharmacist, died at his home in Terrell, May 24th. He was an alumnus of Chicago College of Pharmacy, class of 1899.

Dr. Alfred Scott Warthin, noted pathologist, author and director of the University of Michigan pathological laboratories, died May 23rd, aged 66 years.