

PAN-AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS.

Arrangements have been completed for holding a Pan-American Scientific Congress in Washington from December 27, 1915, to January 8, 1916, in which all of the American republics will participate.

According to the official reports from each of the governments now in the hands of Director-General John Barrett of the Pan-American Union, each one of the twenty-one American republics will appoint delegations composed of its leading educators, economists, engineers, international lawyers, and experts on mining, agriculture, health, transportation and finance. This meeting will signalize an effort to promote closer relations among the American republics along intellectual and educational lines, rather than along political lines. In the same way that the regular international conferences of the American republics have developed closer political ties and the recent Pan-American financial conference helped to promote better financial understanding, so, correspondingly, this congress will bring the Americans more intimately together upon a high plane of intellectual, scientific, educational, and social progress and intercourse.



MAGNESIUM AND SODIUM SULPHATES IN PLASTER OF PARIS.

The sulphates of magnesium and of sodium have been found in almost all the samples of plaster examined by the author. They are generally present in almost the same proportions and occur in the largest quantity in impure plasters. Their presence has an important influence on the setting of the plaster, markedly hastening the period of hardening. When the proportion in which they occur amounts to only a few parts per thousand, they hasten the period of setting by six minutes, and a few percentages will shorten the time of hardening to one-third of the normal period. In this respect sodium sulphate appears to be more active than magnesium sulphate. These two salts are specially useful for employment in making surgical casts, since they have but slight influence in increasing the temperature of the plaster magma. The introduction of 1 per cent of each salt causes a rise of temperature of only 12° C. When sodium chloride is used for a similar purpose, the increase of temperature is so great that there is danger that the patient may be scalded.—E. Canals (*J. Pharm. Chim.*, 1915, II, 286.)

Book Notices

THE PHARMACOLOGY OF USEFUL DRUGS.—By Robert A. Hatcher, Professor of Pharmacology, Cornell University Medical College, New York, and Martin I. Wilbert, Technical Assistant, Division of Pharmacology, Hygienic Laboratory, U. S. Public Health Service. American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago. 1915.

This volume of 457 small 8 vo. pages is a reprint, with additions and changes, of a series of articles published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* under the heading "Practical Pharmacology."

The presentation of the material in the form of a bound volume constitutes an attempt to interest medical students and practitioners in the uses and possibilities of the more widely used drugs which are generally well established.

The book includes a comprehensive discussion of the pharmacology, the chief therapeutic uses and the materia medica or chemical and physical properties of the drugs that have been included by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association in the "Handbook of Useful Drugs." As an elaboration on this list of drugs the present volume will no doubt be of value to all who are in any way interested in the "Handbook of Useful Drugs" either as a basis for instruction in materia medica subjects in medical schools or as a basis for examinations in Therapeutics by State Medical Examining and Licensing Boards.



Hygienic Laboratory Bulletin No. 104; a Digest of Comments on the Pharmacopocia of the United States and on the National Formulary for the Calendar year ending December 31, 1914, is announced in a recently published list of publications of the United States Public Health Service as available for free distribution. Application for this publication should be made to "The Surgeon-General, United States Public Health Service, Washington, D. C." and should specify both the title and number of the document desired. No charge is made for postage. As the number of copies of this publication available for free distribution is limited, members of the American Pharmaceutical

Association and others who may be interested should apply promptly so as to insure the distribution of the Bulletin to persons who will find it of use and value.



SCIENTIFIC AND APPLIED PHARMACOGNOSY.—

Intended for the use of students in pharmacy, as a handbook for pharmacists, and as a reference book for food and drug analysts and pharmacologists by Henry Kraemer, Ph. B. (in chemistry), Ph. M. (in pharmacy), Ph. D. (in botany), Professor of Botany and Pharmacognosy, and Director of the Microscopical Laboratory, in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy; Member of the Executive Committee of Revision of the Pharmacopoeia of the United States of America, Corresponding Member of the Société de Pharmacie de Paris, etc. Illustrated with over 300 plates comprising about 1000 figures. Published by the author, 145 North 10th Street, Philadelphia.

This handsome, large 8 vo. of 837 pages is now available as the companionbook to the volume on Applied and Economic Botany published by the same author some months ago.

In the preface to the present volume the author very properly asserts that because of the role played by vegetable substances in the treatment of disease pharmacognosy takes rank as one of the most important divisions of applied botany. The training for this study is fundamentally botanical and the technique employed is essentially that of the plant morphologist, physiologist and taxonomist. The preface further states that the domain of pharmacognosy, because of the diversity of interests, is one of the most fascinating studies that can engage the attention of pharmacists.

It would be difficult indeed for anyone at all interested in pharmacy or any one of the many related studies to review the text and the many handsome illustrations in this volume on scientific and applied pharmacognosy without appreciating the truth of the statements made by the author in the preface as quoted above. The nature, composition, origin and romance of drugs are emphasized in this book in a way that must appeal to all who are either directly or indirectly interested in drugs and their uses. A natural classification has been adopted and the plants and drugs mentioned are grouped according to "Die natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien" of Engler and Prantl, now generally followed by writers on botany. The

book also includes a chapter on powdered drugs and a key for the study of powders. Reference is made easy by a comprehensive index of 20, three column, pages containing more than 3300 references.

