

Editorial Notes and Announcements

E. G. EBERLE, Editor.....Columbus, Ohio

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The Association does not accept responsibility for the opinions of contributors. Offensive personalities must be avoided.

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THREE DECEASED PHARMACISTS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE HIS- TORY OF AMERICAN PHARMACY.

F. W. Meissner, of LaPorte, Ind., has donated two photo postal cards to the Historical Section of the A. Ph. A. One of Leo



Leo Eliel, Charles E. Dohme—Dr. F. Hoffman.

Eliel at work, and the other conveying greetings and a message to him from Fr. Hoffmann and Charles E. Dohme.

The card was dated May 17, 1902, at Wiesbaden, and expresses the wish that both of these beloved and distinguished pharmacists would attend the meeting in Philadelphia that year. Health prohibited the attendance of Dr. Hoffmann, but he sent his valuable address, prepared for the semi-centennial meeting entitled, "A Retrospect of the Development of American Pharmacy and the American Pharmaceutical Association."



GLUE FOR GAS TUBING.

In Germany solidified glue is now manufactured into tubing, substituting rubber. The Technische Monatshefte of April 10th, states that for some purposes this tubing is superior to rubber, more impervious to gases and more resistant to heat. It is claimed that this material will not deteriorate as quickly as rubber and when suitably encased will withstand a high pressure.

The cost is given at sixty pfennigs per meter and is sold under the trade name of Sonjatin. Professor J. Trube is the inventor and he makes the statement that this new composition is peculiarly suited for conductors of petroleum and gasoline as well as gases, but is attacked by water. The latter fact presents an objection and limits the use of the product.

"THE DRUGGIST AND HIS PROFITS."

Harry B. Mason, Editor of "The Bulletin of Pharmacy," has for quite a number of years made a close and intimate study of drug-store profits and has just published a book entitled, "The Druggist and His Profits," which deals with that very important part of the business.

The scientific study of the details of business has contributed to the modern store service. To compound a preparation is one thing, but to understand the chemistry involved, is another. So also in business, an intelligent understanding is necessary in order to anticipate profits or conduct it so that there is no uncertainty of results. The haphazard way of doing business, simply selling goods, is unscientific; in a successful business, a knowledge is required of the relation that obtains between the expense account and the volume of sales.

The book is interestingly written and goes into the details of business conduct without beclouding the scheme with unnecessary phraseology and impractical theories. In its fifteen chapters the production of profits is viewed from every angle and the subjects are discussed in a thorough, business-like manner. The lessons are taken from life, in other words, active businesses are analyzed; the methods presented are not presumptive, nor the remedies advised empirical.

It is unnecessary to say that there is no subject that confronts druggists or any other business men which has a greater importance than that of producing profits; hence in this work Mr. Mason has done a service which will doubtless be appreciated. E. G. E.

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New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1915, Containing Descriptions of the Articles which have been Accepted by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association prior to January 1, 1915. Chicago, 1915.

As suggested by the title this book contains more or less comprehensive descriptions of the composition, dosage, action and uses of and tests and requirements for the new and nonofficial remedies which have been examined by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association and which appear to comply with the rules of the Council. In submitting this publication the Council again emphasizes its

desire to have physicians and pharmacists understand that acceptance of an article does not necessarily mean a recommendation, but that so far as known the article complies with the requirements of the rules of the Council as printed in the introductory portion of the book. The Council also asks for criticisms and corrections to aid in the annual revision of the material contained in this volume. The present edition includes a total of 426 pages and XVI octavo pages and the material in a general way follows the precedent that has been established in previous volumes. The practice of classifying the several articles under general headings has been considerably elaborated on, a large number of new headings being included and some of the headings previously used extended so as to make them more useful for reference. In addition to the descriptions of new and nonofficial remedies, the book contains a reprint of the rules covering the admission of proprietary articles to the book, New and Nonofficial Remedies, with comments thereon, a general index of 34 pages, an index to manufacturers of products included in the book and a list of references to proprietary and unofficial remedies, not admitted to N. N. R. Altogether the book represents a volume of useful information that the up-to-date pharmacist or the wide-awake pharmaceutical chemist cannot well do without.

