

Editorial Notes and Announcements

JAMES H. BEAL, Editor.....Scio, O.

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RETROSPECT OF FIFTY YEARS AGO.

(Reprinted from "The Chemist and Druggist," November 14, 1863.)

American Pharmaceutical Association.

At the annual meeting, reported in the issue, the following preamble and resolution were, on the motion of E. Parrish, of Philadelphia, *unanimously* adopted:

"WHEREAS, The mutual cultivation of science tends to break down sectional and national distinctions, and to unite all of kindred objects and pursuits in a common bond of friendship and good-will; and

"WHEREAS, We have learned of a Conference of the Pharmacutists and Chemists of Great Britain having been summoned, near the same time as our present meeting, at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, as we believe for purposes similar, if not identical with our own;

"Therefore, be it resolved, That we view this movement on the part of our brethren of the mother-country with feelings of satisfaction and encouragement, and invite their friendly co-operation and correspondence in advancing a knowledge of the science and art of pharmacy, and in promoting the elevation of the profession to a position commensurate with the importance and dignity of its objects."

It was further resolved, "That a copy of this resolution, signed by the proper officers of the Association, be transmitted to the President of said Conference of the Pharmacutists and Chemists of Great Britain by our Corresponding Secretary, who is also directed to solicit an exchange of their public proceedings for those issued by our Association." —(*Chemist and Druggist*, Nov. 8, 1913.)



ANTISEPTIC LEAVES.

The frequently reported cases of poisoning by mercury bichloride tablets during the past year has been fruitful in bringing forth suggestions for the distinguishing of poisonous tablets by giving them distinctive and peculiar shapes and colors, enclosing them in characteristically shaped bottles, etc. Federal law makers have also taken a hand by introducing into Congress measures designed to regulate the sale of poisons in tablet form, and when the State Legislatures get into action we may

expect still other regulative measures dealing with the same subject.

A novel method of attaining the same end is seen in the so-called "Antiseptic Leaf" lately brought out by the Wm. S. Merrell Chemical Company.

This Antiseptic Leaf consists of a thick, bibulous paper, in which has been absorbed the same quantity of bichloride mixture as is contained in the ordinary Antiseptic Tablet. One of these leaves added to a pint of water makes a solution 1-1000.

The form of this product is so distinct from any tablet that there should be no danger of its being mistaken for a medicinal preparation and the body being an insoluble, non-edible material, cannot be eaten, even if the attempt were made.

Antiseptic Leaves are put up in packages of twenty-five—wrapped in self-sealing water-proof paper and packed in a carton with complete label and directions for making solutions of various strengths.



THE IDEAL PHARMACY IN 1849.

The difference in the representative pharmacy of the last generation and the popular corner drug store of the present day is well illustrated in the accompanying extract taken from the chapter on Plan and Location of the Pharmacy, in Mohr, Redwood and Procter's treatise, published in 1849.

The three distinguished authors of that volume were perhaps the most eminent pharmacists of their respective countries, Germany, Great Britain and the United States, and no doubt represented the professional ideals of their time. Evidently the pharmacist of that day was a very modest and retiring individual, and his shop a delightful place for quiet meditation on a sultry afternoon. The italics are the Editor's:

"The form that appears to be best suited for the shop of a pharmaceutical chemist is an oblong, one of the short sides of which forms the front, as it is desirable to have long, straight walls, giving depth rather than width to the apartment. It should be dry and well lighted, yet not too much exposed to the direct rays of the sun. *Large windows, therefore, are objectionable; they are not required for the display of pharmaceutical wares, while they occasion a great deal of*

trouble in keeping them clean, and admit more direct sunlight than is beneficial.

"The opinion very generally prevails among pharmacists, that the shop should have a north aspect, or at least that direct sunshine should be entirely excluded; but I have no hesitation in expressing my dissent from this opinion.

"*The entrance to the shop ought not to be directly from the street, but from the passage to the house.* There are several objections to having the entrance directly from the street: it occasions the admission of wind, dust, and wet, when the door is opened, and renders it difficult to regulate the temperature of the room, and insure the comfort and freedom from unnecessary disturbance of those engaged in conducting the business.

