

## Editorial

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### EMERGENCY REVENUE LAW AND PLANS TO PROTECT THE AMERICAN MANUFACTURER.

**T**HE program of the next Congress, at this writing, seems to include: The re-enactment of the emergency revenue laws; the repeal of that provision of the sugar schedule which would place sugar on the free list May 1, 1916; the issuance of bonds to meet the increase in the army and navy appropriations; the enactment of the anti-dumping clause of the Underwood Act, which was reported favorably by the Ways and Means Committee at the last session of Congress, but was stricken from the measure by a viva voce vote of the House; an export duty on munitions.

The provision of the Underwood bill states that a special or dumping duty equal to the difference between the export price and the fair market value shall be paid whenever articles of a kind made in the United States are imported into this country if export value is less than the fair market value, in addition to established duties; provided that the special duty shall not exceed 15% ad valorem, and that goods shall be exempt from such extra duty whenever established duties are equal to 50% ad valorem. The export price at which such goods are consigned are held in this measure to mean the exporters' price for the goods exclusive of all charges.

Secretary of Commerce Redfield's plan for dealing with the dumping problem is embodied in the following: If foreign countries attempted to ship goods into this country at a greatly reduced price the United States consular agents could demand the right to investigate the means of producing the commodity to see if the manufacturer was selling at a lower price than he should. If the agents were refused the right to make such an investigation, the American Consuls could then refuse to sign the manifests and the products could not leave the ports for the United States.

President Wilson is said to favor the Underwood bill.

Druggists are largely interested in the re-enactment of the stamp tax portion of the revenue measure, and while it may be next to impossible to avoid the present assessment, every effort should be made to prevent the inclusion of other stamp tax.

Secretary Redfield's plan of protecting the American manufacturer involves the difficulty of proving that the sale price of foreign goods in this country is less than their cost price in the country of their production. The producer's assistance in arriving at such cost might not be forthcoming and his punishment, being a citizen of a foreign country, seems also to offer further difficulties.

The evil against which this measure is aimed is more or less illusory. European nations, when peace is declared, will undoubtedly seek to regain their lost markets and resort to every possible economy.

Their industrial population is inured to economies and low wages and this applies also to their chemists; their chemical as well as other industries are fostered by the government. In this country the industries, especially if corporations, are hampered in one way or another, particularly by laws, and when a strong effort is made to develop trade which is productive of results, higher wages or less hours are demanded—there is the lack of the right kind of co-operation.

Coming back, however, to the assertion that the anticipated condition is more or less illusory, there would certainly not be economy in selling at less than cost, but extravagance, and such folly will hardly be indulged in by a nation whose debts have multiplied and where increased taxation is mandatory. We do not overlook the fact that their object might be to discourage the American manufacturers, but the purpose will be so evident that our manufacturers should be able to play the game of trade with them, even buying their stock for resale, while the foreigners are disposed to sell goods below cost of manufacture.

Another measure, which is more practicable and certainly encouraging, is the proposed amendment to the Clayton Act, permitting manufacturers in this country to organize selling agencies abroad. Similar plans have largely contributed to German industrial success. Germany, in its laws, first recognizes that combinations may do harmful acts and then provides for useful and beneficent combinations by permitting organizations under supervision and control of manufacturers and merchants into syndicates, by which the products of all members are marketed.

Our anti-trust laws have as the one object the prevention of the possibility of harmful combinations, practically drag-nets which seemingly propose, that rather than have one harmful one escape, to destroy those that are beneficent if necessary to accomplish the "seeming" chief purpose. The American chemical and drug industries can be promoted by aid of university research laboratories and government co-operation, and now is the opportune time for their development. As Mr. Geo. W. Perkins very forcefully says and repeats, "let us prepare for peace."

E. G. E.



#### THE WORLD'S RECORD FOR PERSEVERANCE.

**T**HAT the world had recognized the great naturalist, Jean Henri Fabre, was evidenced by the press of every country, when they announced in important headlines the passing away at the age of 92 years, of this unique genius. When a great scientist has practically lived in obscurity for eighty years of his life, notwithstanding that his work merited recognition during the greater part of this period, such unusual occurrence is deserving of mention in these pages, even though his studies were not intimately associated with pharmacy.

The world was not altogether to blame for the obscure life led by this investigator and author, for he preferred to live in seclusion, persistently studying and observing smaller animal life in all of its relations, so that Darwin in acknowledging Fabre's thoroughness in the minutest details, named him "the inimitable observer." It was not until 1910 that the home of this naturalist in the obscure little village, Serignan, became a Mecca for pilgrimages to the shrine of the

"Homer of Insects." The highest dignitaries of his own country and scientists from all over the world flocked here to do him homage and in the same year a great public demonstration was held in his honor.

