

## TONICS.

A meeting of the Guild of Public Pharmacists (Great Britain) was held on January 17th, Mr. H. N. Linstead (secretary of the British Pharmaceutical Society) in the chair. There was a large attendance to hear Dr. J. H. Burn give a lecture on "The Pharmacological Action of Some Well-Known Drugs." Professor Burn dealt in a most interesting manner with various drugs used as tonics and diuretics. The word "tonic," he said, "was in common use not only among laymen but also among pharmacists and doctors; it was therefore of interest to consider what was meant by a word which was used in many different senses. Substances so varied as gentian, strychnine, adrenaline, alcohol, thyroid and vitamin B might all be classed as tonics, and even then the list was incomplete. When the heart was removed from the body and made to beat by saline infusions, the application of strychnine had no effect. The beat of the heart in the body was improved by strychnine, but to understand this, one must consider the connection of the heart with the arterial system."

## REVISION OF BRITISH PHARMACEUTICAL CODEX.

Under the direction of the council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, reports are being issued preliminary to revising sections of the "British Pharmaceutical Codex." The report of the pharmacy sub-committee presents a summary of the principal new or revised formulas recommended by it for inclusion in the revision. The sub-committee recommends the inclusion of formulas for a number of preparations from earlier pharmacopœias which are not included in the British Pharmacopœia of 1932, but are still in more or less frequent demand.

## THE NEW SWISS PHARMACOPŒIA.

The new Swiss Pharmacopœia omitted 108 articles from the previous edition and has added 304 new articles, they include chemicals that are now required in medical practice. Very few drugs of animal origin have been officially recognized.

The Swiss government signed the international agreement for the unification of the formulas of potent drugs with reservations permitting the Swiss Pharmacopœial Committee to deviate from the strengths of galenical preparations laid down in the agreement and also per-

mitting variations in the nomenclature required by the agreement. Nineteen articles of the Pharmacopœia differ from the requirements of the international agreement.

The general principles of nomenclature of the previous pharmacopœia are followed. In some instances the British and the United States pharmacopœias have been drawn upon for titles. Standards for seventy drugs of formulas officially recognized are included. Vegetable drugs are carefully described, but only few biological tests have been adopted; for digitalis, the digitoxin chemical test is given.

## THE ESSENTIAL OILS OF THE SWISS PHARMACOPŒIA.

Ernest J. Parry in the *Chemist and Druggist* states "there are twenty-seven essential oils described in the fifth edition of the Swiss Pharmacopœia. Their description is preceded by a general monograph headed 'Olea Aetherea,' which purports to give a general account of their more usual adulterants. But treatment of this kind is not suitable for such a work, nor is it of any very practical value in most cases. For example, turpentine is to be detected by the formation of pinene nitroschloride in the fraction boiling at 155-156°. But all that this really does is to identify the pinene present, which is a natural constituent of many essential oils. Nor are the solubility, specific gravity, boiling point and levorotation of sufficient value to indicate the use of gurjun balsam, copaiba or cedarwood oils as adulterants. Chloroform and benzene can hardly be said to be adulterants of essential oils, and need not have been mentioned. Refractive indices are not quoted for the oils."

## PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

The *Deutsche Medizinische Wochenschrift* has entered on its 60th year; the occasion is celebrated by a special number which included the *Deutsches Tuberkulose-Blatt*.

The Rotary Club at Austin, Texas, owns the home in which "O. Henry" lived for a number of years. Various patriotic organizations, including the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Daughters of 1812 and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, have pledged themselves to gather O. Henry relics to be installed in this one of William Sidney Porter's many homes.

It was in Morely Bros. Pharmacy where a counter blotter was found in which O. Henry had written one of his earlier (unpublished) stories.

**Prof. Freeman P. Stroup** is successor to the late Joseph W. England, as recording secretary of the Alumni Association of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science.

**Dr. Eugene Maier** has been appointed chief bacteriologist of the Merck Institute of Therapeutic Research, Rahway, N. J. He was formerly Research Assistant in the Rockefeller Institute and also bacteriologist at Bellevue Hospital, department of pathology.

**Dr. A. Richard Bliss, Jr.**, director of The Research Laboratories of The William A. Webster Company, Pharmaceutical Manufacturers, became vice-president of the Company on February 6, 1934.

**Dr. Robert W. Morrison**, formerly Associate Professor of Pharmacology in the University of South Carolina, is now assistant to the Director of Research of the William A. Webster Company.

**George H. Needham**, fellow-member A. Ph. A., in San Francisco, has been giving evening courses in microscopy and photomicrography, participated in by pharmaceutical, food and industrial chemists. He is to address the San Francisco Teachers' Association on "Critical Microscopy."

**Robert L. Swain**, of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, will deliver the "Founders' Day Address" at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, February 23rd. He is to receive the Ph.M. degree, *honoris causa*.

The names of the ten men who stood highest in the vote of 4106 druggists on "What ten men make biggest news in the drug field?" conducted by the *American Druggist*, are: Carl Weeks, H. V. Army, John W. Dargavel, J. H. Beal, Wheeler Sammons, John H. Goode, Louis K. Liggett, W. Bruce Philip, Charles H. LaWall and E. F. Kelly. Forty-one hundred and six druggists voted.

**Samuel C. Henry**, former secretary of the N. A. R. D., has been named a member of the Review Advisory Board by National Recovery Administrator Hugh S. Johnson. This Board is to observe the effect of NRA codes upon small enterprises. The Board will meet for the first time February 26th.

**Walter G. Hodge** has been appointed national director of distribution for the William S. Merrell Company, Cincinnati.

Attention is directed to page 17 of an opening for a pharmaceutical chemist.

#### TEMPLE UNIVERSITY GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY.

Temple University, of Philadelphia, celebrated its fiftieth anniversary during the week of February 11th. The University has a wonderful history. As is well known, Russell H. Conwell was its founder and the spirit which moved him in this undertaking has resulted in an institution of which Philadelphia may well be proud. A memorial address was delivered on Sunday (February 11th), by Rev. Dr. N. Joseph Toomey in the auditorium of the Temple. Following this a presentation of the Conwell bust, by Boris Blai, was made in the great court of Mitten Memorial Hall.

During the week displays of medical, dental and pharmaceutical products were open to the public; galenicals and processes were exhibited in the laboratories of the School of Pharmacy.

On Wednesday, February 14th, there was a reception by the officers and directors of the pharmacy Alumni Association to the graduates and undergraduates of the School of Pharmacy. At night there was a faculty and alumni banquet to guests and delegates from universities, colleges and associations. The address was delivered by the Hon. R. S. Copeland, U. S. Senator from New York.

A Founders' Day celebration was held on Thursday, when the principal address was made by Dr. Glenn S. Frank, president of the University of Wisconsin.

The late Dr. John R. Minehart, former dean of the School of Pharmacy was for many years an active member of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

Dr. H. Evert Kendig is now the dean of the School of Pharmacy.

#### DRUG-CHEMICAL DINNER.

Reservations for the ninth annual dinner of the drug and chemical trades, to be held March 8th in the Waldorf-Astoria, New York City, under the direction of the Drug, Chemical and Allied Trades Section of the New York Board of Trade, are now twice those of a year ago, according to Joseph Huisking, chairman of the reception committee and head of the drive intended to make attendance cross the 1000 mark this year. Postmaster-General James A. Farley will be the principal speaker and plans call for broadcasting his speech over a national network beginning at ten o'clock.