

EDITORIAL NOTES

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CORRECTION OF THE MINUTES OF SAN FRANCISCO MEETING.

Mr. Fred I. Lackenbach writes General Secretary William B. Day that the discussions in the Section of Education and Legislation relating to the report of the Committee on Patents and Trade-marks were participated in by him, and were credited to Mr. G. H. P. Lichthardt; also, in the abstracts prepared for the Scientific Section, the name of Mr. J. W. England was erroneously given for that of Dr. H. Engelhardt. We are glad to make the corrections; they are ascribable to the transcripts of the minutes, these being printed according to the copy furnished the Journal.

A CORRECTION.

In reading the report of the secretary of the Section on Education and Legislation which appears in the November number of this Journal the following correction will please be taken into consideration:

University of Tennessee School of Pharmacy should be classified with those schools which require three years of high-school work as an entrance requirement to the pharmaceutical graduate course and four years of high-school work for the pharmaceutical chemistry course.

R. A. KUEVER, Secretary.

THE PRODUCTION OF NITROGEN.

Great stress is laid upon the necessity of "cheap" water power as an essential for the production of nitrogen from air. While this is true, there is a misconception of why this is necessary, and that water-power, like everything else, has a relative value. The reason why the atmospheric nitrogen process is little used in this country is because other manufacturing industries, utilizing water-power, can afford to pay a higher price for it. For this reason the logical point for obtaining nitrogen from air is where the available water-power is too remote from points where

it can be profitably adopted by other industries. In other words, water-power is only commercially important in the recovery of nitrogen when it really offers a "cheaper" means of production.

The coke-oven plants will very likely continue to be the source of our nitrates, and, with the increasing interest in related manufacturing, offers the more economical method and a nearly inexhaustible source of supply. The very fact of being remote, however, presents the commercially important factor of possible high transportation rates, which more than likely would offset the advantages of low production cost.

THE PREVALENCE OF "GRIP."

Not since 1903 has the dreaded grip been so prevalent as during the past month. Dr. William Osler defined the grip as a pandemic disease, appearing at irregular intervals, characterized by extraordinary rapidity of extension and a large number of people attacked.

Usually the affliction has spread from section to section; this year it seems to have appeared in localities between which distances intervened, and newspaper accounts from all sections of the country report a prevalence of this highly contagious disease in its various forms. The most common form is that evidenced by inflammation of the mucous membrane of the nose and throat, and which has developed the large number of bronchitis cases in many of the cities. Another form that is quite general, and possibly has claimed most victims, is that characterized by a high degree of fever and which, from lack of attention, has contributed an alarming number of pneumonia patients. A less prevalent form is that accompanied by gastro-intestinal disturbances.

In quite a number of the larger cities, stores and factories have been seriously handicapped by the prevailing scourge. The

New York Board of Health at once started an educational campaign, and one of the main mediums utilized for conveying this information is the public school system. Pamphlets, book-marks, etc., are given to the children, who carry them to their homes. The literature presents old thoughts with new admonitions and deductions; for examples:

“Cover up each cough or sneeze,
If you don't you'll spread disease.”

“Walk a mile in the open air twice a day. It will add ten years to your life; if you don't believe it, try it and see.”

“You can't overdose yourself with fresh air, and disease germs can't endure it.”

Drug-store windows evidence that we have with us again the Russian product with a French appellation.

ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY.

The completion of one hundred years in business is announced by Adam Pfromm and Co., wholesale druggists of Philadelphia. The firm was founded in 1815 by Thomas Wiltberger.

HERMANN HAGER-ABEND.

The New York Deutsche Apotheker Verein devoted its last monthly meeting on January 6 to a celebration of the centenary of Dr. Hermann Hager's birth. The program of addresses included the following: The Life of Hager, by Emil Roller; Hager as a Pharmaceutical Writer, by Otto Raubenhaimer; Hager as a Chemist, by Dr. Friedrich Klein; Reminiscences of Hager, by Dr. Gustav Drobegg.

OBITUARY

HENRY M. BILLINGS. 1832-1915.

Henry M. Billings, a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association for forty-six years (joined 1869), died on October 13, 1915.

HENRY MERRY BILLINGS,

the son of Ebenezer and Mary D. Billings, was born in Boston, Mass., July 21, 1832, and educated in the Brimmer School of that city.

He entered the drug business with his brother, Samuel Janes Billings, who was then conducting a drug store at Great Falls, N. H., and completed his pharmaceutical education with Joseph T. Brown, whose store was located at Washington and Bedford Streets, Boston.

In 1858, when twenty-six years of age, he connected himself with John A. Tarrant & Co., at Greenwich and Warren Streets, New York, in which firm his brother, Samuel J. Billings, had become a partner, but only remained a short time before accepting a position with Thomas Daniels in Toledo, Ohio.

In 1862 he re-entered the employ of the Tarrant concern in New York City, which had meanwhile been incorporated (1861) under the name of Tarrant & Co. Mr. Billings was made superintendent of the company in 1863 and elected to its presidency in 1867, continuing to act as president and superintendent until his resignation in 1879.

He retained an interest in the company, however, until 1892, when he finally retired from active business.

Mr. Billings, while never in robust health, was an energetic worker along conservative lines. Under his able administration the Tarrant business expanded in all directions; when he assumed its management in 1863 it was a comparatively small retail concern, with a limited sale for the Tarrant specialties, which had been originated by James Tarrant, the founder of the business in 1844; when he resigned from active service in 1879 Tarrant & Co. was recognized as one of the leading jobbing drug houses on the west side of New York City, while the Tarrant specialties, under the system of advertising originated by him, had grown until Tarrant's Seltzer-Aperient, the leading specialty, had become one of the largest selling household remedies in the United States and had been successfully introduced into many foreign countries.

Mr. Billings, while a strict business man, had a kind and genial disposition; he was a just and considerate employer, a good neighbor and citizen, a devoted husband, a faithful friend, and was highly esteemed by all those who came in contact with him in business or family life, in church or social circles.

