

## EDITORIAL

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THE U. S. P. XI AND N. F. VI OFFICIAL JUNE 1, 1936.

PHARMACISTS have had notice of the fact that the U. S. Pharmacopœia XI and National Formulary VI will replace preceding editions on June 1st. Preparations, therefore, are to be dispensed according to the new standards. Never has there been greater evidence of coöperation among the professions and the industries in the work of revision.

During 1935 many reports and other articles were published in the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. The Abstracts of Changes will be helpful and therefore references to them are included in this comment: See page 927 in the September JOURNAL for 1934; pages 716, 784, 787, 878, 882 and 1039 of the volume for 1935.

A helpful report is that of Chairman E. Fullerton Cook in the September JOURNAL, pages 796-800, and an address by him in the February number, page 157.

The National Formulary has been freely discussed and the reports of Chairman E. N. Gathercoal will be found a helpful guide for pharmacists in shaping their work under the revised standards; the address of the Chairman before the Chicago Branch, A. PH. A., published in the February JOURNAL, beginning on page 151 will serve a useful purpose in this connection.

The discussion by Secretary Adley Nichols in the April issue, pages 344-350, presents suggestions for pharmacists that will guide them in making physicians, pharmacists and dentists better acquainted with the Formulary.

Quoting Chairman Gathercoal—"the basis of admission to the U. S. Pharmacopœia is the best drugs or medicines of known therapeutic value that are being used at the time of revision; while the basis for admission to the National Formulary is extent of usage, regardless of the consensus of the best thought of the medical profession as to therapeutic value."

The purpose of pharmacists has been to make the best and largest possible use of the standards and acquaint all who make use of them and thereby bring the professions into closer relationship for service of the public. There has been evident a coöperation of all divisions, exhibiting a spirit which will make every revision superior to the preceding.

The chairman, members of the committees and other co-workers have been loyal and earnest in their labors, representing achievement and accomplishment. The revisions reflect credit and show progress which will make possible corrections and stimulate improvement wherever these efforts may be necessary. *List of Errata* may be obtained from the chairmen or found in this issue of the JOURNAL.

### THE INFLUENCE OF PHARMACY.

PHARMACY has contributed largely to other activities through the services rendered by pharmacists; the only criticism in this connection is that often pharmacy loses all consideration. Of this there are outstanding examples: Scheele, Caventou, Pelletier, Swan and many others were pharmacists.

There are others who in their earlier years were employed in drug stores or

apprenticed in pharmacies; a number who achieved greatness, did so in the practice of medicine or in chemistry or other fields. Nevertheless there is an evident influence that remains with the individual during his life-time. This thought was prompted by the review of a book just published on "T. H. Huxley's Diary of the Voyage of H. M. S. Rattlesnake." In his early teens Huxley was apprenticed to a pharmacist, who paid him six shillings a week. His thoroughness in the pharmacy won the admiration of the doctors who loaned him books and took him to clinics. At the age of 17 he gained a free scholarship to Charing Cross Hospital; after several years of medical studies he was appointed assistant surgeon and at the age of twenty-one Dr. Huxley embarked on the Rattlesnake.

He was a student, and no great claims other than those mentioned can be given to pharmacy. "In his mind life was a sequence—the happenings of to-day were possible because of that which was done yesterday and to-morrow will be the result of to-day." "He dared to utter that which he felt was true, and the strongest desire of his soul was that he might never compromise with error for the sake of mental ease, or accept belief simply because it was pleasant."

Huxley visited the United States in 1876; he spoke at the formal opening of Johns Hopkins on "University Education" from which the following brief quotations are taken: . . . "Again, materia, so far as it is a knowledge of drugs, is the business of the druggist. In all other callings the necessity of the division of labor is fully recognized, and it is absurd to require of the medical man that he should not avail himself of the special knowledge of those whose business it is to deal in the drugs which he uses." Other lines of the address are applicable, evidencing that Huxley remembered his drug store experience.

This experience does not call for mention, but a biographical sketch of Huxley should make reference to the fact, if for no other reason than that this apprenticeship was a sequence in his life.

Recently, Georgia had a "Crawford Williamson Long Day," three memorial celebrations marked the occasion. However much Dr. Long's discovery meant to surgery and to the afflicted, it may be questioned whether such recognition would have been possible if it had not been for the persistent efforts and loyalty of a pharmacist to his preceptor, an apprentice in "the drug shop" of Dr. C. W. Long.

"The Story of Louis Pasteur," recently, was vividly depicted by Paul Muni.

In 1851 the Société de Pharmacie de Paris offered a prize of 1500 francs for the following two problems (1) Do tartrates exist actually containing the racemic form of tartaric acid? (2) Determine the conditions under which tartaric acid might be transformed into its racemic form. Pasteur was awarded the prize; half of which he devoted toward purchasing certain necessary apparatus which lack of funds had prevented the University from acquiring for the use of his laboratory.

In 1846 Pasteur was assistant in Balard's laboratory (pharmacist). Here he prepared his thesis on "Arsenous Acids and the Arsenites of Potassium, Sodium and Ammonia." In 1849 he went to Strasbourg School of Pharmacy as Assistant Professor.

Applying Huxley: "Life is a sequence—the happenings of to-day are possible because of that which was done yesterday and to-morrow will be the result of yesterday"—Pasteur's work in pharmacy contributed largely to the achievements of a great mind.