

# EDITORIAL

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## THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PHARMACY.

PRESIDENT GENERAL R. PATTOU of the International Congress of Pharmacy has advised that he will occupy himself with the questions of a professional nature concerning the free choice of pharmacists for organized pharmaceutical services. He desires to be advised as to how in the United States are pharmacists designated for furnishing medical supplies to organized services?

By "organized services" he understands those which are organized with the intervention:

- (a) Of the *Public Authorities*: The Federal Government, States, Municipalities.
- (b) Of *Social Insurance Institutions*.
- (c) Of *Mutual Aid Societies*.
- (d) Of *Companies Insuring against Industrial Accidents*.
- (e) Of any other organizations.

He also desires to know whether all established pharmacists are authorized as a matter of right to have a part in furnishing supplies, in case certain conditions must be met in order to engage in furnishing supplies, what they are and what the opinion is of the pharmaceutical profession in the United States on the subject of free choice of pharmacists.

Comment has been made on the International Congress of Pharmacy in prior issues of the JOURNAL. The general secretary is J. Breugelmans, pharmacist of Brussels.

## THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MILITARY MEDICINE AND PHARMACY.

THE Eighth International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy will be held at Brussels, Belgium, from June 27 to July 3, 1935. The change of place from Bucharest to Brussels was made on account of the death of Prof. Butoianu, Surgeon General of the Roumanian Army.

The Seventh Congress, held at Madrid in 1933, proposed the following topics which will be considered at the forthcoming Congress:

1. "Principles of Organization and Function of the Medical Service in Mountain Warfare." Reporters: Roumania and Italy.
2. "Determination of Aptitude for the Various Specialties in the Medical Services of the Army, Navy and Air Force." Reporters: Roumania and France.
3. "Sequelæ of Wounds of the Abdomen." Reporters: Roumania and the United States.
4. "Researches Concerning Standardization of Methods of Analysis of Foods and Drinks for the Use of the Soldier." Reporters: Roumania and Czechoslovakia.
5. "Buccal-Dental Prophylaxis at the Front." Reporters: Roumania and Lithuania.

6. "Comparative Study of the Medical Administrative Services of Various Armies, Navies and Air Services." Reporters: Roumania and Chile.

The Brussels Congress will doubtless be as important and interesting as those which have gone before it. As Roumania was to have entertained the Congress, each discussion, in keeping with the usual custom, is opened by representatives of Roumania. Information regarding the meeting may be had from the Secretary of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, Army Medical Library, 7th and B Sts., Washington, D. C.

These data were obtained through courtesy of *The Military Surgeon* of June 1935.

#### PHARMACISTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

PHARMACISTS have an important part in public health service and first aid, represented not only in bringing medical attention to the injured and suffering, but in supplying materia medica which will afford relief and prevent spread of disease. An unusual case, in Washington, within the past month, presents several phases. Two young men, a freshman at George Washington University and a Government employee, were on a hike on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal tow-path—when the former was bitten by a copperhead. Fortunately, the snake was seen and the danger recognized, but strange to say, neither of the young men had a pocket-knife. Safety prompted the use of nature's provision (the teeth) in opening the wound and bringing about flow of blood, and further comradeship was shown in the act of carrying the crippled man a distance of two miles. The purpose of this comment follows.

Interns treated the wound with an antiseptic and, later, the young man was discharged and returned home; soon the leg began to swell. The boy's father, a chemist, called the family doctor, who advised that because snake-bites are rare, he was not informed relative to efficient treatment. Dr. William F. Mann, director of the Zoo, advised the injection of a serum which was supplied by a well-known professional pharmacy; the injection was given and the young man's life saved. The unusual occurrence brought difficulties and, throughout, the finest coöperation; this is a purpose of the comment and presents several thoughts from which lessons may be drawn.

Bites and stings are vacation handicaps and so are the effects of contact with poisonous plants, and it is the pharmacist's duty to supply the means of relief and the antidotes, and therefore, inform himself relative to the best means of service. The Ohio State Division of Conservation broadcasts information on ivy poisoning and as a preventive suggests the use of the wash devised by Dr. J. B. McNair—a 5 per cent solution of ferric chloride in a 50-50 mixture of water and glycerin. The exposed parts of the skin are washed with the preparation and allowed to dry; the iron in the latter combines with the poison and prevents its ill-effects.

It is advisable to destroy the poison of the plant or insect; for bites, the general rule may be laid down to neutralize the poison, usually of an acid nature; soothe, don't scratch. Breeding places for mosquitoes and other insects are a menace, their activities are dangers to public health.

This comment is for pointing to the pharmacists' place in health service.