

EDITORIAL NOTES

GENEVA NARCOTICS CONVENTION.

The International Convention for the Suppression of the Illicit Traffic in Dangerous Drugs which was signed by twenty-seven nations in Geneva, June 26th, will actually weaken present enforcement laws instead of strengthening them, in the opinion of Stuart J. Fuller.

Representative Stuart J. Fuller, refused to sign the document on behalf of the United States and at the time issued a strong statement condemning it. Other representatives of the United States were Harry J. Anslinger, Commissioner of Narcotics, with Frank X. Ward of the Department of State as legal adviser.

"Although the United States could not sign the convention," said Mr. Fuller, "it would continue to extend all possible cooperation to other nations in the campaign against the abuse of narcotic drugs." In his opinion this could be done more effectively under the existing American system than under the limitations the convention would impose.

NARCOTIC LICENSES.

The Bureau of Narcotics of the Treasury Department advises that under the regulations it is necessary for those who desire to obtain a narcotic license to comply with the state laws. The amendment to the Harrison Act sets up a new class of registration known as Class VI. In this class will fall laboratories of colleges of pharmacy and laboratories of research and analytical workers.

CENTENARY OF STANDARDS FOR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

It was in 1836 that Congress fixed legal standards for weights and measures. For about fifty years action of Congress was delayed until finally, in 1836, Congress adopted the following resolution:

"That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he hereby is, directed to cause a complete set of all weights and measures adopted as standard and now either made or in progress of manufacture for the use of the several custom houses, and for other purposes, to be delivered to the governor of each State in the Union, or such person as he may appoint, for the use of the States, respectively, to the end that a uniform

standard of weights and measures may be established throughout the United States."

MAGGOT STUDY YIELDS NEW FACTS ON UREA.

A *bulletin* of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, of August 6th, deals with the mystery of how blowfly maggots stimulate healing in stubborn wounds, a fact observed by surgeons during the World War. Dr. William Robinson, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, now announces the possibility that urea may be responsible along with allantoin for this remarkable healing produced by maggots.

Dr. Robinson has been investigating this subject in the Division of Insects Affecting Man and Animals, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. He announced last year the discovery of allantoin in maggot excretions and now finds that urea is present also. Preliminary tests indicate that the pure synthetic chemical by itself induces the same healing as maggots or allantoin. These preliminary observations must be supplemented by additional clinical tests and this is outside the scope of the Department's investigations. In the treatment of wounds, urea has been used mostly as a two per cent solution; but, unlike allantoin, it is highly soluble.

Attention was called to the healing possibilities of urea not only because it was associated with allantoin in maggot excretions, but also because the chemical "picture" of allantoin shows how easily its side chain might be "chipped" off by hydrolysis to form urea. It has been suggested that this "chipping" may occur when allantoin is used in wounds, leaving urea as an active agent in healing.

TERCENTENARY OF NETHERLAND PHARMACOPŒIA.

Dutch pharmacists are celebrating the three hundredth anniversary of the coming into force of the Amsterdam Pharmacopœia. Issued in 1636, this was made obligatory for all physicians and pharmacists throughout the country. Prior to that date there had been no uniformity among the many formularies in use, the most generally used and esteemed among which was the "Dispensatorium" of Valerius Cordus. Although the names of the collaborators are not mentioned in the work itself, contempo-

rary documents amply prove that the Amsterdam Pharmacopœia, approved by the College of Physicians and Pharmacists, was essentially the work of Nicholas Tulp. The preface, *inter alia*, draws the attention of the authorities to the advantages to public health of this work of unification, due to the collaboration of physicians and pharmacists. As was usual with scientific works of that period, the first Netherlands Pharmacopœia was printed entirely in Latin.

RETIREMENT OF PROFESSOR L. VAN ITALLIE.

On July 1st, Professor Leopold van Itallie, who has been an honorary member of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION since 1923, gave his farewell lecture at Leiden University. Dr. van Itallie has been professor of Pharmacy and Toxicology in the University for twenty-nine years. In the course of an appreciation by Dr. A. J. Steenhauer in the *Pharmaceutische Weekblad*, reference is made to his success as a teacher and to the esteem in which he is held by all past and present students who have passed through his hands at Leiden. Dr. Steenhauer recalls the remarkable energy with which he has carried out his duties even since his silver jubilee four years ago. In addition to routine work as professor, Dr. van Itallie has taken a prominent part in the investigation, under the auspices of the League of Nations, of methods for the assay of opium toxicology and phytochemistry. The work for thirty-five years on the Pro-Pharmacopœia Commission he passed on to others on the publication of the first supplement to the Netherlands Pharmacopœia in 1934. This great work for pharmacy has been recognized by the conferment of honorary degrees by the Universities of Paris and Liège. Professor van Itallie's interest in poisons was shown in his

choice of subject—"The Growth of Toxicology," for his farewell lecture. At the conclusion of the address a bronze plaque was presented to the professor by past and present students, and this is to be placed in the pharmaceutical laboratory of the University.—Abstracted from the *Chemist and Druggist*.

A. PH. A. MEMBERSHIP PRIZES.

Dean Teeters' prize of membership in the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION for recognition and description of crude drugs was awarded to Ben M. Cooper, Davenport, a member of the graduating class.

Gail A. Wiese, Anita, was the winner of the Gus Scherling prize for the highest rank in organic chemistry and Professor Cooper's prize for highest rank in operative and manufacturing pharmacy. Both prizes are memberships in the ASSOCIATION, so Mr. Wiese's membership will be taken care of for two years.

Marjorie I. Moburg, Geneseo, Illinois, won Professor Kuever's prize for excellence in operative pharmacy. This is a year's subscription to the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

Dr. Glenn L. Jenkins, for several years member of the faculty of the School of Pharmacy, University of Maryland, has accepted a position as professor and head of the Department of Pharmacy, University of Minnesota.

Walter H. Cousins, *Southern Pharmaceutical Journal*, came into new honor recently when he was elected president of the Old Timers Cowboy Reunion Association. In recognition of his services as vice-president and historian over a period of years, Mr. Cousins was presented with a beautiful strawberry roan horse. He was a pet horse of T-5 ranch at Throckmorton and "fit for a king," the owner says.

Miss Margaret Cousins and her father are actively participating in the local program.

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE DEATH OF CARL WILHELM SCHEELE.

C. L. Leonard quotes from an article in *Farm. Revy* for May 30, 1936, in which an account is given of a ceremony held at Köping, Sweden, on May 31, 1936, in memory of the 150th anniversary of the death of Carl Wilhelm Scheele. The affair was under the auspices of the city of Köping and the Apothecaries Society. Noted Swedish scientists and guest pharmacists from Berlin, Vienna, Stettin, Oslo and Copenhagen were present. Wreaths were placed on Scheele's grave in the church-yard; then the party adjourned to the church where a song, of a previous occasion—the unveiling of Carl Milles' statue of Scheele in 1912—was sung and addresses were heard. Apothecary S. Gullström reviewed the outstanding points of Scheele's life and his contributions to science. The foreign guests were welcomed and replied, after which the governor of the province spoke for the Swedish state.