

EDITORIAL

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A NEW SPANISH EDITION OF THE U. S. PHARMACOPŒIA.

THE SPANISH Edition of the U. S. Pharmacopœia, Eleventh Decennial Revision (U. S. P. XI), sponsored by the Board of Trustees of the U. S. Pharmacopœial Convention, has just come from the press.

This edition was translated under the auspices of the Pan-American Sanitary Bureau in Washington. It forms a volume of 695 pages, with a detailed index, and at the end there is a list of official titles in both English and Spanish. Auxiliary Committees of Cuba, the Philippines and Puerto Rico took part in the work of translation.

This is the fourth edition of the U. S. Pharmacopœia which has been translated into Spanish and published by the U. S. P. Board of Trustees. It was originally provided for use in the Philippines and Puerto Rico and also in Cuba, where it was promptly adopted as the official Pharmacopœia. It is now also official in Costa Rica, Nicaragua (together with the French Codex), Panama and the Dominican Republic.

The Board of Trustees, in announcing this new edition to the health departments of the Republics of Central and South America, have expressed the hope that it may be useful to them in the preparation of their own Pharmacopœias, and that it may assist in bringing about uniformity in titles, strengths and standards of purity among the medicines used in Pan-American countries.

As it has required considerable time for the translation and printing of the Spanish Edition, alterations and corrections published in the U. S. P. XI First Supplement which became official December 1, 1937, have been incorporated.

The book is now on sale by the distributors, The Business Publishers International Corporation, 330 West 42nd Street, New York, N. Y., U. S. A.

MODERN POINTS OF VIEW AND METHODS IN PHARMACOGNOSY.

IN RESPONDING to the presentation of the Hanbury Medal at the London evening meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society Dr. Richard Wasicky responded with an address on the subject "Modern Points of View and Methods in Pharmacognosy." We share in the honor not only because of his distinction but also because he was elected *Honorary Member* at the New York meeting of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. Liberty is taken in using an abstract of the address prepared by the *Chemist and Druggist* of February 12th:

"Pharmacognosy, as a pure science, aims at a scientific understanding of the drugs of vegetable or animal origin. Applied pharmacognosy uses the results of research for practical purposes in pharmacy, industry and in other spheres. Most of the older textbooks treat the morphology and histology of vegetable drugs in affectionate detail. In addition, they give brief particulars of the botanical and geographical sources of a drug, its mode of preparation, its components, its impurities and adulterations; a few animal drugs being discussed in an appendix. In the years succeeding publication of Hanbury & Flückiger's work pharmacognosy was

forced to devote more time to histology. Thus it was possible for the idea to become widely prevalent that pharmacognosy was more or less identical with the descriptive morphology and histology of vegetable drugs. But as these branches developed toward some sort of completion, wider interests again began to be cultivated. In London especially the spirit and influence of Hanbury continued to be effective."

"The address was presented as a résumé of the ideas and tendencies at work in the field of modern pharmacognosy and an outline of the principles that determine the attitude of the worker in pharmacognosy toward his science."

The speaker made reference to identification by taste and smell and stated that "it is astonishing with what reliability, at the Pharmaceutical Institute, University of Vienna, the students were able to determine the better value of various drugs, using brucine as a standard." In the modern methods, he said, "of cultivating medical drugs, attempts are made to enhance the effective power of drugs, but quantitatively and qualitatively. The measures employed are concerned partly with the growth of the plant up to the time when it is harvested, and partly with the processes by means of which all or part of the plant is converted into a drug."

Among the participants in the program of the evening were President Thomas Marns, of the Pharmaceutical Society and Dr. Adolf Kunz, representing the Austrian Minister, and Dr. and Mrs. Wasicky, a pharmacist and co-worker.

The *Pharmaceutical Journal* published the address in full and references to the publications are made. We are pleased to congratulate the recipient of the medal and British pharmacists.

HOSPITAL EXHIBIT AT THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR.

THE *Journal of the American Hospital Association* reports on the hospital exhibit which is to be made at the New York World's Fair. The care of the patient in the hospital will be dramatically presented in a space of 1200 square feet. It will have as a purpose to make the laymen aware of the people who contribute to recovery in the hospital. Representatives of all departments and services will be shown. It states that 60% of the money of the hospitals comes from the patients and 30% from government and endowments.

The rural hospital is shown as a health center. An interesting graphic exhibit is included "that every four seconds a person enters a hospital, and the number of those who leave the hospitals cured."



DR. AUTUN URGOC-RICHARD
WASICKY.
Hanbury Medalist.

The 10th International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy will be held in Washington, D. C., May 7 to 10, 1939. Col. Harold W. Jones has been appointed secretary of the committee by President Roosevelt.