M. I. W.



WINDOW DISPLAY FOR DRUGGISTS.—By Harry B. Mason. Third Edition. E. G. Swift, Detroit, Mich.

The very fact of a third edition of a pharmaceutical book is noteworthy, and shows that the efforts of the author were well appreciated by those for whom the book was written. Mr. Mason has a remarkable gift of recognizing the practical wants of the everyday druggist, and understands how to supply a remedy for certain pharmaceutical ailments that others overlook, or consider of no account. The importance of proper window displays must be apparent to every observer who strolls through the streets of a big city and keeps his eyes open. It is nothing unusual to see placards of a cough syrup that were put in the window in the Spring, covered with fly specks in August; or others that announced insect destroyers in Summer, remain there till Christmas. There certainly is a need to call certain negligent druggists to order, teach them the use and value of attractive displays, and give them suggestions on the subject of window dressing in general. The third edition of this useful little book has added thirty-two descriptions and engravings of new trims to the former ones and is a living testimonial of the skill and good judgment of the author. The publishers also deserve credit for the neat and attractive typographical execution of the volume.

W. C. A.



COLLECTED PAPERS FROM THE RESEARCH LABORATORY.—Parke, Davis & Co., Detroit, Mich. Dr. E. M. Houghton, Director. Reprints. Volume 3, 1915.

This volume of 341 large 8 vo. pages contains reprints of 22 original communications of pharmaceutical and pharmacologic interest.

Among the papers that are largely pharmaceutical, it will suffice to enumerate: U. S. P. Menstrua, by H. C. Hamilton; The Sterilization of Adrenalin Solutions, by L. W. Rowe; Disinfection and Disinfectants, by H. C. Hamilton; the Bacteriological

Standardization of Disinfectants, by H. C. Hamilton; The Pharmacy of Adrenalin, by C. P. Beckwith. These and the other papers in this volume contain much that is of value in addition to the subject matter announced in the titles. This varied information could be made more readily available by appending a more or less comprehensive index to the individual volume or better still by compiling in connection with a future volume an index to the material already published. Even as they are these reprints constitute an important contribution to the literature on the properties and uses of drugs that should be known to all who are in any way interested in pharmacology or related branches.

M. I. W.

Obituary

GEORGE D. FELDNER.

George D. Feldner, senior, sixty-one years old, died recently in New Orleans, where he had been engaged in the drug business for forty-five years. During the scourge of 1878, Mr. Feldner, then a young druggist, volunteered his services as druggist to the cause and gave freely of his time and means.

In the death of Mr. Feldner, New Orleans loses one of its oldest and best known druggists. He typified the southern gentleman of the old school, a man who was ever gentle and kind to those with whom he came in contact and who, on account of his genial disposition, numbered friends in all the walks of life. To the poor he was most kind, and without ostentation, gave them such assistance as he could.

He became a member of the Board of Trustees of the New Orleans College of Pharmacy a few weeks after its organization, and his devotion to the institution was most loyal, being a constant attendant at all its meetings except when sickness prevented. For thirteen years he was the President of the College and his services at all times, especially when the institution needed them most, were most valuable.

He became a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1913.

At the time of his demise, Mr. Feldner was a member of the Democratic State Central Committee, and a prominent Mason, Pythian and Druid, and an honorary member of the Washington Artillery.

He is survived by his wife, one son and two daughters.

J. W. E.



G. H. CHAS. KLIE.

G. H. Chas. Klie, as he was familiarly known, died at his home in St. Louis, September 24, 1915, in his seventieth year. Cancer was the immediate cause of death. He was born in Germany in 1845 and came to this country as an orphan, at an early age. An uncle who cared for him intended to educate him for the clergy. He, however, drifted into pharmacy. He was located at 5100 North Broadway, St. Louis, for more than forty years. Although much interested in pharmacy, he studied medicine about twenty years ago and soon had a good practice which was carried on in connection with the drug business.

Dr. Klie belonged to the old German type of pharmacist of which he was one of the very last remaining in St. Louis. He was for years secretary of the Mo. Ph. A. and always interested in the A. Ph. A., of which he became a member in 1878. He was a life member of the St. Louis College of Pharmacy and served as secretary for several years. He was for ten years assistant secretary of the United States Pharmacopœial Convention. His contributions to pharmacy were always instructive and practical. A case he reported to the St. Louis Medical Society caused very favorable comment not only on account of the very careful study which Dr. Klie had given the subject but the very clear and concise manner in which he described the disease and explained his conclusions.

As a citizen and Christian gentleman, Dr. Klie measured up to the highest standard.

Among the active pall-bearers were Messrs. Francis Hemm, Robert E. Schlueter and H. M. Whelpley, of the St. Louis College of Pharmacy.

H. M. W.