

EDITORIAL NOTES

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Committee on Publication: J. W. ENGLAND, *Chairman*; G. M. BERINGER, CASWELL A. MAYO, H. B. MASON, J. H. BEAL, and the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal, General Secretary, Treasurer and Reporter on the Progress of Pharmacy, *ex-officio*.

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OFFICERS-ELECT OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

The newly elected officers of the American Pharmaceutical Association, as announced by the Board of Canvassers, are as follows:

President, Charles Holzhauer, Newark, N. J.

First Vice-President, Alfred R. L. Dohme, Baltimore, Md.

Second Vice-President, Leonard A. Seltzer, Detroit, Mich.

Third Vice-President, Theodore J. Bradley, Boston, Mass.

The three new members of the Council are: Frederick J. Wulling, Minneapolis, Minn.; George M. Beringer, Camden, N. J.; Thomas F. Main, New York City.

These officers assume their duties just before the close of the Indianapolis convention.

The result of the referendum vote on the Year Book will be announced by the Publication Committee, and action thereon will be taken at the annual meeting.

THE INVESTIGATION OF NARCOTIC SALES IN NEW YORK.

The investigations by the New York Narcotic Committee will be helpful in devising means for curtailing the sales of narcotic drugs. There never has been a stronger and more determined effort made to arrive at a knowledge of the means employed for supplying the habitues with drugs, and the Committee, appointed by the State of New York to investigate the subject, has had the hearty cooperation of the drug organizations.

The larger sources of supply evidently are obtained through smugglers, the drugs being sent to adjoining and even distant countries, and thereafter brought back into the United States, and thefts from manufacturers and wholesale dealers. It is a difficult matter, especially at this time, when these drugs are needed by the armies, to discern whether the orders are for legitimate purposes. It was discovered also that some of the bottles containing narcotics bore forged labels of Ameri-

can manufacturers, so that probably foreign drugs are in this way smuggled into this country. The dealers supplying habitues or peddlers have evidently studied their nefarious business from every angle and devised a system. One drug peddler admitted that he made \$2000 per month on illegal sales, and further stated that a practically unlimited supply could be obtained in New York City.

The thefts of narcotics have been numerous and reported from nearly every large city; recently in Philadelphia, one jobber reported a theft of \$1500 worth of narcotics and another of nearly a like amount. It is generally admitted that drug fiends will not be deterred by any risk in securing the drugs.

The testimony of physicians relative to treatment differed, some contending that habitues needed the drugs, while others stated that they were not necessary and addicts could be more successfully treated without them; many did not believe there was a cure for the affliction so long as the drugs could be obtained.

In order to curtail the sale of narcotics some kind of an agreement must be reached between governments, and state laws must complement the Federal act. The illicit sale or prescribing should be made a felony and a punishment of long term confinement assessed. There is a developing sentiment that drug addicts should be registered, doubtless if this is practicable and could be enforced, the system would at once do away with a large percentage of the drug addicts.

The investigation will doubtless prove of value for providing legislation, and has shown how sincerely the drug trade desires to have this traffic properly and efficiently regulated.

GETTING PHYSICIANS AND PHARMACISTS TOGETHER.

The Weekly New York Health Bulletin says that the Bronx County Pharmaceutical Association is doing a commendable work in bringing the physicians and druggists of the Bronx closer together. The Association has

arranged a series of "propaganda meetings," at which an effort will be made to interest physicians in pharmacopoeal and National Formulary preparations, so that they will prescribe these in place of the many proprietary nostrums which now disfigure the advertising pages of many of even high-grade medical journals. The meetings will be addressed by prominent members of the medical and pharmaceutical profession, and will undoubtedly do much to promote effective co-operation between physician and pharmacist.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING HOUSES.

