

EDITORIAL NOTES

Editor: E. G. EBERLE, Bourse Building, Philadelphia, Pa.

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

Editorial Office: 253 Bourse Building, Philadelphia, Pa.

THE VISIT OF MAJOR D. A. COSSAR.

We regret that on account of duties Major Cossar could not accept of the hospitalities of the American Pharmaceutical Association. Part of a day was given to New York pharmacists, who were hastily brought together by Ex-President Caswell A. Mayo. A more extended visit was made in Toronto, where the Major made a three days' stay. It is reported that after leaving New York City, he was going to Washington and would soon thereafter return home.

The trip is said to be made in the interests of the Australian Army Medical Corps. While in Toronto he visited the Provincial "Salvarsan" laboratory and was also guest of the faculty members of the Ontario College of Pharmacy. According to the *Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal* the most interesting feature at a luncheon party of Mr. Graham, of the College, Mr. Jury and the Editor of the latter, was Major Cossar's narrative, outlining the incidents leading up to, and the establishment of the Australian Pharmacy Department of the A. M. C.

"Similar to British and Canadian experience, the utter incompetency of the old system and its antiquated methods produced the inevitable breakdown of this department. An independent member of parliament (a *rara avis* in Canadian politics) turned the spotlight on the situation, and a vigorous Minister of Defense wisely called to his aid a competent pharmacist.

"The aid afforded and advice tendered led to the organization of a department which has proved itself one of the most valuable adjuncts of the Army, and saved the Commonwealth many thousands of pounds in purchase of medical supplies."

In another article we give an outline of this department, its organization and work.

"While in Great Britain, Major Cossar was in conference with the British pharmacy authorities, and the information he imparted of the total inadequacy of the present methods, as also its gross and criminal wastefulness, was

coincident with the appointment of Mr. Glynn Jones, M. P., a special commissioner to investigate the conditions in the British A. M. C. both in France and Great Britain. Major Cossar's information is to the effect that the report of Mr. Glynn Jones, a competent pharmacist, so impressed the War Office that a reform is almost inevitable in the near future. Should this anticipation be realized, the whole problem of 'the pharmacist in the Army' will be solved for the Empire."

THE PHARMACY DEPARTMENT OF A. A. M. C.

The members of the Australian Pharmacy Corps are exclusively qualified pharmacists, enlisted under conditions similar to those which prevail with the other units of the A. M. C., physicians and veterinaries. The officers are: Senior Major, who ranks as staff officer of pharmacy service on the staff of the Director-General of the A. M. C. This position is now held by Major Cossar, who was first appointed Hon. Captain, promoted to Hon. Major, and again to full ranking Major.

Next in rank is Captain: the chief senior pharmacy officer of each state. Lieutenants are qualified pharmacists, head dispensers in general hospitals, base hospitals, and forward casualty stations. Staff-Sergeant is the lowest rank of any member of the unit, and is held by all assistant dispensers, and men in charge of medical stores.

Senior Major, the officer commanding, is responsible for all medical supplies, and through him all recommendations for purchases must be made. Captain, as chief senior officer of the State, has charge and supervision of all medical stores and supplies for his state. Lieutenant has charge of medical supplies of hospitals, casualty stations and is chief dispenser for such institutions. Staff-Sergeant is assistant dispenser under command of the Lieutenant and A. M. C. Quartermaster.

All officers in the pharmacy department must be regularly qualified pharmacists, and draw pay according to rank, as in all other units.

GASES GERMANS ARE USING.

According to *Drug Topics*, the following gases are or have been employed in the present war. Commenting, this publication says that both sides are now searching for a new type of poisonous gas that will be odorless, colorless and invisible. Such a discovery with practical means for application would contribute largely toward winning the war. Out of the resourceful head of some thoughtful pharmacist may come the discovery. Twenty of the gases now employed, are:

- 1—Allyl-isothiocyanate (allyl mustard oil), C_3H_5NCS (shell).
- 2—Benzyl bromide, $C_6H_5CH_2Br$ (shell).
- 3—Bromo-acetone, $CH_2Br.CO.CH_3$ (hand grenades).
- 4—Bromated methyl-ethyl-ketone (bromo-ketone), $CH_2Br.CO.C_2H_5$ or $CH_3.CO.CHBr.CH_3$ (shell). Dibromoketone, $CH_3.CO.CHBr.CH_2Br$ (shell).
- 5—Bromine, Br_2 (hand grenades).
- 6—Chloro-acetone, $CH_2Cl.CO.CH_3$ (hand grenades).
- 7—Chlorine, Cl_2 (cloud).
- 8—Chloromethyl-chloroformate (palite), $ClCOOCH_2Cl$ (shell).
- 9—Nitro-trichloro-methane (chloropicrin or nitrochloroform), CCl_3NO_2 (shell).
- 10—Chlorosulphonic acid, $SO_3.H.Cl$ (hand grenades and "smoke pots").
- 11—Dichloro-diethylsulphide (mustard gas), $(CH_2ClCH_2)_2S$ (shell).
- 12—Dimethyl sulphate, $(CH_3)_2SO_4$ (hand grenades).
- 13—Diphenyl - chloro - arsine, $(C_6H_5)_2AsCl$ (shell).
- 14—Dichloromethyl ether, $(CH_2Cl)_2O$ (shell).
- 15—Methyl-chlorosulphonate, CH_3ClSO_3 (hand grenades).
- 16—Phenyl-carbylamine chloride, $C_6H_5NC-Cl_2$ (shell).
- 17—Phosgene (carbonyl chloride), $COCl_2$ (cloud and shell).
- 18—Sulphur trioxide, SO_3 (hand grenades and shell).
- 19—Trichloromethyl-chloroformate (diphosgene, superpalite), $ClCOOCCl_3$ (shell).
- 20—Xylyl bromide (tolyl bromide), $CH_3C_6H_4CH_2Br$ (shell).

