

EDITORIAL NOTES

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BETTER RECOGNITION FOR PHARMACISTS BY THE GOVERNMENT.

Pharmacists are, perhaps, in a degree, at fault that better government recognition has not been given them. They have too readily accepted what others said they might have; acquiesced in what others said. There is no desire to take undue advantage of present conditions, but it is hoped that pharmacists will contend for such recognition by the government in the Hospital service of the Army and Navy that bears a relation to the services of pharmacy and its possibilities when opportunities are opened to them. This is not meant in an experimental sense, for American pharmacy, with all the criticism that may be brought forward, compares favorably with European pharmacy; even with the restrictions that obtain there. American medical men never suffered because American pharmacists were unable to supply their demands.

The proposition just now is, that the services of qualified pharmacists are needed; they have a right to speak out as citizens, and also because the government invariably exacts assistance of them, which is always freely given. The point in question, however, is service. Perhaps the same work may be done, in a manner, by employing pharmacists or advising with them, but the time now is, when somewhat of a militant spirit should awaken among pharmacists. Admit that there is a selfish thought embodied, but the purpose is for better service to the public, and surely no one should criticize the desire for a higher professional standard.

Medicine is not pharmacy, any more than pharmacy is not medicine. A distinct Pharmaceutical Corps should be established and embodied in the Army and Navy Hospital Service. Medical men and dentists have been so recognized, and rightly so—pharmacists should be. At the head of such department an efficient pharmacist should be placed, one professionally qualified, and with adequate administrative ability.

It has been assumed that the "Medical De-

partment of the United States Army" is synonymous with "Drug Department of the United States Army." It must have occurred to the officials that this is not the case, for long ago the separation and distinction was made, however, there has been an evident, growing purpose to dominate pharmacy. To permit this movement to continue is not advantageous for public welfare, and pharmacy is certainly hindered in professional advancement. The medical men should realize that their progress, and better service, depends upon progressive pharmacy, and that it is to their interest and for the public good, to encourage every effort whereby pharmacy is advanced. They need the pharmacist as much as he needs the doctor; the greatest efficiency comes through specialization.

This is written prior to the meeting of the National Drug Trade Conference in Washington, at which time this subject will be considered. Up to the present there has been created a committee on standardization of medical and surgical supplies, class 1, under the supervision of the medical sector of the advisory commission of the Council of National Defense. This committee represents pharmaceutical, chemical, and disinfectant manufacturers. Willard Ohliger, of Detroit, is chairman, and Frank G. Ryan, of Detroit, is secretary. Following are the members of the committee: Charles J. Lynn, Indianapolis; Theodore Weicker, New York; Milton Campbell, Philadelphia; R. C. Stofer, Norwich, N. Y.; C. Mahlon Kline, Philadelphia; A. G. Rosengarten, Philadelphia; D. W. Jayne, New York; A. J. Marcuse, New York; S. Norvell, New York; and Herbert H. Dow, of Midland, Mich. The following executive committee of the foregoing committee, in charge of work in Washington, was named: Willard Ohliger, *Chairman*; Frank G. Ryan, *Secretary*, Charles J. Lynn, A. G. Rosengarten and S. Norvell. The headquarters of the committee are in the Munsey Building, Washington, under the supervision of the medical sector of the advisory commission.

This committee has been called upon by the medical sector to prepare specifications for all medical and surgical supplies of the army and navy.

As soon as this work is accomplished specifications will be sent out in the usual manner by the departments and proposals will be asked for.

The Pharmaceutical Committee is in no sense a purchasing agency. It is giving the government gratis, the benefit of expert advice, and information as to how best to meet conditions in the trade for prompt, efficient and economic filling of the order.

In a general way pharmacists may realize what it will mean to them when the government draws upon the manufacturing interests for supplies. There will likely also be further taxation on alcohol and a stamp tax on the usual list, of former occasions, is not unlikely.

THE CINCHONA BOTANICAL STATION.

It is announced in *Science* that the botanical station at Cinchona, in the Blue Mountains of Jamaica, formerly leased for ten years by the New York Botanical Garden, has been taken over by the Smithsonian Institution on

behalf of fourteen American botanists and institutions. It is hoped to make of this establishment a counterpart, in the American tropics, of the well-known Buitenzorg Garden of Java. The station comprises a furnished residence, three laboratory buildings, two glass propagating houses, and a garden of ten acres. Moreover, occupants will have the privilege of studying and collecting over the many thousand acres of the Cinchona reservation and on certain neighboring estates, besides having opportunities for study at Hope Garden, Kingston, with its library, herbarium and rich collection of growing plants, and Castledon Garden, which has a fine collection of cycads, palms, *Ficus*, etc.

COMPOUND SOLUTION OF SODIUM BORATE.

Thomas D. McElhenie, Brooklyn, suggests the following procedure in preparing solution of Sodium Borate: Dissolve the sodium bicarbonate in 500 mils of water; add the phenol, dissolved in the glycerin, and then add the sodium borate. After it is dissolved make up with water to 1000 mils. This procedure, the writer states, avoids effervescence.

OBITUARY.

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS F. MAIN.

(Many more tributes will doubtless reach the JOURNAL, but as the forms of this number must be closed, they are of necessity omitted from this issue.—EDITOR.)

CHARLES HOLZHAUER.

I am overwhelmed at the loss in the death of Mr. Main. His death closes an intimacy of about fifty years, during which time I have learned to know him as a man of bright mind and the most sterling integrity. He was always ready to help and never hurt. He was a friend, of whom it never was necessary to ask when trouble came to anyone, what will Mr. Main do? Personally, I feel I have met with a loss that I shall feel very keenly, and pharmacy will miss him sadly.

EDGAR L. PATCH.

I am sorry to learn of the death of Honorary President Thomas F. Main.

His personality will be greatly missed in all the days to come. Always cheery and thoughtful of others, he endeared himself to all his associates and ever brightened the corner where he was.

I esteem it a great privilege to have been associated with him and shall cherish him in my memory as a helpful inspiration.

EDWARD A. SAYRE.

A message over the wire says Thomas F. Main is dead. Such a shock; even to one who talked with him on Wednesday (it is Friday now). He was very sick, spoke in a whisper, with difficulty. If he knew his real condition, he did not say. His thoughts even then were of others. He said, "tell the boys not to come here without first 'phoning the doctor." I tried to reach the doctor on Thursday, left a message for him and 'phone numbers for home and store, not a word and my home little more than a stone's throw from the hospital. "No news is good news," is an old saying, hence the shock at evening was the greater. Memory fails me when I try to remember when we first met. I seem to have always known him. Always kind and considerate, ever ready to do a favor for others, he was highly thought of by all he came in contact with. He was a genial soul, full of the milk of human kindness. Never robust in health himself he was ever trying to do some-