"In free-trade England, however, it is generally considered desirable to make the access to the shop as easy and obvious as possible. I have heard calculations made, by some approved economists, to show the loss a tradesman sustains in consequence of his shop-floor being elevated too much above the level of the street, thus rendering it necessary for customers to ascend two or three steps on entering. One step, if it be a low and easy one, is considered beneficial, the advantage resulting from the exclusion of wet and dirt being more than equivalent to the obstruction it imposes on the facility of admission."

Has pharmacy gone forward or backward?



FAREWELL DINNER TO HUGH CRAIG.

Some forty New York pharmacists gave a testimonial dinner to Hugh Craig, at Mouquin's restaurant on the evening of December 26, on the eve of his departure for Chicago to take up the duties of editor of The Journal of the National Association of Retail Druggists. The affair was entirely informal. The guests were seated at a "U" shaped table in a private dining room and were entertained during the dinner with music, through the courtesy of Brune R. Dauscha, F. J. Budelman and J. L. Lascoff, the latter of whom contributed a novelty in the way of entertainment by the loan of a Victrola with a number of very fine records. Mr. Budle-

man led the chorus of a number of popular songs for which parodies had been provided.

During the dinner the chairman of the committee, Caswell A. Mayo, read notes of regret from a number of pharmacists who were unable to be present, each of whom took occasion to pay a tribute to the value of the services which had been rendered by Dr. Craig to the cause of pharmacy both as a journalist and an association worker. Communications were read from George M. Beringer, of Camden, N. J., president of the American Pharmaceutical Association; Thomas E. Potts, of Chicago, secretary of the National Association of Retail Druggists; William Muench, of Syracuse; Dr. A. B. Husted, of Albany; Frank Richardson, of Cambridge; Arthur Wardle, of Hudson; T. S. Armstrong, of Plainfield, N. J.; Edward Sher, E. H. Gane, Dr. H. H. Rusby, Dr. George C. Diekman, Dr. H. C. Lovis, C. H. Tompkins, Dr. William Frankhauser, and Dr. George A. Ferguson.

At the conclusion of the dinner, Mr. Mayo presented the guest with a miniature loving cup and Dr. William C. Anderson presented him with a handsome watch and fob on behalf of the hosts. In acknowledging the compliments conveyed by the dinner and the watch and fob, Mr. Craig took occasion to set forth his views as to the lines along which the Journal of the N. A. R. D. should be conducted and to state his own position on the matter of ethics and the practice of pharmacy.

Below are given excerpts from a few of the communications received:

Harry J. Schnell, manager of The Druggists' Circular: This testimonial dinner given to Mr. Craig by the pharmacists of Greater New York in recognition of his labors in behalf of pharmacy is a well deserved tribute. I feel as though I am perhaps better qualified to speak of Mr. Craig's work in behalf of pharmacy and with a more intimate knowledge of it than anyone in attendance at this dinner, for his work for pharmacy began when he joined the staff of The Druggists' Circular in January, 1906. From that day to this I have been in intimate touch with Mr. Craig's work, discussing it with him on almost every business day from January, 1906, to the present time. Perhaps it will interest you to know something about the way Mr. Craig entered the journalistic field. Along about Christmas of

1905, the Druggists' Circular received a communication from a drug clerk out in the wilds of New Jersey in which he supplied some formulas in response to requests published in the Circular. Incidentally, he said that as he was working twenty hours a day he had little time for writing, but was taking advantage of his "day off" to drop us a line. He explained that his "day off" consisted of the hours from 6 o'clock that evening to 8 the next morning. It occurred to most of us in the office that a clerk who possessed so much information as this one's letter showed that he possessed, and was so fond of laying this information before his fellow workers in written form that he was willing to take time from his "day off" to write it out and mail it, was too good to be grinding out his young life behind the counter for twenty out of the twenty-four hours, so we proposed that he come into the city some day when business was slack and have a talk with us. This he did one Sunday afternoon, with the result that we asked him if he would exchange his twenty hours a day and \$75 a month for eight hours a day and \$16 a week on a three months' trial, adding that if at the end of that time the arrangement did not turn out satisfactorily all around he would not be out anything, as he could return to his \$75 and twenty hours. "I would be out \$6 a month or \$18 in all," replied this lightning calculator, but he said he would think it over and in a few weeks he reported for duty. His employment commenced in the early part of January, 1906, and he has been with The Druggists' Circular ever since—eight years lacking a few days. We were not disappointed in our man. He has proved as diligent and as well informed a worker as his letter and formulas sent on that "day off" of his, back in 1905, presaged, and now he is going away from home to continue his labors in behalf of pharmacy in a new field, and no one wishes him success more heartily than I, and I might include every member of the staff of The Druggists' Circular, of which I feel proud to be the general manager.

