

## Editorial

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### THE NEW HOME OF THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

**W**HILE it will make little or no difference, practically, to our readers where the publication office of the Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association is located, the subject was given careful consideration at the San Francisco meeting of the Association, resulting in instructions that the Committee on Publication decide the location and the committee was given power to act.

The question was discussed from every advantageous viewpoint for the Association and resolved itself largely into one of finance. The vote finally resulted unanimously for Philadelphia, the city around which, with its sister cities of the east, New York, Boston and Baltimore, the early history of the American Pharmaceutical Association is centered. Quite a number of other cities, in a helpful spirit, offered a home for the editorial office and throughout exhibited a desire to consider the interests of the Association paramount. The offices will be located in the rooms of the Philadelphia Drug Exchange, Bourse Building. While the change means more to the Editor than anyone else, for reasons that need not be cited, he cheerfully accepts the decision, because his expressed desire has been to be of service to the Association, believing that the interests of the organization deserve first consideration.

The prosperity and success of the Journal means much to the Association, and every member should contribute such assistance as he can render. First, enlarged membership strengthens the Association numerically and financially and insures more efficient and better service to pharmacy. Everyone can render assistance along these lines; there is hardly anyone who, if the desire is sufficiently strong, cannot secure at least one new member for the Association. This will also help the Journal.

There is another way that each member can exert an influence. The Journal only accepts advertising that can be endorsed. It is extremely doubtful that any other kind will ever be found in the Journal, but if this should occur, it is the duty of the members to advise the Committee on Publication, and they can be assured of prompt action. Therefore, your patronage of *your* patrons in the Journal should be forthcoming; you will have an opportunity, at least, of letting advertising patrons know of your appreciation of their business. Apprise them of the fact that you have read their message in the Journal. This much encouragement everyone can give. Some can persuade others to advertise and such assistance will be highly appreciated; and by contributing to the income of the Journal the expense of publication will be reduced—and it will make further improvement in the Journal possible.

Many schools of pharmacy patronize the pages of the Journal throughout the

year, others during a few months. The revenues and the possibilities of schools differ, and hence we have no desire to praise one above the other. This comment may be made, however, that the American Pharmaceutical Association is an ardent supporter of the schools, it has largely made them possible; at any rate, this organization is engaged in the same mission, namely, to elevate pharmacy, so that even if the returns from an advertisement amounted to little directly, there is an indirect value, traceable in many directions. We hope the coöperative spirit will become more evident. We are thankful to the schools that have favored the Journal and solicit the support of all the others.

After the minutes and papers of the several Sections of the Association have been printed, there will be need of contributions, and these are acceptable now. The Journal is desirous to coöperate with the Branches of the A. Ph. A. in every way and contributors of articles are invited to send in their papers as early as possible, and when discussions have brought out a valuable point these should accompany them. The Editor takes this opportunity of thanking the secretaries for their promptness and good reports. The situation has not been convenient, but when the Journal is located in its new home, there will be no cause for complaint, if such existed.

Finally, the Editor, and he doubtless can speak for the Association, desires to thank the members of the Association in Columbus, the Midland Publishing Company, Professor George B. Kauffman and Miss Anna G. Bagley for the helpfulness and courtesies, which they have always extended. While the Stone-man Press Company performed its duties under contract, it has throughout evidenced an active and commendable interest in the publication of the Journal.

E. G. E.



#### A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION STIMULATES PROGRESS.

**A** STAUNCH and loyal member of the American Pharmaceutical Association gave us the substance of a letter the other day, which he had received from another good friend, in which the latter apologized for differing in opinion with the former. The thoughtful answer of the former has prompted this brief editorial.

One of the greatest and most beneficent aids to progress in our Association and in every other activity, is the fact that we do not think alike about everything, provided of course, that discussion is not for contention or dispute alone, but prompted by a sincere purpose or conviction.

We should have definite opinions about things, and if they are of sufficient importance, or we truly believe them to be, then we should stand stout-heartedly by such opinions and bring them to a conclusion in real accomplishment. Many have brilliant thoughts, splendid plans, but if they are not fostered until they develop into serviceable results, they may be hurtful, rather than beneficial.

If nobody disagreed with us or everybody agreed with us, then we would soon become lethargic, or if so wonderfully adept, a superabundance of duties would be consigned to us. If a well-balanced, enthusiastic member does not think as another, who has made a conscientious study and analysis of the subject, then defects, if any, will be pointed out and thereby the proposition is

perfected or the conclusions proven to be sound and applicable for the intended purpose—both are helped by the discussion and the benefits will probably reach others or the Association in general.

