

EDITORIAL NOTES

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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*.

FIND NEW SOURCE OF SUGAR.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has devised new uses for both the potato and the esculent yam. Experiments have proven that even though potatoes have decayed they are a source of starch.

The shortage of sugar has encouraged the manufacture of syrups from new sources, thus the sweet potato is said to be one of these and farmers can become manufacturers. The following is given as the process:

"The sweet potatoes are washed, placed in a kettle with plenty of water and boiled until thoroughly soft, requiring about two hours. The potatoes are then mashed in the kettle in the water in which boiled, adding more if necessary to form a thick, smooth, mushy liquid. The temperature of the mixture is then brought to 140 degrees and a quantity of ground malt added equal to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the weight of the original sweet potatoes. The mixture is thoroughly stirred and allowed to stand for a few minutes at a temperature of 140 degrees, and the temperature is then brought, with constant stirring, to a temperature of 150 degrees, the source of heat removed, and the mass allowed to stand, with occasional stirring, for an hour. The mixture, known technically as the "mash," is pressed in cloths to separate the liquid and solid portions. The juice flows out readily and is boiled down to syrup in an ordinary kettle."

The further purpose of this writing is to encourage the cultivation of cane by those requiring large quantities of sugar, as manufacturers of syrups for the soda fountain, to free themselves from the uncertainties of the sugar market.

We have, long ago, realized that the day of the small manufacturer has passed, but the pendulum is swinging back; the day is coming, and has dawned, when the manufacturer will in a larger measure produce the crudes for his manufactory.

PROPOSITION TO FORBID VIVISECTION IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The attempt to forbid vivisection comes up again and again. There is narrowness in other

lines than legislation; viewpoints differ and change. It is not unlikely that those advocating measures against vivisection participate in fox hunts and steeple-chases or drive automobiles beyond safety limitations, applaud their favorite foot-ball team, etc.

The measure referred to was a subject of hearing before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee when Dr. Carl L. Alsberg told the Committee that some drugs must be standardized by animal experimentation. Deleteriousness of foods must often be determined by tests on animals. Dr. Erwin F. Smith testifying before the Committee said Pasteur could not have discovered his method of treating hydrophobia if there had been a law against dog vivisection in France.

NERVOUS BREAKDOWNS.

It is said that as a result of strenuous debate and tests of political strength a number of our national legislators have suffered from nervous breakdowns. The question may arise, would these conditions have come about if a little less attention was given to politics and parties? And another also—are legislators elected to display their abilities in debate or make results possible that will be beneficial to their constituents, the citizens of this country and the world?

There is evidence of resentment from the conservatives and radicals anent enacted legislation that disturbs and discourages, and the failure to adjust international affairs so that the American industries can resume and progress. Precious time has been lost in extending American trade.

THE HIGH PRICE OF CAMPHOR.

About the first of this month Japan was buying camphor in this country, responsive to a higher price in Japan than here, namely \$4.15 per pound. This figure is deserving of a record in this Journal and should encourage further study of the possibilities of manufacture. The synthetic product offers greater possibilities in this country than natural production.

OIL FROM GRAPE SEEDS.

In a paper read before the Division of Industrial Chemists and Engineers of the

American Chemical Society, Dr. J. H. Shrader of the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, pointed out that grape seeds have always been a waste product and could be utilized for the fixed oil which, the author stated, could be used in cooking.

He presented an estimate for the necessary plant to be erected at the grape pressing centers. Owing to the shortness of the season, September to November, the plant suggested is only large enough to dry and press the seeds during the winter months. According to Dr. Shrader, \$24 per ton will cover charges of all description, including all overhead and management charges but excepting property rental and interest charges of real estate investment.

Efficiency of the oil plants can be increased, according to the Government expert, by extracting oil also from tomato, pumpkin, and other vegetable seeds.

CASTOR BEAN GROWING DURING THE WAR MAY COST UNITED STATES \$3,000,000.

As a news item the readers have read of the suit brought against the U. S. Government by claimants through Attorney Eugene L. Culver; this brief reference is simply for a record.

