

EDITORIAL NOTES

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FRENCH FIELD LABORATORIES.

According to the Schweizer Apotheker Zeitung, the French, as a part of their "Pharmacie Militaire," have organized two hundred mobile field laboratories for analytical and toxicological work at the front. One of these is attached to each Army Corps.

Each laboratory superintends the sanitation of the troops of its corps; to examine, and if necessary, to disinfect all drinking water; and to ensure the wholesomeness and quality of all rations. Quite unexpectedly, also, it has had to investigate the methods of combating attacks of poison gas, lachrymatory shells, and other chemical methods of offence employed by the enemy. The disinfection of trenches and of clothes also comes under its duties.

The chiefs of these laboratories have been recruited, according to their qualifications, from pharmacists, expert chemists, doctors or licentiates of science, and others. Conferences have been organized, where these chiefs receive suggestions on various matters and indications of processes or methods to be employed. Each laboratory is supplied with cases of apparatus and reagents, as simple and handy, yet as complete as possible. This phase of the organization is still being discussed and modified.

The position of the chiefs is one of great responsibility and demands considerable freedom of action. They will rank as officers and will probably be subordinate only to the orders of the chief of their division. They will be mounted. The assistants in these laboratories will rank as subordinate officers, and will be mainly recruited from the assistant pharmacists who have not yet received a higher step, or from students of pharmacy who have fulfilled a part of their curriculum.

THE TERCENTENARY OF SHAKESPEARE'S DEATH.

Xrayzer II in Chemist and Druggist says: "I am not going to claim for our great poet

that, if not a professed pharmacist, he had as much right to the title as many who have borne it, though other claims, quite as extravagant, have been made for him, and volumes have been written on his medical lore. He has been held up as peculiar among his contemporaries in that, whereas other writers of the time 'draw their illustrations from what was then thought the only fount of poetic description, the pagan mythology,' he 'has recourse to natural philosophy, astronomy, medical science, and English jurisprudence.' I say nothing of the other subjects, but, after a fairly comprehensive reading in the Elizabethan drama, I make bold to affirm that if Shakespeare differs at all from his most eminent rivals in the matter of 'medical science,' it is in showing comparatively little of it. Wootton says in his 'Chronicles' that most of the drugs and pharmaceutical preparations named by him would be familiar to anybody acquainted with the literature of his day, and the same might with equal truth be said of his medical lore in general."

A SCHOLARSHIP IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING.

Dr. Victor G. Bloede, of Baltimore, has provided a scholarship for assisting deserving young men to obtain education in the field of industrial chemistry or chemical engineering. The Chemists' Club of New York has supervision of the endowment, and inquiries should be addressed to them before June 1st. Such acts are commended and should stimulate endowments for pharmaceutical research by assisting colleges and associations in such promotions.

UNITED STATES TO MAKE MEDICAL SURVEY.

Plans for a coöperative survey of the nation's medical and scientific resources to be used by the War and Navy Departments in war times have been discussed by President Wilson and committees from medical and

scientific organizations. The President approved the idea of an extensive investigation, saying that the information collected would be turned over to the military departments.

THE ENRICHT GASOLINE SUBSTITUTE.

The papers have given considerable space to the Enricht Gasoline Substitute. The fluid, perfected by the inventor, is supposed to decompose water into its constituents and the hydrogen made available at a very low price. One of the statements describes the liquid, capable of doing this, as of a greenish color, and when mixed in the proportion of four ounces to five gallons of water will produce motive power fully as powerful as gasoline.

Dr. C. F. Chandler gives his opinion in saying that the proposition is absolutely impossible, presenting the chemist's viewpoint. But now come the further reports that The Maxim Munitions Corporation has paid a large sum for the sole manufacturing rights.

THE SMITH-HUGHES BILL.

The Smith-Hughes Bill, now before Congress, provides for national grants for voca-

tional education. Under its provisions, Federal grants are to be made to states for stimulating education in agriculture and in the trades and industries. The schools to be aided must be supported and controlled by the public; the instruction given in them must be of less than college grade; they must be designed to prepare boys and girls over 14 years of age for useful or profitable employment in agriculture, in the trades and industries and home economics.

Among the arguments advanced for the bill are the following: "An overwhelming public sentiment shows the need for vocational education in this country. The testimony in this behalf comes from every class of citizenship, from the educator, the manufacturer, the trades-unionist, the business man, the social worker, and the philanthropist.

"Vocational training is required to conserve and develop our national resources. These resources are decreasing. Successful competition with foreign countries in the future will depend upon our ability to 'sell more brains and less material.'"

BOOK NOTICES.

September, 1916, has been fixed as time when the United States Pharmacopœia IX and National Formulary IV will become official.

Digest of Comments on the Pharmacopœia of the United States of America and on the National Formulary for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 1914. By Martin I. Wilbert. Bulletin No. 5, Hygienic Laboratory, 8vo, 508 pages. Washington, Government Printing Office.—A comment on this volume would be largely a repetition of the commendatory remarks made relative to previous issues. Like all of the preceding numbers, this volume contains much interesting matter; the object is kept well in mind and is replete with references to literature pertaining to pharmacy and materia medica. The completeness in this respect exhibits painstaking efforts, and while the references are of necessity brief, the abstracts give desired information relative to the scope and character of the original paper. It has been stated before that this work has been helpful to those charged with the revision of the Pharmacopœia and National Formulary, so the continuation of it will serve the next

Committees, and also be welcomed by every pharmacist.

References are made to foreign pharmacopœias, the second supplement to the fourth edition of the Netherlands Pharmacopœia. The author concludes that, from a pharmaceutical point of view, the publication of the fifth edition of the British Pharmacopœia is the event of greatest importance to be recorded for the year 1914.

A point of special interest in connection with the appearance of this book is that it completes the adherence of the several powers signatory to the international treaty of 1906 for the unification of the pharmacopœial formulas for potent medicaments. This Pharmacopœia is also interesting in that the committee having the revision of the book in charge has endeavored to produce a British Pharmacopœia suitable for the whole Empire.

Semi-Annual Report on Essential Oils, Synthetic Perfumes, Etc. Published by Schimmel & Co. (Fritzsche Brothers, Miltitz, near Leipzig. London, New York. October, 1915.—These reports are always interesting and valuable, containing, as they do, authentic information relating to the scientific research