ETHICAL PRESCRIPTION BLANK.

Edward V. Sheely, member of the A. Ph. A., has sent us a pad of prescription blanks, which he has named "Liberty Prescription Blank."

The Memphis Medical Association opposed the use of blanks bearing the name of pharmacists. The movement was favored by Memphis pharmacists who requested that ethical American drugs be used as far as possible, and this statement occurs on the blank with the name indicated above and two flags. The blanks are enclosed in cover with the name of the pharmacist, in this case that of Mr. Sheely and also bears the insignia of the A. Ph. A. The suggestion might well be generally followed.

SACCHARIN AS A SUGAR SUBSTITUTE.

According to the *Lancet*, the only interpretation of the very general use nowadays of saccharin is that a large section of the public value sugar merely for its sweetness and not for its food value or for its high calorific position. If the inherent property of sugar did not happen to be sweetness the employment of saccharin in its stead would be meaningless. This is an important point, because if a large proportion of the public seeks only a sweetener in using sugar in their beverages, then their demand can readily be satisfied by a sweetener substitute such as saccharin. In that case a considerable amount of sugar will be saved for those who use it for its real food purposes, and particularly for young growing people, to whom its energy value is of considerable importance. Sugar cannot be replaced by saccharin in the preservation of milk or in the preparation of jam, and the use of saccharin in beverages like tea and coffee will afford an important saving of sugar for such purposes. It remains to consider whether the use of saccharin for sweetening purposes is likely to disturb the health of the consumer. The evidence that saccharin did not appear to produce any harm in the organism was summed up in the *Lancet* last September and there is still no ground for thinking that it is in any way harmful, while its sweetening power is so great that only minute quantities suffice to satisfy the palate. It should be remembered that the use of saccharin has been prohibited in those cases where, by replacing sugar, the consumer would lose the food value contributed by that substance. Saccharin has no food value whatever.

Great Britain has taken control of the entire output of British saccharin and is to be distributed by or under supervision of the British Food Ministry.

LIBERTY LOAN SUBSCRIPTIONS THROUGH DRUG AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES.

When this is read the subscriptions to the Third Liberty Loan will have been closed and beyond a question in excess of the minimum. Every indication shows that the drug and chemical industries have contributed their part as heretofore and in excess of contributions to former loans.

MAKE OUR SODA FOUNTAINS SAFE FOR THIRSTY HUMANITY.

The *New York Herald* of April 7 has an article on the above subject, which is timely, not only because sanitary conditions should obtain about the soda fountain but also because the continued success of the business demands it. A boycott has been declared, according to the *White Plains (N. Y.) Record*, against dirty soda fountains and service. By educating the people to the importance of sanitary conditions it is hoped to hasten the day when no owner of a soda fountain can expect to attract patronage unless he maintains a high degree of cleanliness in his service.

SHOULDER STRAPS FOR WOMEN NURSES.

According to a recent issue of the *Official Bulletin* Mrs. Helen Hoy Greely of New York

City, before the Military Affairs Committee, advocated shoulder straps for women military nurses. She urged that medical women and women workers in military hospitals abroad should receive commissions. Military nurses, she contended, need rank of some sort to compel obedience in the hospitals.

We quite agree and again we repeat pharmacists should be given rank for this and equally important other reasons which have frequently been urged, so far without results.

Richard Edward White, associate editor of the *Pacific Pharmacist*, a pioneer druggist of San Francisco and known as a poet and prose writer, died on March 14 after an illness of six weeks. One of his poems, "The Midnight Mass," a legend of Carmelo Mission at Monterey, won fame for him as a poet. He published a volume of poems and some songs, and he belonged to a circle of men and women active in literary and art work in San Francisco. He was born in Dublin in 1843.

Powers-Weightman-Rosengarten Co., chemical manufacturers, are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the business. In a handsome souvenir the faces of the founders appear as well as pictures of the successive buildings of the firm, which show great expansion. The founders were John Farr, Thomas H. Powers, William Weightman, and George D. Rosengarten.

SOCIETIES AND COLLEGES.

THE CHICAGO MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

The time for the next annual convention of the A. Ph. A., to be held in Chicago during the week beginning August 12, is fast approaching. Officers of the different Sections have been busy and the Local Secretary, with the coöperation of druggists generally in Chicago, is actively engaged in preparation for the event. As far as possible papers to be read before the Sections should be accompanied by abstracts. It would add materially, if the programs of the Sections, listing these papers, would in a briefer abstract convey to the members an idea of their substance. Papers should be typewritten, double space between lines. It would be advantageous if the July and August issues of the *JOURNAL* could present the programs to the readers. Writers of the

papers should realize that the officers must have time to look over them so as to arrange the programs for the different sessions.

A FEDERATED AMERICAN PHARMA- CEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

President A. R. L. Dohme has prepared a tentative plan for federating the American Pharmaceutical Association. This federation provides for a House of Delegates, a Council and a Board of Control. The first body is to be made of duly selected and elected delegates of the respective sections represented in the House of Delegates. In this tentative provision there are to be five delegates from each of the following organizations: N. A. R. D., N. W. D. A., A. D. M. A., P. A. of A., A. A. of Ph. C., N. A. B. P., A. C. of P. F., N. D. C. A., and U. S. Government Departments. Each State Pharmaceutical Association is to be