

EDITORIAL NOTES

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THE NATIONAL TRADE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA.

The National Trade Association of America has been organized, with George B. Caldwell, of Sperry Hutchinson Company, as president; Percy S. Straus, of R. H. Macy & Co., as vice-president; Harry B. Haines, of the News Printing Company, treasurer, and Louis Barnet, acting secretary. It has been reported that the activities will include a campaign against the Stevens-Ayres bill; the objects set forth in the constitution of this association are:

"To promote the impartial and scientific study of business conditions in all sections of the country and present the result to the members and to the public; to investigate means of securing better markets for producers, diminishing the expense of distribution and reducing the cost to the consumers; to encourage scientific and uniform legislation intended to foster trade and commerce, and to oppose and arouse public sentiment against legislation which seeks to shackle trade and commerce or to hinder the free play of competition in the supply or price of commodities in the interests of the few and to the injury of the many; to create a national league of practical men engaged in trade and commerce whose efforts shall be directed through a non-political, constructive association to establish a clearer understanding of the commercial needs of the whole country and of its various sections and of governmental regulation thereof or interference therewith."

PHARMACISTS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE SHOULD HAVE GREATER RECOGNITION.

Medical men are seeking to have the number of their profession in the government service increased. While they may have stronger argument in their favor, relatively, at least, there are good and sufficient reasons for asking that better recognition be given

to pharmacists. The war in Europe has evidenced the necessity for having trained pharmacists—and our experience during the Spanish-American War should have served as a lesson, when many more soldiers died from disease than from bullets.

Dr. George F. Payne, in a communication to the Druggists' Circular, says "that, while the pharmacist is a commissioned officer in the navy, in the army he is still not as well paid as, and is outranked by, the musicians and those who take care of the sick mules. There was no intention in the present organization to consider sick mules as more important than sick men; it was done on account of obsolete methods which were adhered to in the matter. It certainly seems a very narrow and out-of-date policy for the whole hospital corps of the United States army not to contain a single commissioned officer. The pharmacists in the armies of nearly every country in the world rank from lieutenant to colonel, and in France they often go as high as brigadier-general. England and the United States are the only two civilized countries who do not give commissions to their army pharmacists. Japan gives them commission as second lieutenants.

"The strenuous and important work done by the hospital corps of the various armies of the world requires capable and efficient men. In the United States army good hospital corps men are picked out to do X-ray photographing and much other important electrical work. They are called upon for chemical work, prescription filling, sanitary engineering and the handling of much of the important details of the work of the hospitals. Some excellent men have been developed in the service, and the wonder is that they continue to remain in their positions for the pittance which they receive."

In the reorganization of the army, proper recognition ought to be given to pharmacists, and to that end we should use our earnest endeavors.

AN AMENDMENT TO ADD MESCAL AND MESCAL BUTTONS TO THE PROSCRIBED DRUGS OF HARRISON LAW.

Senator Thompson, of Kansas, has introduced a bill (S. 3526) amending the Harrison law by adding mescal and mescal buttons to the list of proscribed drugs. It seems to us that such an addition is unnecessary, at least at this time. The scale could easily be regulated by states, as the use of the drug is very limited and confined to a few states, and therein restricted.

SUBSTITUTES FOR ABSORBENT COTTON.

Recent consular reports mention several more or less successful cheap substitutes for absorbent cotton that have been introduced since the European war began. One of these now on sale in Berlin is known as "lignin" and is made of pine cellulose. It is said to absorb blood better than cotton, but cannot compete with the latter as a dressing for wounds. It is, however, pronounced satisfactory for use as a second dressing. A cellulose wadding, made by a secret process from chemical wood pulp, is now offered as a dressing for wounds in Sweden. It comes in very thin sheets, resembling tissue paper. The use of sterilized spagnum moss for the same purpose appears to have been generalized by the exigencies arising from the war.

CONTEMPLATED DISCONTINUANCE OF THE FAHRENHEIT THERMOMETER SCALE.

House bill 528 provides that the Fahrenheit scale be no longer used in government publications, or at least, discontinued after a designated period of time. Aside from custom there seems to be no particular reason why the Fahrenheit scale should be continued; the Centigrade scale is quite generally employed, except for weather indications. The same objections do not obtain that apparently exist relative to a general adoption of the metric system in the various measures of common use.

If you favor the bill, write Congressman Albert Johnson to that effect, or, if you object to the discontinuance, give him your reasons for retaining two thermometer scales when the simpler one will answer every purpose.

THE OMNIBUS REVENUE BILL CONTEMPLATES REPEAL OF STAMP TAX.