It must always be a source of satisfaction to retail pharmacists that the American pharmaceutical manufacturing houses developed from retail pharmacies. There the foundation was laid for their larger work. Pharmacists may well have pride in the service they render humanity; a wider publicity of this service should be given and pharmacists can reflect with much gratification thereon. And when they do, there must come also an acknowledgment of the accomplishments of the manufacturers, they are willing and do spend much money without knowing whether there will be any returns from their investment. But that this sincerity of purpose does pay is proven by the success of these establishments. Their research work is for the purpose of having perfect preparations not solely for deriving greater profit. Leaving aside altogether the commercial viewpoint, what a satisfaction there must be when they can say, because of the efficacy of their preparation suffering was relieved and life saved. So also in biological manufacture, many of these products originated in experiments which might have proven large losses, risks were assumed that they would have borne without complaint had they proven failures. So they are well deserving of commendation, and when physicians speak of their service to humanity retail pharmacists and manufacturers should not be forgotten. Let us give deserved credit to physicians and surgeons; they have reaped abundantly in the appreciation of the public, but think also of the millions of lives saved because of the products of the pharmaceutical and biological laboratories. The former have been given recognition, they received valuable publicity; it is time pharmacists had a larger share in these tributes.

CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES.

The public is gaining a better understanding of what chemical manufacturing means as a commercial enterprise. The war has been a great disseminator of chemical information, and misinformation, and there is a more wide-spread appreciation of the value chemical industries are to the United States than obtained a year or two ago.

An investor said the other day, money is not always a fair measure of things, but it is usually a safe proposition to say that when a man puts his money into anything it is because he foresees that thing is of value. So it is that when one stops to think that the total capitalization of new dye and chemical concerns in 1915 was \$65,565,000 and that in 1916 the total capitalization of new chemical concerns reached the handsome total of \$105,000,000, it is apparent that the American public is gaining a practical knowledge of chemistry as an asset in American manufacturing and commercial life.

CHEMOTHERAPY AND RADIOTHERAPY.

Dr. Isaac Levin says in the *Medical Record* that both chemotherapy and radiotherapy appear to produce their effects by disturbing and rearranging the internal structure of the atom, but the difference between the two methods consists in the fact that in chemotherapy a foreign chemical substance is introduced into the organism and influences the electrons within the atoms of the tissues, while in radiotherapy no foreign substance is introduced, but the waves of ether constituting the various rays disturb the composition of the atom. Dr. Levin states that only experimentation can determine where and when radiotherapy should be attempted, and only when the relationship between the atomic structure of the substance and the wave length of the X-rays is correct, does there take place a selective absorption of the rays by the substance, and the latter is then influenced by the rays.

TECHNICAL LIBRARY TO AID GERMAN INDUSTRY.

Vice-Consul H. E. Carlson at Frankfort-on-Main writes in *Commerce Reports* that according to a recent article in the *Frankfurter-Zeitung* and an interview with a prominent librarian at Frankfort plans are being considered for the establishment of a

general technical library at Frankfort-on-Main, to be open for public use. One of the leading city libraries has become interested in the project, and a beginning already has been made. It is said that the plan is unique among the cities of the German Empire.

A demand exists for a library which will be of service to all the numerous branches of industry and trade in and about Frankfort, the most important industrial center in south and west Germany. In this manner a broader spirit of scientific and technical investigation will be fostered. An attempt will be made to furnish technical information which will have a historical as well as purely scientific value.

Technical libraries have existed previously, but they have not been open to the general public. Such libraries have been the property of scientific societies, technical associations, and the larger industrial concerns. The service rendered by these scattered collections was comparatively small, as it was limited to members of the respective organizations owning them. These were usually hampered by lack of means and lack of facilities for organizing and arranging to the best advantage.

The plan that is now under way would combine these private and semiprivate libraries and put them under the control of one of the established city libraries at Frankfort-on-Main. The library chosen for this purpose is the *Freiherrliche Carl von Rothschild'sche Öffentliche Bibliothek*.

FRONT FACE.

The Robertson-Bradshaw Company has sent out a New Year letter which contains a series of good thoughts and worthy of reproduction.

A Happy New Year to you!
That means we are facing the future.

To our friends, our business associates, our relatives—even our enemies, if any—we send this greeting: Let the past go!

We have had failures, disappointments, worries—let us step on them and rise to better things!

We have had our triumphs, but they will not do for to-morrow, let them inspire us to new achievement!

We have had our little clashes—well, perhaps now that we know how human we both are we can get along better together.

God put our eyes in the front of our head, let us look forward, not back.

The future is the sky of the present; and light comes from the sky.

In the future we see only better business and bigger, we see honesty, loyalty and courtesy more worth while; the past may be spotted, the future is clear.

Then here's a hand of help to you and a hearty cry of good cheer!