He might have had more general and earlier recognition, for Pasteur sought him out as early as 1865 to secure his help in a silkworm plague under investigation. The haughty manner of Pasteur however was not compatible with the independent nature of Fabre, or perhaps, this should have been stated reversely. The latter would have excluded from his presence the man of rank and admitted the humblest scholar seeking for information, according to the dictates of his judgment or prejudice of the motives of the two. He was offered the private tutorship of the son and heir of the third Napoleon, but the gruff scientist declined the honor, because it would have diverted his study, although he was experiencing the pangs of poverty.

The famous naturalist chose to labor in one of the humblest of sciences in which a neglected division, the study of instinct, particularly attracted him. He lived to see the future of great results from his investigations, and entomology, as a department of science, exalted. Though his work was the most exacting, the one instrument of value he possessed, until very recent years, was his microscope. He studied insects in their minutest detail and then wrote of them in an intensive, vivid style, of their terrible instincts, their murders, their struggle for existence. He once said, "I write above all things for the young. I want them to love the natural history which you make them hate, and that is why, while keeping strictly to the domain of truth, I avoid your scientific prose."

Edmond Rostand has spoken of Fabre as the great scientist, "who thinks as a philosopher, sees as an artist, and feels and expresses himself as a poet." Dr. C. V. Legros named him "the poet of science," and quoting the same author in his biography:

"His gaze has penetrated even the most hidden dwellings, those in which the Halictus varnishes her cells and makes the round loaf which is to receive the egg, in which, under the cover of cocoons, murderous grubs devour slumbering nymphs; even the depths of the soil are not hidden from him, for there, thanks to his artifices, he has surprised the astonishing secret of the Minotaur.

"He sifts all doubtful stories; anecdotes, statements of supposed habits; all that is incoherent or ill observed or misinterpreted; all the 'cliches' which the makers of books pass from hand to hand.

"In place of repetition, he gives us laws, constant facts, fixed rules.

"He sets himself to decipher the meaning of old tales, skillfully disengaging the little parcel of truth which usually lies beneath a mass of incorrect or even false statements. He criticizes La Fontaine and questions the statements of Horus, Apollo and Pliny. From a mass of undigested knowledge he has created the living science of entomology."

The brief abstract will be pardoned because it so nicely depicts the development of a science.

Fabre published quite a number of elementary and popular books of science, his greatest work, *Souvenirs Entomologiques*, was crowned by the Institute of France.

Though Schcele was a different character and lived less than half the number

of years granted to Fabre, the two scientists have some striking characteristics in common; a sacrificing devotion held them to their work, spurning other distinctions and honors, limited means for investigations with the production of nearly unlimited results that shaped the respective departments of science in which their activities were so pronounced. Truly both are great examples of perseverance and achievement.

Permit the further deduction from the life of both, that information has greatest value only, when it is applicable for the development of general intelligence, which makes industrial and scientific application possible. E. G. E.



#### TRADE-MARKS AND TRADE-NAMES.

**A**N interesting sidelight on the inconveniences that may result from the now all too widespread attempt to appropriate the use of arbitrarily coined words as trade-marks is given in a recent note by W. Heubner (*Therap. Monat.* 1915, v. 29, p. 475). From this note it appears that the German army medical supply includes averred substitutes for aspirin, antipyrine, pyramidon, veronal, urotropin and several other widely used articles of a proprietary nature. This has become necessary because the medical officers at the front, without access to books or to well-informed pharmacists, are frequently at a loss to find the exact chemical or official title for the article of a proprietary nature with which they are otherwise thoroughly well familiar. The German army supply department recognizing the existing need has been furnishing both tablets and powders of proprietary chemicals in packages with wrappers bearing on them, in addition to the full official title, such as "Dimethylaminophenyldimethylpyrazolon," the statement "substitute for pyrazolon" with an indication of its origin, giving the number of the sanitary depot and the town or city in which it is located. Heubner points out that sooner or later the protected name for a proprietary becomes the generally accepted title for the drug or preparation and that while legal authorities may differ as to when this transformation takes place, the fact that it does take place is generally accepted and even in connection with the German trade-mark law, which provides for the registration of trade-names, this protection can extend only for a limited period of time. The same principle has already received official recognition in England, where the Board of Trade has declared aspirin, lysol and several other widely used titles of so-called new remedies to be public property and therefore open for general use.

In our own country where names of compounds are not recognized as legitimate trade-marks an effort has been made to establish them as such and to maintain proprietorship in articles because of the registration of a trade-name as a trade-mark. This practice would appear to be in contravention to that portion of the trade-mark law which provides that no mark may be legally registered which consists merely in words or devices which are descriptive of the goods or the character or quality of the goods rather than as a mark of origin. The world-wide agitation or dissatisfaction with established practices in connection with the use of trade-names promises to bring about far reaching changes in our conception of equity and right in the proprietorship of coined words.