Hearings were held in Washington and much detailed testimony was submitted by Dr. W. W. Stockberger of the Bureau of Plant Industry regarding the prospectuses sent to the farmers by Colonel van Way of the Signal Corps, which appear to have been over-enthusiastic as to the measure of beans which could be produced to the acre. Pests in the form of growths destroyed the vitality of the beans. Evidence as to the yield are far from that which farmers were led to expect and, therefore, they ask for reimbursements.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR REAGENTS

In the belief that a valuable service can be rendered both to the manufacturers and users of reagents and apparatus, through standardization, the American Chemical Society appointed a committee which is now organized and at present is collecting data regarding the quality of reagents on the market.

It seems that in general the experience of users agrees with that of the Bureau of Chemistry as reported by H. E. Buc in the December number of the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*. The chief complaints appear to be in regard to the lack of reliability of the analyses rather than unsatisfactory purity of the reagents themselves. It is also

evident that in many instances impurities which have caused dissatisfaction could have been removed by exercising sufficient care in production.

Insufficient knowledge on the part of the producer, both as to requirements and acceptable methods for testing, has been one cause for any dissatisfaction relative to reagents. Some makers have signified a willingness to follow standard specifications and methods of testing, and the committee therefore proposes to begin work on the specifications for sulphuric, nitric, and hydrochloric acids and ammonia. This will be followed with specifications for other reagents.

It is requested that suggestions be sent to the Secretary of the committee, W. D. Collins, Bureau of Chemistry, Washington, indicating the specifications which would be acceptable, the uses to which the reagents are put in any special case, and the methods which are satisfactory in determining the purity of the reagents and the presence and amount of objectionable impurities.

In the near future coöperation in the standardization of laboratory apparatus will be sought.

IS DISPENSING A SALE?

A suit in the British Courts involved the question, whether a pharmacist rendered a service in compounding or whether the transaction of filling a prescription constituted a sale and, in this instance, was subject to the Profiteering Act. The only point which came before the Court was whether or not an article dispensed on a prescription by a pharmacist was sold to the customer for whom it was dispensed. The Court held that every sale involved skill and work. The judge declared that he could not distinguish the case before him from an order for a pair of boots to be made. The defendants, Boots, Ltd., and others asked for a ruling on the ground that making up a prescription was a service, and therefore did not come within the Profiteering Act. The judge stated that to give effect to the argument by defendants would render the Profiteering Act of no value in practice. The rule asked by defendants was denied.

SOCIALIZATION OF SAXON PHAR- MACIES.

According to *Drug Topics* the Coöperative Union of Socialist Pharmacies has submitted to the Saxon Minister of Economy a proposal for the socialization of pharmacies. All existing

pharmacies are recommended for incorporation in the Union, the present owners to receive compensation based on actual value. The number of pharmacies may be increased or reduced, according to local requirements. Senior pharmacists will act as managers, the salary being 400m. (nominally \$100) a month with an extra 100m. (nominally \$25) for managerial duties.

The pharmacists will become officials, and in each district will elect a committee to act as supervising authority. The doctor's right of inspecting pharmacies will be abolished, and the manufacture of specialties reduced. In each district a central laboratory and warehouse is to distribute supplies to pharmacists, and a laboratory for urine, blood, sputum and food analyses will be attached to the central laboratory.

PROMOTION OF DRUG CULTURE IN ITALY.

The Italian national committee to promote the cultivation of medicinal plants in Italy, which was formed in 1915, has recently distributed 40,000 copies of a booklet explaining how to grow the plants and how to market them, also giving instructions as to harvesting; this information is being particularly brought to the notice of the inhabitants of the mountainous parts of Italy. The economic side of this question is not lost sight of, and as examples it is pointed out that the price of belladonna leaves has risen from 60 to 700 lire, ergot from 350 to 1,000 lire and hydrastis from 3,500 to 10,000 lire per hundredweight.

PHILADELPHIA ARBORETUM TO BE EXTENDED.

