

EDITORIAL

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SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MILITARY MEDICINE AND PHARMACY.

THE report of Commander William Seaman Bainbridge for the delegation from the United States has been issued in book form as Conference Series No. 12 of the Department of State, the Foreword is by the Surgeon General of the U. S. Army, Robert U. Patterson.

Among the contributors to the Congress were: Carlo Gorreta, Major Pharmacist-Chemist, Italy; Pharmacist-Colonel Morreau and Pharmacist-Commandant Raynaud, France; Jules Thomann, Colonel-Pharmacist of the Swiss Armies, Switzerland. Among the official delegates holding military titles and positions as pharmacists were: I. Etienne and W. Proot, Belgium; G. H. Barthet, F. Chaput, A. Saint-Sernin, France; S. Krupinski, Poland; Guerrero Rafael Roldan, Spain; J. Thomann, Switzerland. Other officers were present but not distinctively mentioned as pharmacists.

Among the conclusions unanimously adopted were: "The training of the military medical officer and pharmacist must embrace the medical or pharmaceutic science and military instruction. The training of military medical officers and pharmacists must be entrusted to the civilian faculties. It is desirable that throughout their career, military medical officers and pharmacists should attend courses of instruction in both professional and military subjects."

Military-Pharmacist, First Class, L. J. Roehner, of the Netherlands, contributed a paper on the preparation and storage of medicinal ampuls. Chief Pharmacist, Colonel G. Grintzesso and Captain J. Bibesco, Rumania, made a report based on a selection of the most practical, expeditious and reliable methods for the preparation of injection solutions. Chief Pharmacist-Chemist, First Class, A. Saint Sernin, France, contributed a tabulation of twenty-one medicinal ampuls in use in the French Navy, with data on their mode of sterilization and the length of time of their preservation, ranging from six months to three years. Pharmacist-Colonel Morreau and Pharmacist-Commandant Raynaud, France, reported on the preparation and preservation of medicinal ampuls in use in the service of the Armies on land and sea. Chemist-Pharmacist Colonel Fillipo Suzzi, Italy, briefly summarized the contributions made during about thirty years by the Italian Military Medical Service, through its investigations, methods and appliances of the many problems of pharmaceutical technique, with respect to the preparation and preservation of medicinal agents for hypodermic use, and with special reference to studies along the line of composition of the glass for the flasks. Major Pharmacist-Chemist Carlo Gorreta, Italy, gave a résumé on the preparation and preservation of ampuls in use by the Auxiliary Service of the Armies and Navies. Colonel Thomann, Pharmacist-in-Chief in the Swiss Army, reported on the preparation and preservation of ampuls and fluids for injection.

These comments are of necessity very brief, the reports and papers go into careful detail and testify to an essential service by pharmacists in the armies and navies which, unless reported, fail to receive proper credit.

The Eighth International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy will be held in Brussels, June 27th to July 3rd.

HOSPITAL DISTRIBUTION AND HOSPITAL SERVICE.

THE issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* for March 30th is the annual Hospital Number—always an informative publication; the issue of this year presents the report more comprehensively and represents a most valuable service of the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals. The maps give what may be termed a bird's-eye view of the hospital distribution, and enables those who study the situation to make deductions relative to the service rendered and the distribution of the institutions, geographic and otherwise.

The *Journal* comments editorially on the development of hospitals in rural and urban areas and makes deductions relative to the need of further extension, and also points out the possibilities of going beyond the needs of hospital requirements when compared with the demand and support for the institutions. This comment is to express appreciation of the annual study and the service rendered by the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

VARIATION IN THE CONTRIBUTORY HARMFULNESS OF PETROLEUMS.

THE Manchester Cancer Committee is investigating petroleum oils and tars from the standpoint of their harmfulness as contributory causes of cancer. It seems that two oils from the same region rarely exhibit identical potencies, but the report is that the oils of some sections are less harmful than that of other territories. It may still be questioned whether the classification has gone far enough to report results definite and accurate; however, foundation has been laid by Dr. C. C. Twort for further research which will interest investigators of our profession and other research workers. The investigations may lead to discoveries other than the causes for high mortality from cancer in oil fields and petroleum refineries.

A BILL FOR EXTENDING THE LIFE OF THE NRA.

S. 2445 (by Senator Harrison) seeks to extend the life of the NRA. Coöperating, by delaying a decision on the constitutionality of the National Industrial Recovery Act, the Solicitor General will ask (?) the Supreme Court to dismiss the government's own appeal in the Belcher case. "After the dismissal of the appeal, the Supreme Court's docket will not include any case in which that tribunal might have the opportunity of deciding a broad issue relating to the National Recovery Act." There seems, therefore, no immediate prospect of a final decision by the Supreme Court in an NRA case.

Press opinions are to the effect that the decision was reached as being preferable to have flaws in the measure removed by legislation rather than to risk a decision by the Supreme Court holding the present statute invalid on the ground of an unconstitutional delegation by Congress of its legislative authority and thereafter remedy the defect. Seemingly, this action delays enforcement of the codes in certain particulars; on the part of a minority there is a purpose to proceed with the appeal of the Belcher case. (This comment was written prior to court action.)