Not only should we be thankful that everyone does not think as we do on all subjects, but we should encourage thorough investigation of plans and purposes intended for adoption by the Association or those now in operation. E. G. E.



### THE RETURN OF ALLIUM.

**M**ANY of those who participated in the revision of the Pharmacopœia and by their vote excluded quite a number of drugs, will doubtless wonder if not quite a few of these will be reinstated in the practice of medicine, now that the scarcity of some drugs has become very pronounced. A drug milling firm, in this business for many years, during the past month sold out their interests because the supply of drugs was too limited for profitable business.

Without specific references at hand, we are not in position to give historical data relative to the use of garlic as a remedial agent, at any rate as far back as 1600 the juice of garlic was employed to prevent and cure the suppuration of wounds, and its many other curative properties were extolled as far back as we have authentic records.

The Revision Committee of 1900, without a strong dissenting voice excluded the drug, but now the medical profession will have to give respectful attention to garlic, for its efficiency is vouched for by the London "Lancet" on the testimony of several eminent London physicians and the reports from the Paddington Infirmary in London, field hospitals in France and elsewhere.

The rediscovery is credited to a peasant woman of France, who cared for many wounded soldiers and with such remarkable results that her treatment was investigated by army surgeons and the discarded garlic has deservedly won its return to the materia medica.

An investigation is in order and perhaps the near relative, *Allium Cepa*, may possess medicinal virtues as much alike as the odor which strengthens their relationship. On the battlefields of Europe, many of the old household remedies are being largely employed, in most instances by compelling necessity. This much, however, may be said, that after the termination of the hostilities there will be many interesting reports from field hospitals, that will furnish abundant material for research.

E. G. E.



### IS PELLAGRA A SOCIAL OR MEDICAL PROBLEM?

**I**T IS not in our province to discuss diseases or even therapeutics, but if pellagra presents a social problem according to the conclusions of Dr. Goldberger, which have the indorsement of the Public Health Service, then a brief reference may not be out of place in these pages.

The Southern Medical Association met in Dallas last month, and the subject of pellagra was an important one. Not only were interesting papers dealing with the dreaded plague read before the Convention, but quite a number of unfortunates were present at the clinics held during the week in several of the

hospitals and at Baylor Medical College. Although the disease has been known in this country less than ten years, it has become one of the most industrious agents of death, especially in the South. While in other southern states pellagra is more prevalent, the number of cases in Texas is placed in the neighborhood of 35,000. It therefore deserves all the study that is being given to it, and in which we as citizens, if not otherwise, are interested.

Dr. Roberts of Atlanta, Ga., stated that it requires a very sanguine mind to say anything optimistic about pellagra and compared the futile attempts of medical men to acquire some knowledge as to what the disease really is and how to treat it, with the chasing of a rainbow by children. He believes that when the real cause is discovered, if ever, it would be found to be due to a parasite or a poison.

The parasite theory is studied by many and some of the records cited would point in that direction. The use of thymol and oil of chenopodium seems also to have been beneficial in some cases. The suggestion of a poison, as a cause, would not destroy the argument of Dr. Goldberger, whose studies and observations have convinced him that the disease is caused by an unbalanced diet, a diet lacking in proteids and that both prevention and cure are to be found in the balanced or varied diet.

Not all experience substantiates Dr. Goldberger's theory, but it is at least a very plausible one and comes nearer to being substantiated than any other hypothesis advanced.

E. G. E.



#### IMPORTANT HARRISON LAW DECISIONS.

**P**ROOF is no longer mandatory to establish the fact that the Harrison law has been instrumental in largely reducing the number of drug addicts. Therefore it would be unfortunate indeed, if the United States Supreme Court will hold the same opinion or apply the same construction to Section 8 of the Harrison law, as rendered by Judge Wilbur F. Booth of Minneapolis in the case against one Charles E. Jennin, and in effect holding him guiltless of unlawfully having in his possession some of the proscribed narcotic drugs, because he was neither a recognized dealer, agent or dispenser of the drugs in question.

Court opinions have little value until the final verdict is rendered by the highest tribunal. The argument on which the decision was based and rendered in the case referred to is surprising to those who are not familiar with the technicalities of the law. Such construction, as we view it, would imply that while persons required to be registered under the law may have unlawful possession of the inhibited drugs, those not required to be registered, and not registering, would be guiltless though they were in possession of large quantities of habit-forming drugs. In other words, it would penalize those who in every possible way discourage drug addiction and probably encourage a scheming class of venders, who for gain are willing to pander to one of the lamentable weaknesses of human nature. National legislators instead of strengthening the law by naming those who are legally authorized to deal in and dispense the prescribed drugs, if Judge Booth's conclusions are correct, have in reality though inadvertently prepared a

way for violating the intent of the law, without being guilty of punishable offense. Conditions would soon be worse under the law than they were before its passage.