George M. Beringer, Camden, N. J., President of the A. Ph. A.: Please convey my personal testimony and appreciation of the services of your guest, Mr. Hugh Craig, in behalf of pharmacy.

Thomas H. Potts, Chicago, Secretary of The National Association of Retail Drug-

gists: I wish to assure you in all sincerity that I appreciate your timely notice and would regard it as one of the most pleasurable events of my life to attend, if opportunity only afforded. Kindly convey to those assembled my very kindest regards and say to them that I will do my very best to keep our friend Craig out of bad company in Chicago and give him all the helpful assistance in my power, and I well know he is going to make a great success.

Many other communications equally complimentary were received from Mr. Craig's friends and admirers.

The menu card bore, besides the menu, a portrait of the guests and a list of the hosts, as follows:

W. O. Allison, W. C. Anderson, H. V. Arny, L. Berger, G. M. Beringer, C. O. Bigelow, F. J. Budelman, William Bessenchutt, L. Cantor, V. C. Daggett, B. R. Dauscha, L. W. DeZeller, J. Diner, S. W. Fairchild, G. A. Ferguson, J. C. Gallagher, A. Gardner, C. Heimerzheim, F. E. Holliday, C. Holzhauser, J. Hostmann, A. B. Husted, C. R. Johnson, H. Kantrowitz, T. Lamb, T. Latham, J. L. Lascoff, C. N. Lehman, H. C. Lovis, W. A. Mansfield, J. L. Mayer, C. A. Mayo, W. Muench, B. L. Murray, F. L. McCarty, H. M. O'Neil, Romaine Pierson, Albert Plaut, T. F. Raymow, Jacob Rehfuss, G. T. Riefflin, J. Roemer, H. H. Rusby, H. J. Schnell, S. Schoenfeld, S. V. B. Swann, J. R. Wall, J. Weinstein.

The Journal of the N. A. R. D. is to be congratulated on securing the services of Mr. Craig, whose long experience in journalistic work and his practical ability as a pharmacist will especially fit him for his new position.—*Midland Druggist.*



EDUCATE THE PUBLIC REGARDING POISONS.

Some months ago a prominent man in a southern city took some medicine in the dark and developed the first of a long line of bichloride poisoning cases. This case was one of purely accidental poisoning. The man did not want to die, and made a brave and pathetic fight for life. He had risen from humble beginnings, it seems; reached a high place in the community, became rich, married a beautiful girl, and had everything to live for. The case teemed with "heart interest,"

and the newspapers took it up and made reams of copy from it. The victim lingered for several weeks, and seemed astonished during his last days, according to the newspapers, at the absence of all pain. The newspapers began to herald this long after the first stages of the case had passed. Possibly without intention on their part, they conveyed the idea to the general public that bichloride of mercury is a painless poison.

The results have been deplorable. Since then more than 100 cases of bichloride poisoning have occurred, and in about 90 percent of these cases the would-be suicides have repented in a few hours and cried for help. In a few cases their lives have been saved, but only in a few. The newspapers, of course, could not foresee this, and are innocent of any intention to encourage a lot of suicides. Conditions have arisen that no man could foresee, but they are serious now, and it will take a lot of work to remedy these conditions. A man who really intends to commit suicide can hardly be restrained. The most careful watching will prove fruitless, as a rule. Eventually, he will find a way. The harm lies in impressing these foolish people who have a family quarrel, get to drinking, get out of work, are despondent from any cause.