The omnibus revenue bill is said to contemplate the repeal of the "stamp tax" of the emergency "war" revenue act of October 22, 1914, which has been extended to expire at the end of the present year.

CORNELL'S CHEMICAL LABORATORY DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Morse Hall, home of the Chemistry Department at Cornell University, was practically destroyed by fire, February 13, entailing a loss of more than \$400,000, wiping out research work, the value of which can hardly be estimated.

PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

Dr. H. H. Rusby, of the New York College of Pharmacy, recently delivered an address on "Drug Cultivation" before the Board of Managers of the New York Botanical Garden.

Dr. Reid Hunt, of Harvard University Medical School, has been elected president of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics.

John Humphrey, editor of the Pharmaceutical Journal (Great Britain), has been compelled, on account of impaired health, to resign his duties. Mr. Humphrey assumed sub-editorial duties in 1892, afterwards becoming editor, and during these years helped on the progressive movement in British pharmacy and accumulated during that time a splendid record of which he may well be proud.

Howard B. French, president of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, was elected president of the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. In recognition of faithful service for thirty years as chairman of the Executive Committee of the Paint Manufacturers' Club, this association presented Mr. French with a handsome loving cup at the annual meeting of this organization.

H. K. Mulford, president of H. K. Mulford Company, was elected one of the vice-presidents of the Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

The Deutsch-Amerikanische Apothecker Zeitung of January is an interesting Hermann Hager number. Editor Hugo Kantrowitz was in Philadelphia in attendance at the February Philadelphia A. Ph. A. Branch

meeting, and participated in the presentation of an enlarged photograph of Hermann Hager to the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy.

Professor Otto Raubenheimer addressed the Philadelphia Branch, A. Ph. A., on the subject of the A. Ph. A. Recipe Book, February 8. He also made the presentation address in donating an enlarged photograph of Hermann Hager to the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, on behalf of the German Apothecaries' Society of New York.

Charles Sumner Koon was recently elected secretary of the Michigan Board of Pharmacy. He is also president of Muskegon (his home city) Retail Druggists' Association.

Dr. E. L. Newcomb, head of the Department of Pharmaceutical Botany and Pharmacology, University of Minnesota, has been elected editor of the *Northwestern Druggist*. Dr. Newcomb is also secretary of the Minnesota Pharmaceutical Association.

After twenty-five years of valuable service to pharmacy, Merck's Report ceases to be a subscription journal. The first number has already been issued under the new order, and, while different in general make-up, it will continue to be a welcome visitor. The spirit of the publishers is expressed in these words, "The field is so well covered by the pharmaceutical press that it seems unnecessary to do what other journals are doing so well."

Riker-Hageman merger with the United Drug Company has been authorized. The capitalization is \$20,000,000, and it is intimated that the Dow and Owl Drug Company "chain" of stores will be added before very long.

The Farbwerke-Hoechst Company will contest the legality of a ruling made by the Commission of Internal Revenue applying the provisions of the Harrison Act to non-habit-forming drugs, such as novocaine, orthoform, anæsthesin, and holocaine.

OBITUARY

J. P. BRASHEAR.

J. P. Brashear, veteran retail druggist of Fort Worth, Texas, and member of the American Pharmaceutical Association, died January 18 from injuries received on the night previous, when he was knocked down by an automobile.

Mr. Brashear came to Fort Worth about thirty years ago, first engaging as clerk, and later established the business of which he was owner at the time of his death. Fort

Worth druggists closed their stores and attended the funeral in a body, evidencing the high regard in which he was held as frater and citizen.

The deceased is survived by his widow and several children. He was deeply interested in association work, and always contended that membership in the various drug organizations was not only beneficial, but he considered such support a duty.

E. G. E.

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

Supplement to the British Pharmaceutical Codex, 1911, including additions, alterations, and corrections. Published by direction of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, London. The Pharmaceutical Press, 17 Bloomsbury Square, W. C., 1915. Price, one shilling net.

This pamphlet of 75 8vo pages contains particulars of important additions and alterations which have become necessary since the work was published, and includes new monographs, galenical formulæ, a list of substances with proprietary names and their chemical equivalents, a list of alterations in the text of the British Pharmaceutical Codex, 1911, necessitated by the publication of the British

Pharmacopœia, 1914, a list of British Pharmaceutical Codex, 1911, Corrigenda, and an index of nine 3-column pages, containing upward of 1300 references, and indicating the varied nature and comprehensiveness of the material discussed in the pamphlet under review.

The list of substances, with proprietary trade names and their chemical equivalents, embodies an attempt to develop and systematize a series of short, non-proprietary names by the adoption, so far as possible, of the following rules:

Alkaloids and other basic substances to have names ending in "*-ine*."