M. I. W.

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Annual Reprint of the Reports of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association for 1914, with the Comments that have appeared in the Journal. Press of the American Medical Association, Chicago, 1915.

This small octavo volume of 143 pages includes a collection of the reports of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association that have appeared during the year in the Journal of that Association, elaborated in some instances by the addition of records of analytical work or of other laboratory investigations which because of their technical nature had been omitted from the reports as published in the Journal. The complete reports are published so as to make the investigations available to chemists, pharmacologists and scientists in general who might be interested in medicine or who may have occasion to further investigate the

preparations or problems under discussion. In addition to critical reports on widely advertised proprietary preparations, this volume also contains a report on liquid petroleum or Russian mineral oil and references to a number of products that have been deleted from N. N. R. because of non-use or because the product is no longer marketed by the original manufacturer. As a report of progress and as a book of reference to investigations bearing on the use of proprietary medicines this volume will be a welcome addition to the reference book shelf of the active pharmacist or chemist. M. I. W.

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Annual Report of the Chemical Laboratory of the American Medical Association, January-December, 1914. Press of the American Medical Association, Chicago.

The reports included in this volume are given under three headings: (1) reports of contributions, (2) abstracts of reports, (3) reports not previously published. The object of the publication is to furnish to chemists, and to others who may be interested in drug analyses, readily available references as to work done in the chemical laboratory of the American Medical Association. The report includes a number of analyses of preparations of the "patent medicine type." Among the methods of analyses that should be of more than passing interest is a contribution by L. E. Warren on "The Detection of Emodin-bearing Drugs in the Presence of Phenolphthalein." This latter contribution is particularly interesting at the present time because of the number of preparations containing phenolphthalein that are being marketed usually without any suggestion that this particular product is present. M. I. W.

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THE HOMOGRADU THERMOMETER.

A new clinical thermometer scale is advocated and now in use, the thermometer being known as the "Homograde." The normal temperature is given at 100, but the measurement of the expansion or contraction is fixed by the Fahrenheit scale. Thus instead of one degree of temperature being indicated by 99.6, it is read on the new scale as 101. Doubtless this is a decided improvement, but why not adopt 0 degree as normal. Conversion can then at once be made by adding or deducting the degree indicated, thus a degree below normal which is minus 1

would correspond to 97.6 F. or plus 2 degrees to 101.6. To convert Homograde degrees to Fahrenheit requires that one-third be taken of that number and deducted from the degree Homograde and then 32 added. While easy enough it requires figuring. Thus deduct from 100 degrees Homograde $33\frac{1}{3}$ leaves $66\frac{2}{3}$, add 32 gives $98\frac{2}{3}$. If 0 degree is used as normal then the figures would at once give the temperature above or below normal. Carrying the thought through, the 100 degree of the Homograde might, on account of long custom, unthinkingly be taken to indicate 1.4 degrees of temperature, while such error would not obtain in the suggested scale.

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THE HANBURY MEDALIST OF 1915.



Edward Morell Holmes, F. L. S., has been awarded the Hanbury Medal this year for high excellence in the prosecution of original research in the natural history of drugs. The jury of award were the Presidents of the Linnean, Chemical and Pharmaceutical Societies of the British Pharmaceutical Conference and Mr. E. H. Farr.

The Hanbury Medalist was born at Wendover, England, in 1843, and at the age of 72 is still intensely active. In 1897 Mr. Holmes was awarded the Flueckiger Medal. By the expressed wish of the late Sir Thomas Hanbury, Mr. Holmes was asked to select for the Pharmaceutical Society Herbarium any or all plants of medicinal interest from the large Botanical Herbarium left by Daniel Hanbury; these he has catalogued for the Society.