Often a wife takes poison to spite her husband, and vice versa. People under the influence of liquor are just as apt to take poison as not. Frequently they do it merely to scare the family and avoid a lecture for drinking. Most of these would-be suicides are quick to yell for help, and some of them do so the moment the poison has been swallowed. Bichloride of mercury is of great value as a germ destroyer and disinfectant, and for years it has been in households without causing any wave of suicide. It is, as all druggists know, a powerful corrosive, and when taken the results are intensely painful. Great agony ensues, and after the poison has been absorbed, recovery is almost impossible. Anyone who takes poison with a view to scaring the family could scarcely select a worse medium.

Druggists may well start a crusade toward educating the public to the fact that bichloride of mercury is not a painless poison, one that may be taken and pumped out a few hours later with no particular harm to anybody. That seems to be the general impression now. It is strange how much harm an

idle report of this kind can do, but the facts confront us. Druggists should let no opportunity go by to impress upon their customers the horribly painful effects of taking bichloride of mercury; and above all, sales of this powerful poison should be watched carefully, especially at this time.—*National Druggist*.

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A NATIONAL FORMULARY SUGGESTION.

Thos. D. McElhenie, Brooklyn, N. Y.

One morning my daughter brought down to breakfast an empty vial bearing the N. A. R. D. stock label, "Liq. Antisep. Alk.," etc., and asked me to send over some more, adding, "I can't pronounce all that long name, but if I had a flute I'd play it." I replied, "The long name for that good preparation is the reason why doctors so seldom prescribe it."

A few minutes later, when leaving the house, the word *ALKANTUS* came in my mind as a short name for the preparation. I am sure the word is original. It would be an euphonious title for the preparation and entirely suitable for physicians' use in prescribing.

I therefore propose that it be added as a synonym in the N. F. under the title "Liq. Antisep. Alk.," and that the A. Ph. A. as owners and publishers of the book secure a trade-mark on the name to prevent any one using it commercially, and that the whole matter be set out fully in the journals.

That pharmacists also be asked to refrain from using the name on the preparation exposed for sale, and have it fully understood that a prescription for "Alkantus" means "Liq. Antisep. Alk.," official, and made by the pharmacist and not some particular brand.

Further, that the manufacturing pharmacists, who are mostly gentlemen, be asked to refrain from any use of the word in their lists.

I have no desire to exploit the name myself, but as it is my own invention I would like to see it used for the common good in medicine and pharmacy.

Concerning the above Mr. E. A. Sennewald, of St. Louis, says: The suggestion appeals to me as being worthy of consideration. I am very much in favor of "terse terms." I am inclined to believe that such names as are

proposed by Mr. McElhenie would make U. S. P. and N. F. preparations very much more popular with many physicians. It seems to me that many physicians can not or will not write preparations with long names.

It may be unprofitable to be ultra scientific in our nomenclature. At one of our former conventions it was moved and carried that names should be terse. This seems to have been forgotten or overlooked.

Obituaries and Memorials

Persons having information of the death of members of the A. Ph. A. are requested to send the same promptly to J. W. England, 415 N. 33d St., Philadelphia, Pa. Information as to the age, activities in pharmacy, family, etc., of the deceased should be as complete as possible. When convenient a cabinet photograph should accompany data.

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PROF. EDWARD SCHAEER.

It is with great sorrow that we learn of the death of one of the most celebrated pharmacists, chemists and teachers, namely, Professor Edward Schaer, who died at the age of seventy-one years, on October 3, 1913, in Erlengut, Erlenbach, near Zurich, Switzerland.

Professor Schaer, who received many distinctions in pharmacy and chemistry throughout the world, was elected an honorary member of the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1877.

For more than fifty years Professor Schaer has been active, very active in pharmacy, and has been the teacher of a great many pharmacists and chemists all over the world. Many of his pupils in the United States will learn with great regret of the death of their beloved teacher.

On December 7, 1912, Professor Doctor Edward Schaer, director of the Pharmaceutical Institution of the University of Strassburg, Alsace, Germany, celebrated his seventieth birthday, and in memory of this event, Otto Raubenheimer, editor of the *The Practical Druggist*, prepared his biography which was published in the March (1913) number of *The Practical Druggist*. The following is abstracted from the same:

Schaer was born on December 7, 1842, in Berne, and began his pharmaceutical career