

# CORRESPONDENCE

EXPRESSES APPRECIATION OF THE JOURNAL.

FAJARDO, PORTO RICO,

JULY 16, 1918.

MR. W. B. DAY,  
GENERAL SECT. OF THE AMERICAN PHARM. ASSOCIATION,  
701 S. WOOD ST., CHICAGO, ILL.

MY DEAR MR. DAY:

At the kind invitation of my friend and fellow pharmacist, Mr. Rudolph Wirth, of the firm E. Fougera & Co. of New York, I take the liberty of soliciting admission as a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association, enclosing herewith postal money order for \$5.00 in payment of rights for one year, including subscription to the JOURNAL. Mr. Wirth has been so kind as to send me a copy of the June number of the JOURNAL, and I can assure you that same was a most agreeable surprise, said JOURNAL being new to me; in my estimation it is an ideal aid to pharmacists who like myself are obliged to live distanced from scientific centers and institutions, where new methods are obtained, and where a better knowledge of the profession can be facilitated. The literature comprised in this JOURNAL is excellent, being instructive and interesting to a degree, being really a monthly conference, demonstrating scientifically and practically the highest methods of technics, high pharmacy and chemistry, and in fact to all that which directly pertains to pharmaceutical science.

The petitioner is a graduate in pharmacy of the New York College of Pharmacy, class of 1902, having had four years' practice in the City of New York, first as a pharmacist of the Roosevelt Hospital, and afterwards with the corporation of Hegeman & Co.; since 1906 have resided in Porto Rico, where I am established with my father, Dr. Jose A. Veve, in the drug business. Also the petitioner holds a license of the New York Board of Pharmacy.

Considering your consent and aid on this occasion a premium of inestimable value, I beg to remain,

Very respectfully yours,

(SGD.) MIGUELL A. VEVE, PH.C.

EDITOR, JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION:

Why is it that when one writes a prescription thus:

R Strontii Bromidi            ʒi  
(Specified brand)  
Tr. Cardam Comp.  
Tr. Nucis Vom.            aaf ʒi  
Aque q. s.            ad f ʒ iii

the druggist calls you up to say that you have a 3-ounce mixture without the water! Or worse yet, that when you write

R Strontii Bromidi            ʒiv  
(Specified brand)  
Elix. Aromat.            f ʒi  
Aque qs.            ad f ʒ ii

the druggist dispenses 1/2 fluid ounce of a solution instead of the 1/2 ounce of salt you have written for. These things happen constantly.

I do not give the name of the specified brand in this letter for obvious reasons. But why should it make any difference to a druggist who knows how to read a prescription? And how can I guard myself and my patients against the careless druggist? Surely ʒ iv is not f ʒ iv and Strontii Bromidi is not Liquor Strontii Bromidi!

Yours truly,

S. SOLIS COHEN, M.D.

In answering Doctor Cohen it was stated, that a pharmacist should and usually does understand the difference between a fluid ounce and an ounce by weight.

One part of strontium bromide is soluble in 0.35 part of water, and 60 grains of the salt dissolved in 60 minims of water produce practically a volume of 100 minims. Or, if one ounce of the salt is dissolved in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  fluidrachms of water about one fluid ounce of liquid results.

The brand of the salt has nothing to do with the case. It is a matter which requires an explanation from the compounder. Evidently there has been a recurrence of the error and on request of Doctor Cohen we are printing his letter and the substance of our reply.

---

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ROTARY CLUBS IN THE INTEREST OF PHARMACEUTICAL CORPS IN THE ARMY AND NAVY.

WHEREAS, We believe that one of the most important duties devolving upon the governmental authorities is to provide to the utmost for the conservation of the lives and health of the American soldiers, who, sacrificing the comforts of home, are jeopardizing their all for the principles for which the nation is contending, and as our loved ones, and as the soldiers of our country, they are certainly entitled to the very best medical and surgical skill and to expert pharmaceutical service. It is deplorable that in the United States Army medicines are continuously dispensed by those who are unfitted for such duty and who lack a systematic education in the knowledge of drugs and the art of compounding medicines.

WHEREAS, While in civil life each state protects its citizens from incompetent practice, and by law provides for the required experience, education, examination and licensure of those entrusted with the dispensing of medicines, nevertheless the military authorities of the nation ignore the necessity for a like protection for the soldiers and permit potent, and even the most toxic drugs, to be dispensed by incompetent men without any pharmaceutical experience or education. To continue such practice is to continue to invite calamities and to perpetually expose those in the military service to untoward accidents and untimely deaths.

WHEREAS, It is regrettable that the United States with its progressive spirit and commanding position and its enormous resources should in this respect be found lagging and to have a medical department of the army not fully abreast with medical departments of the armies of other nations. In the armies of France, Germany, Austria, Japan, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, and in the colonial armies of Australia and Canada, there are organized pharmaceutical corps with recognized commissions and responsibilities aiding ably the medical officers in safeguarding the troops in these armies. The United States, that can well afford to give to the men in her military service the best, should not do less than these other nations; yet we have, at present, no pharmaceutical corps in either the army or navy.