## COMPOUND DIGESTIVE ELIXIR.

CONSIDERABLE space is devoted in the Journal of the American Medical Association to the Compound Digestive Elixir of the National Formulary and a proprietary preparation of that type.

We quote the conclusion of one of these editorials under the caption of "The N. F. Imitation of Elixir of Lactopeptine," as follows: "Thus the druggist is invited to emulate the followers of Mrs. Eddy in substituting for inconvenient knowledge a cheerful faith which seeks not to dissolve a profitable mystery. Pharmacists should not be too severely blamed, however, for adopting such an attitude; manufacturers and dealers in drugs are, after all, merchants, whose profits are in a general way directly proportionate to the amount of goods they sell. The pharmaceutical profession, however, will do well to remember that pharmacists themselves will suffer in the end from the reaction in the minds of the medical profession and the public if they persist in disregarding what they know to be true for the sake of what they find to be profitable."

We do not desire to discuss the merits of the preparation but do deny the allegation that the dispensing of this elixir is encouraged by *pharmacists* because it offers a greater or less profit. Such statement ought to have been omitted. Pharmacists can not question the right or judgment of physicians in prescribing an elixir for which there is, and has been for many years a large if not increasing demand.

We will not question that the prescribing by physicians of proprietary preparations of this type suggested the inclusion of a formula in the National Formulary; there was, however, this purpose in the minds of the pharmacists, of acquainting physicians with the components entering into this preparation. In devising the formula, they used the utmost care to have the product represent the activities of its constituents.

We admit that the name by which this preparation is now known should not have been employed, and the present revision of the National Formulary corrects this by assigning the title, "Compound Elixir of Pepsin." While we may anticipate the answer, that this does not change the character, it is a correction which should be made; as heretofore, the prescribing thereof comes within the province of the physician and the pharmacist would be derelict if he did not discharge his duty.

E. G. E.



## MR. GODBOLD'S NAME OMITTED.

THROUGH an unfortunate error in typewriting the report of the nominating committee, the name of our honorary president, F. C. Godbold of New Orleans, who was regularly nominated for membership in the Council at the San Francisco meeting, was omitted from the report and therefore from the official ballot and the omission was not detected until the ballots had been sent out to all of our members.

The oversight is deeply regretted, for while the distinction of being elected as honorary president shows the high esteem in which Mr. Godbold is held by the members of the Association, that very fact makes the error more regrettable.

That he will be selected as a candidate for the council at the 1916 meeting seems a foregone conclusion, since the member who submitted his name at San Francisco reserves the right to renew the nomination at Atlantic City. In the meantime, we are glad to note that his present term as a member of the Council does not expire until next year.

W. B. DAY.

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### YEAR BOOK OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

The second volume of the Year Book of the American Pharmaceutical Association has recently been delivered to the members, and, no doubt, has met with a cordial welcome from everyone. Whatever the cause of the delay in delivering the volume may have been, it will gladly be overlooked in consideration of the neatness, elegance and exhaustiveness of the book. The venerable Reporter on the Progress of Pharmacy, Professor C. Lewis Diehl, has once more shown his devotion to Pharmacy, and his unsurpassed efficiency in the work that has been under his care for so many years. From the subject matter of the book, it is hard to say to what extent the author is indebted to his co-laborers,—Harry V. Arny, Linwood A. Brown, Ernest C. Marshall, Otto Raubenheimer, Clyde M. Snow and Martin I. Wilbert; but without doubt each one of them deserves part of the credit of having produced such an excellent and serviceable book.

Considering the great number of pharmaceutical laboratories all over the world,—in the various colleges and universities, in the manufacturing houses and in the private studies of hundreds of co-laborers,—and the willingness with which the pharmaceutical press publishes the results of pharmaceutical research and inventiveness, the most serious question that confronts the Reporter on the Progress of Pharmacy is not what to put into the book, but what to leave out. Limited to a certain space, he must exercise judgment in selecting what is useful, serviceable and instructive. It would be much easier for him to present a volume of double or three times the size, by simply reprinting what he finds in the Journals of the various countries. In the selection, Mr. Diehl has always shown the best of judgment, and he also understands, in a most wonderful way, how to present the subject in a clear and concise manner, without ambiguity or unnecessary embellishment.

It has sometimes been stated that American Didactic Pharmacy is trying to run away from daily practice, and soars to heights that are unattainable to the everyday pharmacist. It appears to some, that the tendency of commercializing pharmacy in too marked a degree creates on the other side the desire for higher aims, more extensive knowledge, and depth and broadness of research and investigation.

It is not here the place to discuss this question, but it may well be stated that our Reporter succeeded in finding the proper mean between the two extremes paying attention to both tendencies of our profession, and giving each side the desired information and instruction. We congratulate our friend, C. Lewis Diehl, most heartily on the completion of this excellent volume, and we also congratulate the Association on the possession of so able a Reporter and so excellent a book.

W. C. ALPERS.