

## EDITORIAL NOTES

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### DEGLUTITORY CUP.

A deglutitory cup is described in a recent issue of the *Scientific American*. It is an arrangement whereby it is possible to swallow medicines without experiencing any disagreeable taste. A small cup is provided which is held in a wire clip that may be attached to the rim of a tumbler in the manner shown in the accompanying illustration. The tumbler is



first partly filled with water and then the cup with the medicine in it is fitted to the tumbler. The patient merely drinks the water in the glass and at the same time the medicine flows out and, floating on the film of water, is kept from coming into contact with the tongue. Not only liquid medicines, but capsules, pills and powders can be taken in this way.

### WATER-ABSORBING CAPACITY OF DUSTING POWDERS.\*

By TORALD SOLLMANN, M.D., Cleveland.

The value of dusting powders is determined partly by their capacity for absorbing or retaining excessive fluid, for example, from the

\* From the Pharmacological Laboratory of the Western Reserve University School of Medicine, through *Journal A. M. A.*

skin, from open wounds, from the intestine in dysentery, etc.

RELATIVE WATER CAPACITY OF DUSTING POWDERS.  
ARRANGED IN ORDER OF EFFECTIVENESS.

Powder Tested.	Weight of Water Held by 3 Gm. of Powder.	Retained Water as Percent of the Powder.
Starch (corn).....	2.39	80
Kaolin.....	2.19	73
Fullers' earth.....	2.09	70
Precipitated calcium carbonate .	1.94	65
Talcum.....	1.84	61
Prepared chalk.....	1.59	53

### PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION IN GERMANY.

According to Dr. H. Zoernig, Basel, Switzerland, pharmaceutical education in Germany will, in all probability, be arranged as follows: After passing a school-leaving examination (which may or may not be matriculation) the student will spend an apprenticeship of two years in a pharmacy and then pass to a three years' course of study at a University. This course will be divided into two parts; first a year and a half devoted to general science, followed by an examination in the same, and succeeded by a year and a half devoted to special pharmaceutical study, and followed by the State pharmaceutical examination. The general science course will be similar to that followed by students of medicine and natural science, though there may be variation in the subjects taken. The special pharmaceutical course will include pharmaceutical chemistry, chemical toxicology, urine analysis, the chemical examination of foods, pharmacognosy, hygiene, and bacteriology. After the State examination has been passed, several years will be spent as an assistant in a pharmacy, and the assistant will then be approved as fully qualified.—Abstracted by *Pharmaceutical Journal* from *Pharm. Ztg.*, Vol. 63, p. 382.

### FELLOWSHIPS FOR PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY

"The Rockefeller Foundation has undertaken to cooperate with the National Research Council in the promotion of fundamental research on physics and chemistry, the Foundation to appropriate \$500,000 to support over a five-year period research fellowships, the administration of the funds and details of the plan to be in the hands of the National Research Council.

"Among the important results which are expected to follow from the execution of the plan may be mentioned:

"(1) Opening of a scientific career to a larger number of able investigators and their more thorough training in research, thus meeting an urgent need of our universities and industries.

"(2) Increase of knowledge relating to the fundamental principles of physics and chemistry, upon which the progress of all the sciences and the development of industry depend.

"(3) Creation of more favorable conditions for research in the educational institutions of this country."

### SIR WILLIAM CROOKES.

Sir William Crookes was born June 17, 1832; he died in London, the city of his birth, April 4, 1919. While not associated with pharmacy, his work in science suggests this record. He was an honorary member of the British Pharmaceutical Society.

In 1861, while examining the residue from the manufacture of sulphuric acid, he discovered by means of spectrum observations and chemical reaction a new element, the metal thallium. He also determined the new metal's position among the elements, and produced a series of analytical notes on the new metal. In 1866 he was appointed by the British government to report upon the application of disinfectants in arresting the spread of the cattle plague, which in that year excited much alarm in England. In June, 1872, he laid before the Royal Society laborious researches on the atomic weight of thallium, and in the same year he began his experiments on "repulsion resulting from radiation," the first paper on which subject he read before the Royal Society on December 11, 1873.

During the period between 1873 and 1880 Crookes conducted a series of investigations of the subject of radiation and invented two

valuable instruments, the radiometer and the theoscope. In a paper read by him before the Royal Society in 1877, he reported that he had succeeded in obtaining a vacuum so nearly approaching perfection that the pressure in it was only four-tenths of the millionth part of one atmosphere. He found that in such an extreme vacuum gases pass into an ultragaseous state and form "radiant matter." It was his invention of producing extreme vacua which made possible the incandescent lamp and led to the discovery of the Roentgen rays and the X-ray methods of examination of living tissue, and later to the treatment of certain diseases by means of cathode rays. Since 1883 Mr. Crookes confined himself almost exclusively to the investigation of the nature and constitution of rare earths.