Judge Booth is not alone in his opinion, for similar conclusions have been reached by other judges.

Another important Harrison law decision was recently rendered by Judge D. P. Dyer of St. Louis by sustaining a demurrer in a case against a physician, who was indicted for alleged violation of this law. Judge Dyer contends that the physician did not violate any law through writing prescriptions, because he did not personally dispense the drug. Also, the judge took the attitude that the Harrison anti-narcotic law is not of sufficient force to compel physicians to register prescriptions of narcotic drugs, because there are no penalties provided for failure to register.

Judicial tests are necessary to perfect the enactment and viewing the situation in this light, it may be for the best that these questions have been presented in court. It is hoped however that the importance of this measure in restricting drug addiction will prompt speedy legal progress, so that the Supreme Court may soon decide whether these opinions are well founded or not. If they are, then adequate amendments are imperative; if not, then a valuable and essential precedent will be established.

E. G. E.



#### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.\*

Christmas is the day when the heart of man opens to joy and happiness. He, indeed, must be an incorrigible grouch or inveterate pessimist who cannot forget his own imagined misery at this time of universal rejoicing. From the old Germans or Scandinavians who celebrated the recurrence of the New Year after the shortest and darkest days had been passed, and made the evergreen hemlock of the North the emblem of the never-dying life of nature, this beautiful custom was taken over to the Christian era. Although pious priests substituted the birth of Christ for that of the revival of Spring, mankind never forgot the deep and thoughtful meaning of the day, and today, Christmas, in spite of its name, has long ceased to be a Christian festival alone. The green hemlock, with its gifts and glare, shines in every house, and its splendor brings happiness to young and old, to the infidel and the faithful, to all men without distinction of religion. For there is no other blessing so human and universal, so completely alike in the palace and the hovel, as the blessing of seeing others happy and contributing to their happiness. This desire to shed and spread happiness among our fellow creatures breaks forth in full beauty and clearness at this joyful time and nobody can resist its benign influence.

Let, then, this blissful feeling also enter our homes and open our hearts in the desire of giving and spreading happiness around us. We all need this change in our accustomed mode of thinking and acting. Let us, at this time of joy and blessing, forget the worries and troubles of business and cast aside the cares, most of which will suddenly appear imagined and unreal. There is much in life to be thankful for. Instead of trying to grasp and accumulate, let us give and distribute. Instead of hunting greedily for the glittering, deceptive

\* A message from the President of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

phantom of wealth and fortune, let us turn to others that need aid and happiness more than we do. Let us bring cheerfulness and content into our homes, among our friends; they have the nearest claim to our liberal hands and minds. Let us recall the beautiful days of our childhood, when happy expectancy made our hearts throb louder, and the brightness of our eyes and the flush of our cheeks betrayed our feelings.

And, brother pharmacists, at this happy, festive time, do not forget the best and noblest friend of all, the friend that has clung to us faithfully and lovingly through our whole life, to whom we owe all our success,—our profession. We all owe Pharmacy more than we admit, than we imagine. To the true and loyal disciples, Pharmacy stands forth like the common benefactor, the mother of our thoughts, our hopes, our ideals. Readily and amply she has strewn her gifts on us, encouraged our plans, strengthened our hopes, increased our energy for broader and nobler work. And more than others have we, the members of the American Pharmaceutical Association, received and accepted this blessing, and from year to year drawn new courage, new inspiration, new hope from her. Put, therefore, the name of this beloved benefactor, Pharmacy, on the list of those that you will make happy. Prepare a gift for her by devoting a small particle of your time, your thoughts, your earnings to her benefit. Tell your neighbor, your friend, of the many benefits you have derived from her; do not be afraid of talking in boastful words, in ideal descriptions; you cannot exaggerate. Keep on talking with the strength of conviction, the power of persuasion until you have enlisted him in our ranks. Thus, by gaining a new member, you may partly repay the blessings that Pharmacy has given you and present her with a graceful Christmas gift of your gratitude.

To many of my friends in the Association this Christmas appeal may appear childlike or too glowing, and they may smile at it. But I pray you, read it again at the night of the shining hemlock tree, when your home resounds with the clang and shout of Christmas happiness, when your heart is ready to forget the harshness and cold of the daily toil and is willing to join in the sweet, innocent happiness of your beloved ones. And if at that moment a spirit of thankfulness and gratitude to your dear friend Pharmacy creeps into your heart, keep it there, nourish it, and let it bear beautiful fruit, gratifying to yourself, blissful to your profession.

WILLIAM C. ALPERS.