

EDITORIAL NOTES

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A CORRECTION.

In the article by John K. Thum, May issue, p. 461, line 11, in the figure denoting the quantity of phenolphthalein, the decimal point should be before the zero; amount should be stated 0.02 phenolphthalein. While the error is apparent, correction should be made.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL CORPS.

Replies to letters from pharmacists urging the establishment of a pharmaceutical corps in the U. S. Army, have carried the statement that there is no need for those who require that they be given rank in order to serve.

This is true but as long as professional service has been granted such recognition, there is no apparent reason why pharmacists should be made exceptions to the rule. They contribute service that requires preparation; they have given the results of investigations and labor for the benefit of others and not controlled their discoveries, at least not to the extent of other inventors or discoverers. The world has profited by the discoveries of Scheele, Caventou, Pelletier, Labarraque and the hosts of others. The Dutch Burgomaster presented thirty odd reasons for not firing a salute, among them, having no guns and powder. What would medicine do without pharmacy? The *Army and Navy Journal* in a recent issue, answering Dr. Geo. F. Payne's argument for a pharmaceutical corps, concludes by saying: "Men who have not sufficient pride to do their whole duty, with or without rank, are out of place in the Army. Whatever may be the force of the argument for organizing a corps of pharmacists, the plan of giving them military rank is of very doubtful expediency." Such comment is calculated to incite a militant spirit. There seems to be prevalent a conviction that pharmacists are not to have a voice in their own behalf. In Canada they are having troubles of a similar kind, as the following editorial of the *Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal* evidences:

"THE POSITION OF THE PHARMACIST IN THE ARMY.

"It is far from satisfactory, in fact, just at present it is aggravating and the wonder is that the treatment accorded the craft has not dampened the patriotic enthusiasm of one of the finest bodies of men who have contributed proportionally more largely than any other class of citizens to Empire safety.

"Unfortunately the position of pharmacists in the forces is partially due to the apathy of the craft on the matter. Apart from the efforts of the officials of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association, few members have interested themselves in bringing about the merited reform. Another contributing cause is the chaotic condition of military affairs in the Dominion, which has prevailed for well over a year and a half.

"Had the members and assistants throughout the Dominion supplemented the efforts of the officers during past years, the desired change would have been made before the war called for the supreme effort of our military authorities. If even now those who recognize the unenviable position of the pharmacist would direct their efforts toward the attainment of their object, beneficial results would follow. No progress can be made or results achieved by writing letters to "trade papers" or criticism of officers because of failure in face of almost insurmountable obstacles. Trade journals can exert no influence, and usually are ignorant of conditions. The officers require encouragement and support rather than criticism. Those with the time and inclination to write letters should address them direct to the Minister of Militia and Defense, Ottawa.

"We would especially urge our members to avoid following the advice of those not familiar with conditions or lacking sound judgment. A plain statement of case, and insistent demand for simple justice will accomplish more than hysteria and bluster. Remember the men in authority are carrying heavy burdens these days. As a steadying influence we may

say that the officers of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association have not abandoned their purpose. They are still on the job.

"We must also do justice to the Canadian Military authorities by stating that the failure to carry out the agreement made by Maj.-General Hughes was due to representation made to the Minister by the *Imperial authorities*. Considerations for the wishes of the *Imperial War Office* led to the cancellation of the order conferring the commission of Lieutenant on dispensers in overseas forces. We are *debarred* from stating the reasons behind the request of the Imperial authorities, but they were considered weighty enough by General Hughes to justify the cancellation.

"While on the subject, it will perhaps be well to correct an erroneous impression prevalent regarding the number of dispensers required. There are no dispensers in the forward dressing stations or with the forward ambulance corps, neither are there dispensers with regimental units. Immediately corps arrive overseas they are brigaded in training camps and here dispensers are employed, and also in base hospitals and convalescent hospitals, so that the number required is limited. For military reasons it is impossible to create a *staff of officers*, so that only the man in charge of the dispensary has received commission rank, previous to the cancellation of the order as explained."

HOSPITAL APPRENTICES NEEDED.

The Navy Department authorizes the following:

"Two thousand hospital apprentice recruits will be needed within the next two months for the Hospital Corps, and efforts will be made to secure them as rapidly as possible. The 2,000 enlisted in the past two months are being trained at the stations at Newport, R. I.; the Great Lakes Training Station, Chicago; and at San Francisco. As rapidly as these hospital apprentices can be trained they are put into active service, making room for more recruits.

"Emergency and temporary hospital facilities are being provided at various naval training stations and wooden pavilions are being erected at Newport; Portsmouth, N. H.; Philadelphia; Norfolk; Port Royal, S. C.; Charleston; Pensacola, Fla.; New Orleans; Great Lakes, Ill.; Puget Sound, opposite Seattle; and Mare Island, Cal. This expansion, necessary to provide for the needs of the thousands of recruits in training, is being pushed rapidly to completion.

"The enormous increase in the number of enlisted men consequent upon the war makes a heavy demand upon the Naval Medical Corps, outside the professional work connected with the natural increase in the sick rate. But the individual members of the corps are performing their assigned tasks not only with energy but with enthusiasm, and every possible preparation is being made to meet any emergency which may arise and which can be foreseen."

LIBERTY BONDS.

It is perhaps unnecessary to speak of the Liberty Bonds in the Journal of the A. Ph. A.; however as a matter of record the members doubtless desire that such mention be made. Pharmacists, as citizens have answered the call of duty; every American who subscribes to the justice of the course of the United States in entering and conducting the war we are now engaged in should subscribe to the Liberty Loan Bond issue to the extent of his or her financial ability.

TIMELY RESOLUTIONS.

Caswell A. Mayo presented resolutions at the last meeting of the New York Branch A. Ph. A., which will receive the attention of every pharmacist because of their importance at this time. (See under Local Branches, this issue.) Unless provision is made by selective draft there is apt to be a deficiency of qualified prescriptionists. Pharmacists and the public are interested in a proper conservation.

OBITUARY.

FREDERICK T. GORDON.

Frederick T. Gordon was born in Atlanta, Ga., July 1, 1870, and died at his home in Philadelphia, Pa., April 29, 1917.

The deceased was a typical Southerner; he was kind, sincere and devoted, possessed of

high ideals and principles. He was educated at Johns Hopkins University, where he received the degree of B.S.

Mr. Gordon entered the U. S. Navy in the old rate of Apothecary, August 8, 1890, and served four enlistments; July 25, 1900,