

## EDITORIAL NOTES

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### THE PHARMACIST IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

Germany places its medical supply department in the hands of trained pharmacists; Japan followed this example and it is said that the pharmacy department is one of the most efficient of its military organization.

Pharmacists who have been in position to know something of the supply department for the army in this country are aware that there is often an evidence of either indifference or ignorance in purchasing drugs and related supplies. The same occasionally obtains in the purchase of supplies for state institutions.

The point is presented to direct attention and offer argument for placing this duty in the hands of qualified pharmacists. The uninformed officials or army medical men are perhaps not intentionally indifferent, but their knowledge of drug prices is meagre and therefore they cannot be observant. This leads to graft which could be prevented by the suggested method. Pharmacists should have supervision over sanitary regulations and operations and be entrusted with the handling of medical supplies.

It may not be generally known that the pharmacists of the Public Health Service have had *no* increase in pay for about fourteen years. March 4, 1913, the President approved the revised regulations of the Public Health Service, which provided a new scale of pay for the pharmacists with increased compensation. Congress, however, in the same year, in an Act for appropriations, provided that no part of any money appropriated shall be available for the payment of personal services at a rate of compensation in excess of that paid for the same or similar services during the preceding fiscal year. Hence the action of Congress prevented the paying of the increased compensation.

An Act of August 14, 1912, increased the duties of various officials, etc., and this made it possible to pay advanced salaries under the interpretation that increased pay followed the added duties. The pharmacists in the Public Health Service also were given more and additional work and under similar interpretation should be entitled to increased pay. At this time, when there is to be reorganization, these matters should be brought forward so that these pharmacists may receive rightful consideration.

### DERELICTS IN THE DRUG BUSINESS.

One of the most serious problems that confronts associations and individual druggists is, what to do with those who pursue methods that discredit the craft. To be more specific, there are men in the drug business who substitute and adulterate, conduct saloons instead of drug stores, sell articles and drugs that are prohibited by law. They take the chances, but often continue their nefarious business for years without being caught. It cannot be denied that such conditions are hurtful, but how can they be corrected?

In every large city, and even in other localities, there are dealers in prohibited drugs and articles. Personally, some of them are "fine fellows," their competitors dislike to report them, but is this right? They are oblivious to moral or professional claims that others, who detest such practices, have on them. In the current issue of one of the drug journals there are a number of views showing the destruction of saloons, in fact, drug stores, in name. In the daily papers may be seen, from time to time, pictures of druggists apprehended for selling narcotics. The medical profession is not free from such undesirables, but that is poor consolation.

The United States Supreme Court has held

Section 8 of the Harrison Law unconstitutional, which means that many cases now in court will be *nolle prossed* and, until new prosecutions can be perfected, will increase the illegitimate sales of narcotics.

States should see the necessity for effective pharmacy laws to exclude the unfit and eliminate the unworthy. The revoking of license should not only be a penalty of the law, but the one of invariable application, when intentional violations of laws are proven.

#### THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT RULING ON SECTION EIGHT OF HARRISON LAW.

It has been pointed out before that, in constructing the Harrison Law, the tax power of the federal government was distorted to create an extraordinary police function for which there is no direct authority in the constitution, and this created police power includes personal and individual regulation which is beyond scope of law. According to the Supreme Court's interpretation of the Harrison Law, possession of the proscribed drugs is not a crime nor *prima facie* evidence of a crime, except such possession be shown to be for the purpose of sale.

All reforms cannot be accomplished by law, and while the decision is disappointing because thereby the Harrison Law is for the time seriously crippled, means will be devised whereby the same end will be reached legally. Though the full text of the majority opinion by Justice Holmes is not to hand at this writing, the published synopsis indicates clearly that Congress has power to remedy the defect which the Supreme Court has discovered in the Harrison Act.

Justices Hughes and Pitney dissented from the majority decision.

#### A NEW CHEMICAL ANTIDOTE FOR MERCURIC CHLORIDE POISONING.

E. M. Harvey, druggist of Eugene, Ore., in coöperation with Dr. J. G. Hurst of the same city, has worked out a new chemical antidote for "bichloride" poisoning, which they contend is also physiologically active. Successful tests have been made in the laboratory and also in actual cases of poisoning.

The report is made in the Pacific Drug Review; the constituents and proportions

of the antidote are, calcium oxide, 90; sublimed sulphur, 250, and water to make 4000. The lime is slaked and the sulphur is mixed with the magma; 4000 Cc. of hot water are added, and the mixture boiled, under constant stirring, for half an hour. When cold, the mixture is filtered through absorbent cotton, bottled and tightly corked.

In the chemical reaction calcium bisulphide and calcium thiosulphate are formed and these, reacting with mercuric chloride, liberate mercuric sulphide, and the other products of the reaction finally are calcium thiosulphate and hydrochloric acid; these in the quantities employed are harmless.