The acquisition of ground contiguous to the Awbury Arboretum in Germantown, so that Philadelphia would have one of the finest botanical gardens in the country, has been urged by William Draper Lewis before the survey committee of Councils. The committee approved the proposition. This adds fourteen acres to the arboretum.

PRIESTLEY HOME TO BE PLACED ON THE CAMPUS AT STATE COLLEGE (PENNSYLVANIA).

The home and laboratory of Dr. Joseph Priestley, which is on the banks of the Susquehanna River at Northumberland, Pa., was purchased recently by graduate chemists of the Pennsylvania State College, who plan to

move it to the campus here and make it a lasting memorial to the great scientist.

Priestley came to this country in 1794 and settled at Northumberland where he built the mansion referred to, lived here and continued his studies until his death in 1804. In 1874 a large number of chemists gathered at his home to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the discovery of oxygen; these chemists formed the nucleus of what is now the American Chemical Society.

CAN PHARMACY INDUCE DONA- TIONS OR ENDOWMENTS?

A "mysterious Mr. Smith" has pledged four million dollars for the endowment fund of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology provided the alumni contribute a like amount. This will probably be no great undertaking because there are quite a number among them who have prospered.

Vanderbilt University Medical Department will receive a four million dollar donation through the generosity of John D. Rockefeller; will the pharmacy department benefit? Undoubtedly there are men possessed of fortunes who could be persuaded to give to pharmaceutical education and advancement; if not during their life-time then by their wills. In memory of one of our Honorary Presidents, the beloved and lamented Thomas F. Main, a memorial fund of \$75,000 is to be provided for the benefit of New York College of Pharmacy by the National Wholesale Druggists' Association.

APPLIED PHARMACY.

If every pharmacist would publish once or twice in his life-time some fact relating to pharmacy, not generally known, but proven by experiment and practice, much valuable information would be collected. If every pharmacist would apprise one of the laity with means, of the service rendered by pharmacy and which might be augmented, both humanity and pharmacy would benefit. Some pharmacists may write too much; many more publish too little. Few pharmacists speak of the mission of pharmacy; the majority are silent on the subject.

WILL AMERICAN PHARMACY WAKE UP?

The following timely comment is taken from the *Northwestern Druggist*:

"The unfortunate part of the whole situation is that thus far only a small percentage of

the pharmacists of the country have come to fully realize the absolute necessity for active membership in our national pharmaceutical associations. This applies with even greater force to the A. Ph. A. than the N. A. R. D. The average retail pharmacist complains because our national associations are not gaining adequate recognition for pharmacy. Our associations complain because pharmacists do not affiliate and assist in gaining such recognition.

What American pharmacy needs in both the A. Ph. A. and the N. A. R. D. is a vastly increased membership. This must be obtained through a national campaign carried on simultaneously in every state, city and town of the country. Spasmodic membership drives which each of these national associations has conducted in different sections of the country show that the heart of the retail druggist is in the right place and that when properly organized and conducted national membership drives are launched he may be safely counted upon to join with his fellow pharmacists in making our national associations truly representative of American pharmacy. We feel confident that a membership of from twenty to thirty thousand is entirely within the reach of each of these organizations. Will American Pharmacy Wake Up?"

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS U. S. PHARMACOPOEIA 9TH REVISION.

Since the printing of the first Series of the U. S. P. IX it has been found necessary to alter the original plates in a few instances because of slight discrepancies which were pointed out by users of the book. Many of these alterations will be found in copies of the Pharmacopoeia now in use; in fact, most of the changes were made after the printing of the first two thousand copies.

Leaflets containing these additions and corrections are now available for distribution to owners of the U. S. P. IX desiring them. They may be had upon application to P. Blakiston's Son and Company, Philadelphia, Pa., Agents, or from any of the following Sub-agents:

New York, Paul B. Hoeber, 67 East 59th Street.

Chicago, Chicago Medical Book Co., Congress and Honore Streets.

St. Louis, Lewis S. Matthews and Co., 3563 Olive Street.

San Francisco, H. S. Crocker Co., 565 Market Street.

COMMITTEES FOR REVISION OF FRENCH CODEX.