Mr. Holmes has taken a great deal of interest in Chinese and Japanese drugs, procuring for the British Pharmaceutical Society specimens of the drugs of these countries from International Exhibitions. That the subject of this very brief sketch is a persistent worker is conclusive from a statement he has made, that it took him twenty years to fix the exact botanical source of genuine jaborandi and after the same length of time, definitely identified the plants yielding myrrh and Japanese aconite root. For

the last two British Pharmacopœias he has been the botanical referee, co-operating with the director of the Kew Gardens.

Mr. Holmes has always taken an active interest in pharmaceutical progress both from the commercial as well as scientific standpoint, and his thorough familiarity with the subject is substantiated by his article on Pharmacy in the Encyclopedia Britannica.



PROCESS OF TOUGHENING ORDINARY FILTER PAPER.

There has been some difficulty in obtaining hardened filter paper. Wm. R. Rankin, after experimenting with various treatments, finds that the following will give good results:

Good filter paper is dipped in nitric acid sp. gr. 1.42, drained quickly and then placed in running water to remove most of the acid; then dipped in .5 percent ammonia water to completely neutralize all acid. The paper is next washed in running water and partially dried between blotting paper, and finally in a water oven at 100° C.; when dry, the paper is again subjected to the same process. In the treatment of the paper precaution must be exercised, as the cellulose of the paper has been nitrated, and if the temperature in drying the paper is too high, it is apt to char suddenly. The shrinkage of the paper amounts to about ten percent.

The paper so treated, has a hard, smooth surface and will permit a liquid to pass through very quickly, when used for filtration.



CAROLINA JOURNAL OF PHARMACY.

Number 1, Volume I, of the Carolina Journal of Pharmacy has come from the press and from now on is to be issued quarterly. Prof. J. G. Beard is the editor and the Journal is published by the William Simpson Pharmaceutical Society of the University of North Carolina School of Pharmacy. A cut of William Simpson, forty-second President of the American Pharmaceutical Association, adorns the front page. The first number would indicate that the purpose is not only for developing greater interest among local pharmacists, but to be of general service to pharmacy, so the American Pharmaceutical Association is not overlooked and pharmacists of the state are urged to affiliate. A number of interesting and valuable articles are included in this issue, together with items

of more or less local interest. The publication is deserving of encouragement by North Carolina pharmacists, whose support is more particularly solicited.



HYOSCYAMUS OF THE ANNUAL AND BIENNIAL.

The British Pharmacopœia fails to state whether hyoscyamus leaves of the annual or biennial should be employed. The definition given is for leaves of *Hyoscyamus niger*, collected from the flowering plants and dried. Tincture of hyoscyamus prepared from biennial leaves makes an opalescent or slightly milky solution with water while that of the annual makes a clear solution. A tincture prepared from official drug, according to definition may not always appear as the same preparation to the patient. E. M. Holmes points out the difference that may obtain, not only in the preparation, but with the drug of the market.



RANCIDITY OF FATS.

Prof. Henry L. Smith contributes an article on Rancidity of Fats to the *Pharmaceutical Journal and Pharmacist* of July 3. While rancidity of fats is usually accompanied by increased acidity, there is no definite relation between acidity and the degree of rancidity. Conditions which conduce hydrolytic action also favor rancidity, which is generally caused by oxidation. Fats should be as free from moisture as possible, be protected from light and the influence of air, but this does not insure protection, as small amounts of impurities which may exist in the fat, by becoming oxidized, contribute to the rancid odor. Professor Smith suggests the use of sodium silicate for removing free acids from fats.



THE DOCTOR'S ORDERS.

She was the sort of woman who always tells everybody her business. With a cheery smile she settled herself at the counter of the hosier's shop and began:

"My husband has just been very ill—very ill indeed. So I have to do his shopping, and I want a shirt."

"Certainly, Madam," said the assistant courteously. "Stiff front and cuffs?"

"Oh, no!" she exclaimed in horrified tones. "The doctor says he must avoid anything with starch in it!"