### NATIONAL CAMPAIGN EDUCATION OF THRIFT.

The Treasury Department has inaugurated a national campaign of education in thrift. This campaign is being developed through the occupational and social groups of this country.

The campaign has as its main objective to make thrift a national habit and thus benefit every individual in the country and the nation at large. When thrift becomes a habit, business will be stabilized as never before. The aid of organizations is asked in this work on a purely business basis, as well as from the standpoint of practical patriotism.

### THE FUTURE OF ALCOHOL.

In the opinion of the Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue, when the people of the United States stop drinking alcohol, it will come into its own as a chemical, industrial and fuel agent. Germany, prior to the war, had reached a production of approximately 200,000,000 gallons of grain alcohol a year, while the maximum production in the United States at that time had barely reached 35,000,000 gallons, and even in the stimulated demand of the war the figures were not quite 100,000,000 gallons. With the impetus given to chemical industry in this country, together with the normal increase of consumption in a score or more producing industries, the Internal Revenue official is confident that the distilleries need not be scrapped, but can be converted to useful and profitable service.

There are doubtless great possibilities in the industrial alcohol business but the Government must give encouragement. It is ques-

tionable whether the use can be greatly extended under present taxation. Alcohol used for manufacturing purposes should be tax-

free or nearly so, and the use of such alcohol extended to the manufacture of pharmaceuticals.

## SOCIETIES AND COLLEGES.

### THE NINETEEN NINETEEN MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

The sixty-seventh annual convention of the American Pharmaceutical Association will be held in New York City during the week of August 25, headquarters in Hotel Pennsylvania; the address of Local Secretary Hugo H. Schaefer is 115 W. 68th St., New York.

The American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy will convene August 25, holding further sessions during the week.

The tentative program of these conventions is printed in the April issue of the *JOURNAL A. PH. A.*, p. 340. Your attention is also again directed to the announcements under Societies and Colleges, p. 346 of the same number.

This is to be the "Victory Meeting" of the American Pharmaceutical Association; the conditions which reduced the attendance during the past few years no longer obtain. Preparations are to be made for the revision of the U. S. Pharmacopoeia and the National Formulary; the new edition of the Pharmaceutical Syllabus is well under way; the aim to bring about closer relations with State Associations and the House of Delegates, and extend the possibilities of the National Drug Trade Conference, is being activated.

Contributors of papers should notify the chairmen of the respective Sections of the titles, and send in their papers as early as possible, so that the programs can be prepared in advance of the meeting. Every member can help to make this the most successful meeting in the history of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

### CONFERENCE OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS.

Weights and measures officials from all over the United States are to hold a conference from May 21 to May 25 at the U. S. Bureau of Standards.

The objects of these conferences are to bring about an exchange of views between the officials engaged in inspecting and measuring apparatus

throughout the country and thereby obtain greater efficiency and uniformity in the work.

The coming conference will be presided over by Dr. S. W. Stratton, director of the U. S. Bureau of Standards, who is president of the Association. Maj. L. A. Fisher, chief of the weights and measures section of the Bureau of Standards, is secretary of the Association; Leo S. Schoenthal, chief inspector of the District of Columbia, is a member of the Executive Committee.

### THE FUTURE OF ALCOHOL MEDICINALS.

Secretary W. J. Woodruff, of the American Drug Manufacturers' Association, spoke on the above subject during the recent convention and said in part as follows:

"So far as alcohol is concerned, of course it is absolutely *sine qua non* in the production of most chemicals and most isolated substances in solid or powdered form; while without it fluidextracts and tinctures could not be produced.

"On the other hand, there are many mixtures for which substitutes in the way of syrups, glyceroles and other pharmaceutical forms can be, and in many cases are, provided.

"Respecting these features, legislators need enlightenment. If prohibition is to remain the policy of the country at large—and it appears we must proceed upon this calculation—then the sale of some medicinal preparations certainly must be regulated. As manufacturers, we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that certain preparations, even those recognized in the United States and other accepted Pharmacopoeias, are being perverted to satisfy the appetite for alcohol. There are fellow-members present here to-day who can tell you of having offended valuable customers by refusing them Beef, Iron and Wine, Hoffmann's Drops, Godfrey's Cordial and other similar preparations in abnormal quantities.

"Manufacturing pharmacists are between the devil and the deep blue sea. The proprietary medicine man selling his products for self-medication and depending upon a demand he has created or can create is free to choose