Therefore, It is Resolved by the Ninth Annual Convention of the International Association of Rotary Clubs, that the establishment of a pharmaceutical corps in the United States Army as proposed by Bill H. R. No. 5531, introduced by Hon. George W. Edmonds of Philadelphia, and now pending before the Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives, be endorsed. We urge that the medical department of the army be speedily reorganized to permit of this needed additional safeguard to our soldiers, and to guarantee to the men in the military service the same efficient pharmaceutical service that the States assure in civil life and that is now so generally vouchsafed to the armies of most of the other nations.

---

RECOGNITION OF PHARMACY.

An editorial in the *Pennsylvania Medical Journal* for June reads in part as follows:

"Practically every state of the Union has a law which provides that those who furnish drugs to the public shall be qualified for this professional work. In our Army, the hospital steward who dispenses the medicines ordered by the physician for the sick soldier is detailed from the ranks without requirement of pharmaceutical training.

"To remedy this defect and thus increase the efficiency of the Medical Department of the Army, it is proposed to establish a Pharmaceutical Corps. As is the case with the Dental Corps, the Sanitary Corps and the Ambulance Corps, this corps is to be under the command of the Surgeon-General of the Army.

"To provide for this recognition of pharmacy, Representative Edmonds of Pennsylvania last July introduced into the House of Representatives a bill to increase the efficiency of the Army, to provide a Pharmaceutical Corps in that department, and to improve the status and efficiency of the pharmacists of the Army."

Then follows a synopsis of the Bill and part of the concluding statements of the editorial are:

"It goes without saying that the efficiency of the Medical Department will be increased if trained and experienced pharmacists purchase (or manufacture), test and dispense the drugs selected and prescribed by the medical men. Also, though the pharmacist is not trained to render medical aid nor, except in isolated instances, to do chemical or bacteriological work, his familiarity with drugs should make him of considerable assistance 'in rendering first aid in wound treatment and the making of diagnostic and chemical tests.' The provision 'to establish and maintain a systematic course of study,' for those seeking promotion, follows the example set by the Army in establishing the Army Medical School, of the Navy in establishing the Naval Medical School and of the United States Public Health Service in providing courses of instruction to the men in the service and should do much to elevate the status of pharmacy.

"Altogether the establishment of a Pharmaceutical Corps, through the enactment of the Edmonds Bill or some similar measure, should make for greater efficiency in the Medical Department of the Army. Further, the commercial training of the pharmacist should also make for economy."

---

#### A PHARMACEUTICAL CORPS FOR THE ARMY.

An editorial in the *Missouri State Medical Journal* for July reads:

"The present world war is stopping the onward march of civilization in many directions; it is even forcing disorganized retreat that will require decades to recover. But, on the other hand, the stress is making science, arts and industry accomplish a ten-year advance in one year.

"In the United States it is bringing about a realization that the time of isolation with untold possibilities is past, and that the life of the individual and of the nation must be patterned so as to permit competition with the wide world. One result is that abuses and wrongs which in peace would have taken a decade of legislation to correct, are now adjusted in a single session of Congress.

"In former days, the surgeon's apprentice handed out to his master's patients the desired decoctions and boluses; a similar situation exists today in the Medical Department of the Army, which is forced to depend on untrained men to perform the services that in private life the professionally trained pharmacist is required to perform. However, the cry for still greater efficiency in the Medical Department of the Army gives promise that ere long a corps of professionally trained pharmacists will be placed under the command of Surgeon-General Gorgas."

Then follows a synopsis of the Edmond's Bill.

---

#### SULPHUR INDUSTRY TAKEN OVER BY THE GOVERNMENT.

The sulphur industry of the United States passed into Government control July 9. Production and distribution of the mineral will, with the approval of the President, be administered by the War Industries Board. The action was necessitated by the increased war demands for sulphur as an ingredient in explosives, and by the increasing burdens of the rail and water systems in transportation of war materials.

A. E. Wells, consulting engineer of the War Department, has stated that it would be possible to develop a comparatively swift source of supply by the thio-gen process of reclaiming sulphur from the smelter fumes, and that it

would be possible to erect two plants with a capacity of 500 tons a day to come into operation within a few months.

Present sources of sulphur supply are from two mines: one in Louisiana, producing over 3,500 tons of sulphur a day, and another in Texas, producing in excess of 1,000 tons a day. Minor properties in Nevada, Utah and Wyoming produce about sixty tons a day combined. Present sulphur consumption in the United States exceeds 125,000 tons per month, and Mr. Wells has stated that this will increase to over 150,000 tons per month before the end of the year, due to increased Government use.