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PARAFFIN-COATED STARCH AS A COMPLEMENT TO LACTIC FER- MENT TREATMENT.

When it is desired to induce lactic-acid fermentation in the large intestine it is not always sufficient, as Metchnikoff and his school have taught, merely to introduce an abundance of lactic ferment into the intestinal canal. It is also necessary to give starch, to act as a medium for the organisms. Unfortunately, when ordinary starch is administered very little reaches the large intestine. It is practi-

cally all hydrolyzed and absorbed in the higher portion of the digestive canal. The author has found that by coating starch granules with hard paraffin, m. p. 45° C, a successful lactic fermentation may be started in the lower bowel by giving at the same time active lactic ferment. It is important that the m. p. of the paraffin should be 45° C. If it is higher it passes through the system unchanged. If lower, it fails to protect the starch from the action of the amylolytic enzymes of the upper bowel. One part of paraffin must be used for five parts of starch. If less is employed the protection is inefficient. The paraffin is dissolved in a "suitable neutral solvent" (presumably ether); the starch is moistened with this solution in a closed vessel. The solvent is then distilled off in the cold. The author does not specify the kind of starch to be used, nor the actual solvent to be employed for the paraffin. This protected starch is administered in doses of 50 Gm. per diem. It is claimed that excellent results have been obtained with this, and with much greater certainty than with the original Metchnikoff method.—Doumer (*Gaz des Hospit; J. Pharm. Chim.*, through *Chem. and Drug*, 20, 188, 1919.)

ISOTONIC EYE LOTION.

An eye lotion to yield the best results should be isotonic with the tears. Such tonicity is represented by a solution of sodium chloride of 1.4 percent strength. A one percent solution of cocaine hydrochloride solution should contain 125 percent of sodium chloride. Zinc sulphate requires 0.027 percent of sodium sulphate to a one percent solution, and silver nitrate needs 0.0152 percent of sodium nitrate for proper isotonicity. The following prescriptions are recommended:

Cocaine hydrochloride, 0.5 Gm.; sodium chloride, 0.625 Gm.; distilled water, to make 50.0 Cc; zinc sulphate, 0.5 Gm.; Sodium sulphate, 0.135; distilled water, to make 50.0 Cc; silver nitrate, 0.5 Gm.; sodium nitrate, 0.00776; distilled water, to make 50.0 Cc.

A 2 percent solution of boric acid (*i. e.*, half the strength of a saturated solution) requires no addition, being practically isotonic, a fact which probably accounts for the popularity of boric acid as an eye-lotion.—*The Prescriber*, November 1919, 209.

HELIANTHUS A QUININE SUBSTITUTE.

Helianthus, probably of the ordinary sunflower variety, is used as a substitute for

quinine in Siberia. It is said an extract is made of the leaves and stems. Returning prisoners of war from Russia report that as a prophylactic and also as a remedy for malaria the extract is efficacious and of great value.

DR. F. F. FRIEDMANN SELLS TURTLE-SERUM RIGHTS.

Press reports state that Dr. Frederick Franz Friedmann, tuberculosis specialist, has sold the rights to his turtle-tuberculosis serum to two prominent Social Democrats (capitalists, names not given).

Doctor Friedmann created something of a sensation seven years ago with his turtle serum. As a result, however, of a visit to this country in the spring of 1913 and tests made here the serum was pretty thoroughly discredited as a cure for tuberculosis.

Doctor Friedmann refused to give the United States Public Health Service the information requested about the serum, and Dr. John F. Anderson, (at that time of the Public Health Service) in a report to the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, stated that the effects of the Friedmann treatment on the patients treated under the eye of the government's board "do not justify the confidence in the remedy which has been inspired by widespread publicity," and that "harm may have been done."

JAMES M. GOOD MEMORIAL SERVICES.

A memorial meeting in memory of the late Prof. James M. Good and in recognition of his services to pharmacy will be held at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy November 19, at 11 A.M. Prof. Good was perhaps equally known as a pharmaceutical educator and an influential retail druggist. He was an ex-president of the A. Ph. A., one of the organizers of the N. A. R. D., and active in local pharmaceutical bodies.