May we all be more courageous to do right and kindlier in the doing, fairer and squarer than ever before.

May we make our workmen more prosperous, our customers more satisfied, our competitors more friendly, and altogether try to make this old world a more decent and brighter place to live in.

May we live this year so that

“Sweeter shall the roses blow

In those far years, those happier years;

And children weep when we lie low

Far fewer tears, far softer tears.”

RETURNED GOODS RULES.

Complaint against the abuse of the privilege of returning goods, which has become general within recent months, has led the retail trade board of the Boston Chamber of Commerce to draw up a set of rules governing the return of goods. An advertising campaign was conducted to acquaint the public with the changes, and slips bearing the new rules were sent by merchants to all customers. Goods were divided into two classes, returnable and non-returnable, and regulations governing the return of goods made as follows:

Any article of merchandise which by some good reason is to be returned to a store, must be returned within a reasonable time—six business days.

No articles will be accepted for return unless they are substantially in their original condition; neither will merchandise of any kind which has been used or worn, be accepted for return unless defective or not as represented.

The sales check must accompany all returned merchandise.

Gifts of all kinds (Christmas, wedding, birthday, etc.) if returned, will be accepted only in exchange for other merchandise.

All goods cut from the piece at the request

of the customer, that would have remnant value, are returnable at one-third of purchase price.

Uniform tags will be used on articles bought with the privilege of returning. If these tags have been removed from the article, it will not be accepted for return.

Exceptions are made when there is an error on the part of the store; or in case of defective workmanship at the time of sale.

McKESSON AND ROBBINS INCORPORATED.

On December 26, the firm of McKesson & Robbins was chartered as a New York corporation to deal in chemicals, foodstuffs, surgical instruments, printing stationers, with 10,000 shares at \$100 each; 20,000 shares no par value. Capital, \$2,000,000. Incorporators are: G. C. McKesson, J. McKesson and H. D. Robbins, 91 Fulton Street, New York City.

SOCIETIES AND COLLEGES.

THE METRIC CONFERENCE.

"The great mass of the world is metric and we are more metric than we know," stated Arthur E. Kennelly, professor of electrical engineering of Harvard University, at the meeting of Section 1 of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, held on the morning of December 27 in the School of Mines building of Columbia University. In proof of his statement Mr. Kennelly called attention to the fact that "Hundreds of thousands of bills for electric current are made every month in terms of the kilowatt hour" and cited other instances in which various measurements are designated in terms of the metric system.

This meeting of Section 1 of the association, held for the purpose of considering the "advisability of adopting the metric standards of weights and measures in the United States," was largely attended by representatives of various colleges, scientific societies, professional and business organizations, commercial interests and the United States Government and was one of the most important of the section meetings of the national body during the annual convention.

DR. KUNZ BLAMES ENGLISH METHODS.

Dr. George Frederick Kunz, in his address as chairman of the section, stated that one of the reasons for the slowness with which the United States adopted the metric system was that much of our trading was with England and that so long as that nation clings to the old system it will be difficult for us to make any change. With the single exception of England and English colonies the rapid development of our foreign trade is largely dependent upon our adoption of this, "the only international system" is the belief of Dr. Kunz, who stated:

"For the effective development of our foreign trade, for the utilization of the great and unique opportunities in this direction that the world war has given and will give us, it is most urgent that all foreign catalogues and publications issued by our manufacturers should have all dimensions expressed in metric as well as in English weights and measures. This can be done by placing the metric equivalents in parentheses. No better object lesson of the superiority of the metric system could be desired than that which would be afforded in this way, as its uniformity and simplicity would thus be brought directly home to everyone who consulted the figures.

UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

"The increased demand for our goods from South America, and the movement among our manufacturers to take advantage of the check of European exports to South America in order to introduce our productions there more widely and more consistently, works in the same direction. For our manufacturers are slowly learning the important lesson that if we wish to increase our trade in foreign lands we must endeavor to conform to the standards and usages current therein. When the war is over great opportunities will present themselves; but we must prepare now with a universal language of weights and measures."

In answer to the frequently heard argument that the adoption of the metric system would necessitate the "scrapping" of hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of valuable machinery, the doctor had to say:

"Of the great advantages the metric system possesses in simplifying all necessary calculations regarding dimensions, there can be no question. Hence the opponents of its introduction here base their arguments mainly