

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION

VOL. XXV

JANUARY, 1936

No. 1

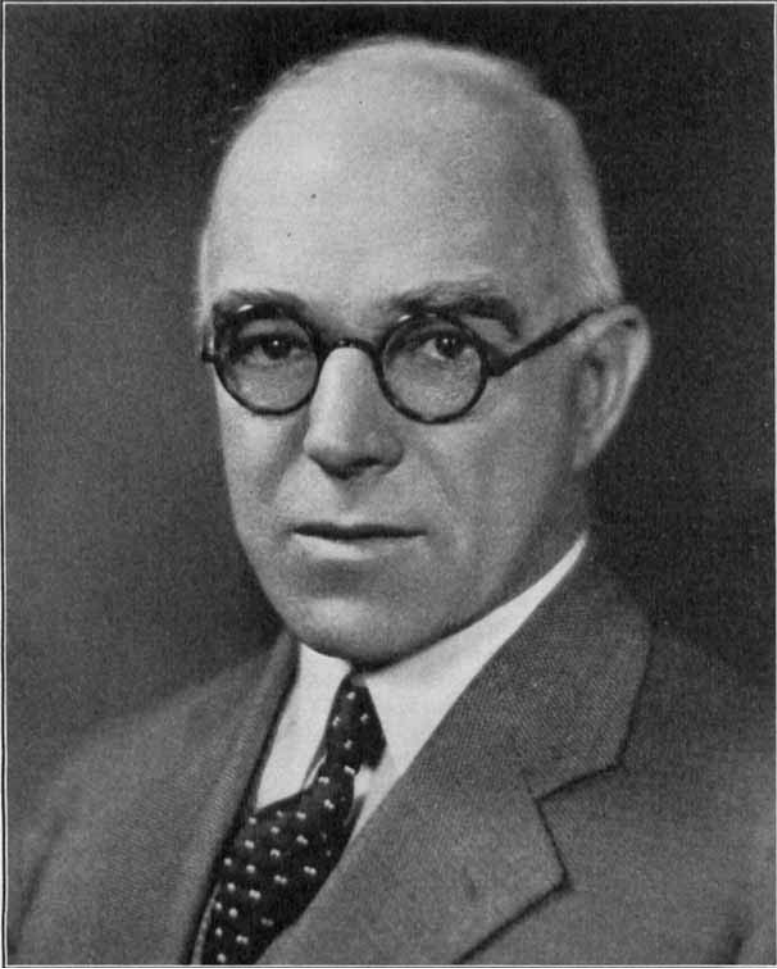
EDMUND NORRIS GATHERCOAL.

Edmund Norris Gathercoal was born near Sycamore, Illinois, in 1874. His father's people were English, his paternal grandfather having come to this country from southern England in 1857, while on his mother's side his ancestry is Pennsylvania Dutch.

Shortly after the boy completed his high school education his family moved to Chicago, where in 1891 young Gathercoal entered the drug store of T. W. Sollitt as an apprentice. Mr. Sollitt was a well-trained pharmacist and a graduate of the Chicago College of Pharmacy. Soon the boy became fired with ambition to qualify as his employer had done and in 1893 he entered upon his studies in the Chicago College of Pharmacy, now the College of Pharmacy of the University of Illinois. He was graduated at the head of his class in 1895. It is an indication of his later interest in pharmacognosy and botany that upon graduation he was awarded a microscope as a prize for his proficiency in these branches. Soon thereafter the young man entered Rush Medical College but after completing the sophomore year he was compelled by adverse circumstances to give up his medical course.

Within two years, however, the ambitious drug clerk established a business at Wilmette, a suburb of Chicago, where he conducted a prosperous pharmacy for eight years. He retained his interest in the College, which meanwhile had become the School of Pharmacy of the University of Illinois, and in 1907 he disposed of his successful drug business and accepted a full-time teaching position on the faculty of the School, where he has been successively advanced from instructor to full professorship in his favorite subject, pharmacognosy.

Professor Gathercoal has made frequent contributions to pharmaceutical literature, many of which have appeared in the JOURNAL. In 1915, he was awarded the Ebert Prize for his paper on "The Pharmacognosy of the Medicinal Rhamnus Barks." His reports of the meetings of the Chicago Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION extending over a period of fifteen years are models of brevity and clearness. He was assistant editor of the pharmacognosy section of *Botanical Abstracts* for several years and has served creditably on the Revision



EDMUND NORRIS GATHERCOAL.

Committee of the United States Pharmacopœia, both tenth and eleventh revisions, as a member of the Committee on Botany and Pharmacognosy. He has been chairman of the Committee of Revision of the National Formulary since 1929 and has done a splendid piece of work in the preparation of the N. F. VI. He has been president of the National Conference on Pharmaceutical Research since 1929. He was active in the formation of the International Color Council and its chairman for several years. He has served the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION as vice-president and as a member of important committees. He is co-author of a well-known text in pharmacognosy and has written more than a hundred papers that have been published in pharmaceutical journals. In 1934, the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy conferred on him the honorary degree of Master in Pharmacy.

The distinguishing traits of the subject of this sketch are earnestness, industry and perseverance. With these he combines a broadness of view and a consideration for the feelings of others, which have made for him many warm friends. His well-founded religious convictions have aided him to face misfortune bravely and to take a sane view of life.

In 1899, Professor Gathercoal was married to Miss Cordelia M. Poole, and three children, Marion, Norris and Jean, have resulted from this union.—W. B. D.

SECTION N—MEDICAL SCIENCES, SUBSECTION N₂—PHARMACY OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

BY JOHN C. KRANTZ, JR., *Chairman*.

Section N₂ held a session on Monday afternoon December 30th, at which nine papers were presented by the respective authors and one was read by title. Also a joint session was held with Section N at which three papers were read.

Dr. George Reddish, of the St. Louis College of Pharmacy, discussed the potentialities and limitations of the phenol coefficient test. He stated that the test was applicable only to the study of the germicidal properties of compounds of a phenol-like nature, also, Dr. Reddish pointed out that many of the discrepancies that are reported by various workers with this test are due largely to deviations from the standard technique. The use of the test in evaluating antiseptic solutions was questioned.

Dr. John H. Gardner, of Washington University, discussed the chemistry of aloin. His researches indicated that there was possibly no anthracene nucleus in aloin and furthermore, that the definition of the United States Pharmacopœia defining this substance was not correct.

Dr. Noel E. Foss, of the School of Pharmacy of Duquesne University, prepared a large number of new unsymmetrical aryl sulphides. He reported on their structures, bacteriological activity and pharmacology. The thymol derivative was found to be the most germicidal.

From the School of Medicine of the University of Maryland, John C. Krantz, Jr., and his associates reported on the pharmacology of trichlorethylene and studies that were made with it as a useful therapeutic agent in the treatment of *angina pectoris*. The effect of the various chlorinated ethylenes on the blood vessels of the frog was studied also.