MOB DOES DAMAGE TO PHARMACY OF J. LEON LASCOFF.

A violent mob, excited by the preachings of one Jean Jacques Coronell, an ex-drug clerk, who is said to be one of the "red birds" with "yellow wings," held on \$20,000 bail during the war with Germany, caused serious damage to the well known and reputable drug store of J. Leon Lascoff, Eighth-third street and Lexington avenue, New York City, on Tuesday November 11. This demonstration was an outcome of the unsuccessful drug clerks' strike

in New York City and vicinity.—*Drug and Chemist News*.

Dr. J. W. Shipley has been appointed assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg. He graduated at that institution in 1908, winning the silver medal in science. He pursued his studies in chemistry at Harvard and obtained his M.A. in 1910 and his Ph.D. in 1913. Subsequently he became assistant professor of chemistry at Ohio State University and was more recently professor of chemistry at the Manitoba Agricultural College.

Dr. Harry E. Barnard, for 14 years Food and Drug Commissioner of Indiana, has resigned to become director of the American Institute, Baling. **Ivy L. Miller**, for seven years a chemist in the Food and Drug Division, has been selected to succeed Dr. Barnard.

Edward Miller, **Eric Miller**, **Max E. Vitaly** and **Paul Doran** have gone to Shanghai, China, where they have accepted positions with the American Drug Company. They are graduates of the Albany College of Pharmacy.

Dr. J. W. Mellor has been engaged for the last twelve years on the preparation of a compendious survey of inorganic and general chemistry. This has been described as the most comprehensive work on the subject in the English language. The first instalment is just on the press.

Charles L. Freer, at one time president of Parke, Davis & Co., and whose will has been admitted to probate in Detroit, has bequeathed

the famous Freer art collection to the Smithsonian Institution and provided also \$1,250,000 for a building to house it.

Ivor Griffith, Instructor in Pharmacy at Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, has been appointed associate pathologist to the Stetson Hospital, Philadelphia. He has charge of the routine laboratory work done in the hospital.

Honorary President O. F. Fuller, A. Ph. A. for 1918-1919 recently celebrated his 91st birthday. The occasion was an event at a recent meeting of the Chicago Veteran Druggists' Association of which the venerable druggist is the honorary president. **Wilhelm Bodemann** spoke words of love and esteem and presented Mr. Fuller with a silver-mounted cane on behalf of the members. Others spoke their appreciation and the venerable birthday child responded feelingly.

George H. Meeker, M.D., member of the A. Ph. A., is dean of the Graduate School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, which opened in October.

Drug Topics is now a trade journal and the publisher is the well and favorably known editor of the publication, **Jerry McQuade**. Those who attended the New York A. Ph. A. Convention will remember the interesting number of *Drug Topics* devoted to the meeting. The publication was begun in 1883 and continued from that time forward without a miss. The brilliancy and sparkle of wit of the editor characterize *Drug Topics* and the snappy merchandising stories are distinctive for their style and value to the readers.

SOCIETIES AND COLLEGES.

NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICE ASSOCIATION.

We are quoting from a letter of President **Charles T. Southern** in the following:

"The National Pharmaceutical Service Association, sponsor for two bills in Congress, one providing recognition for pharmacists in the army and the other for making the commissioned rating of pharmacists in the navy a permanent thing, has entered upon its third year of activity in the interest of justice to American pharmacy in the army and navy.

"No determined effort had been made before the war to secure proper ranking for pharmacists in military service, and it is not surprising that in the magnitude of the war preparation

we could not secure the change in existing machinery for which we asked, but the time for securing this needed legislation is right now, as both navy and army plans are in a state of reorganization.

"Our interviews with both the Surgeon Generals of the Army and Navy in the past few months have indicated a marked advance in the situation. Surgeon General **Ireland** has received the assurance of the general staff and of the Military Affairs Committee that a Medical Service Corps, including commissioned pharmacists, will be acceptable in the reorganized army and the details have been drafted by Dr. **Ireland**.

"Surgeon General **Braisted**, of the Navy, is