The directions for administration are stated as follows: two fluidrachms of the antidote are given, diluted in a glass of water, followed by an enema containing 30 minims of the antidote, and this is to be retained as long as possible. After this, during twelve hours following, 4 drops are diluted with a glass of water and such dose repeated every hour.

Theoretically the proposition looks all right and, having been successfully employed in actual poisoning cases, evidently proves the practical value.

#### CORNELIUS HANBURY.

Notice was not made in last month's issue of the death of Cornelius Hanbury, and, although rather late, a record should appear in this publication.

Mr. Hanbury was born November 29, 1827, and passed away April 11, aged eighty-nine years. The firm of which he was a member celebrated its bicentenary last December. Mr. Hanbury served a five-year apprenticeship, passing the examination of the College of Surgeons in 1849 and the next year that of the Apothecaries' Company. In 1849, he began work at the pharmacy of his uncle and father at Plough Court. Here he became closely associated with his cousin, Daniel Hanbury, and with him, in due course of time, succeeded to the business of Allen and Hanburys. Mr. Hanbury was for a time treasurer and also member of the Council of the British Pharmaceutical Society. A sketch of the life of this distinguished pharmacist cannot be attempted. Suffice it to say, the company of which he was at one time sole owner has large branches in practically every country.

PROFESSOR EMILE CLEMENT  
JUNGFLEISCH.

Professor Emile Clement Jungfleisch, of the Paris School of Pharmacy, died April 24, aged seventy-seven years, at his residence in Paris, France. At the age of twenty he became a member of the Paris Society of Chemistry; in 1863 house-pharmacist at La Pitié; in 1865, he rendered valuable service during the cholera epidemic; in 1869 he became preparator to Berthelot and from thence on succeeded to positions made vacant by the latter. In 1872 Professor Jungfleisch was awarded the Jecker prize of the Academy of Sciences for his work on benzene chloride and the transformation of varieties of tartaric acid. Many honors came to him during his active life, which brought forth numerous contributions to pharmacy and chemistry. While distinguished as a chemist and member of the Academy of Medicine, he was at one time president of the Paris Society of Pharmacy and an honored member thereof, also member of the Revision Committee of the Codex since 1884.

BARTRAM'S DESCENDANTS TO RE-  
STORE FAMOUS PHILADELPHIA  
GARDEN.

Lineal descendants of John Bartram and members of the association named for the founder of the first botanical garden in America gathered, June 3, on these grounds and voiced their determination to restore the garden to its original state of one hundred and eighty-six years ago.

Tentative plans for the restoration have been considered, and in the near future more active steps will be taken. Several distinguished speakers participated in this, the

twenty-second annual meeting, among them our fellow member, Dr. Adolph W. Miller.

There is much remaining in the garden and the house that links the past with the present, and with sufficient means it will be possible to restore original conditions, as far as these are desirable.

NEW YORK TRADE PRESS TAKES  
ACTION AGAINST ALLEGED PRICE  
COMBINATION OF PHOTO-ENGRA-  
VERS.

The New York Trade Press Association is leading a fight against arbitrary and what is believed to be illegal action on the part of the engraving concerns of the city. These concerns have banded themselves together, under the name of the Photo-Engravers' Board of Trade, and recently notified all the publishers in New York City of an advance in the prices for photo-engraving which runs all the way from 20 to 200 percent.

It is noteworthy that the photo-engravers succeeded in putting into effect a similar scale in Chicago *and are planning to do likewise in 34 other cities*, without opposition from the publishers. In New York, too, it was assumed, at first, that this high-handed action could get through unchallenged. The trade publishers, however, looked into the matter and reached the conclusion that the action of the photo-engravers was contrary to law; that not only does it violate the Federal statute against combinations to fix prices, but that it directly contravenes a New York state law, known as the Donnelly Act, which is really more stringent than the Federal statute. The New York Trade Press Association has brought the matter to the attention of the District Attorney in New York County.

OBITUARY.

CHARLES L. HAY.

Charles LaMar Hay, of Du Bois, Pa., a prominent pharmacist of Pennsylvania, died of apoplexy in St. Mary's Church, St. Mary's, on April 23, 1916.

Mr. Hay was born at Lost Creek, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, August 15, 1866. He went to Du Bois in 1881, and later entered the employ of the late E. Fred Vosburg, being taken into partnership in 1888. Two years later he purchased Mr. Vosburg's interest, Mr. Vosburg having started the Corner Drug Store. In 1900 Mr. Hay pur-

chased this store from Mr. Vosburg and in 1914 he formed the Hay Drug Company. Last June, Mr. Hay purchased a drug store in Ridgway, and in July moved to that place.

Mr. Hay was a master workman in pharmacy and for a number of years was active in the Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association. He became a member in 1896, in 1899 he was elected first vice-president, and in 1902 was made president.

Mr. Hay was a man of strong force of character and genial disposition.

He was a warm admirer of the American Pharmaceutical Association, believing that