

EDITORIAL

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THE REFERENDUM.

AS announced on page 1041 of the November issue of the JOURNAL, the referendum vote on the raising of the annual dues of the Association and on the continuance of the Year Book resulted in 655 votes being cast for the proposition of raising the dues to \$7.50 per annum with the continuance of the Year Book, while 474 ballots favored a continuance of the present \$5.00 dues and a discontinuance of the Year Book.

This victory for the Year Book; this sensible decision that we should recognize the need of increasing our annual dues, when prices of everything had advanced 50 to 100 percent, is on keeping with the traditions of our membership. Moreover, the victory is greater than the figures 655 to 474 indicate. Only 1129 out of our 3,000 members voted and, as it is proper to assume that "silence gives consent," is not the Council justified in believing that out of our total membership of 3,000 only 474 desired the dues to remain at its present figure?

To our friends who prefer the lesser price without the Year Book; to those who have expressed the thought that the Year Book should be sold as a separate proposition, the following facts are submitted:

1. The JOURNAL and the Year Book are the greatest assets of the Association.
2. The Year Book is the continuation of the original Proceedings and the 66 volumes of Proceedings and Year Books constitute a library that literally makes the American Pharmaceutical Association known throughout the world as an exponent of scientific pharmacy.
3. To abolish the Year Book would bring irreparable loss to the scientific prestige of our Association.
4. To talk of continuing the Year Book as an optional sales proposition would eventually mean its abolition, and the possible sequel of the exploitation of a similar work not by the A. Ph. A., but by some private concern, as an advertising proposition.

This type of problem is not limited to our own association. It has confronted the American Chemical Society, which publishes three journals. One is the "popular" magazine, *The Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*. Then there is that invaluable publication, *Chemical Abstracts*, an essential tool in every first-class chemical laboratory. And lastly there is the highly scientific *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, which records American Research in physical chemistry and non-technical organic chemistry, a publication reflecting the highest type of American chemical thought, although not particularly appealing to the rank and file of the membership of the Society.

The Society realized that its annual dues had to be raised in order to keep a balance in the treasury and it was therefore proposed to increase the annual dues from the present \$10.00 to \$15.00. Immediately the question was raised: "Why not keep the dues at \$10.00 for two journals only and provide \$15.00 dues for those desiring all three journals?" The secretary, acting for the Society, answers this query with the following statement:

"A few members do not yet realize why the Society, by an overwhelming vote, confirmed by the unanimous vote of the Council again this year at Chicago, finds it necessary to send all three journals to all of its members. A somewhat larger number of members do not yet understand why it is necessary for each member to pay at least \$15.00 per year into the Society's treasury if the Society is to continue its work. As the Secretary has to write many letters on this point, it seemed wise to put the reason again on record.

"The explanation is simple, and to anyone familiar with printing bills it need scarcely be pointed out. It is due to the fact that the chief cost of printing is due to what is known as 'putting on the press,' and that this cost is the same whether one or 17,000 copies are 'struck off.' The cost of administration, editorial office, abstracting, rent, type-setting, etc., is a large part of the cost of each publication. Once in type, the cost of paper, press work, and postage is a fixed figure for each additional copy. Accordingly, if only one volume of each issue is 'struck off,' the whole cost of publication would have to be allotted thereto. If 17,000 copies are issued the cost per volume becomes only a fraction of the cost of a small issue. Accordingly, if a member should drop any one of our journals, the Society would save comparatively little thereby, even taking into consideration the improbable fact that the Society could actually estimate in advance the number to be struck off.

"Some few members, considering their own preference alone, still argue that we should give up one journal, but they forget that to do so would immediately cause a loss of perhaps one-third of our membership who prefer the publication they would themselves discard, and this would immediately increase the average cost of the other two journals. Strange as it may seem, it is easily shown by actual figures that it is cheaper to send all three journals to the whole membership than to send only two to a divided membership."

Certainly this is a fair and frank statement as far as our sister society is concerned and the argument applies with equal force to our own Association and its JOURNAL and Year Book. That all of our members will bow to the will of the majority in this matter of simple justice to the prestige and to the finances of our Association there should be but little uncertainty. That the Association is to be congratulated over the vote favoring the retention of the Year Book there is no doubt whatever.

H. V. A.

CERTAIN FACTS ABOUT ARSPHENAMINE (SALVARSAN) AND NEO-ARSPHENAMINE (NEOSALVARSAN).

DURING the great war, which has fortunately terminated, a Salvarsan famine occurred in the United States. This was due primarily to an embargo placed by Germany on exportation of the drug to this country and later, when this embargo was released, by a prohibition of the transportation of the German product across the seas, on the part of France and England. On representations made by our State Department, this prohibition was later rescinded.

When the supply of Salvarsan became exhausted in the United States, the Dermatological Research Laboratories, an institute organized and conducted for scientific research, succeeded in producing the drug and supplying it during a period of a year or more when the foreign product could not be obtained. The drug was sold to the United States Government at almost a third of the price which the Government had previously paid for the German product.

It does not appear to be sufficiently understood by all physicians and pharmacists that there is an official United States Government designation for Salvarsan and Neosalvarsan. The American terms for these products are Arsphenamine and Neorsphenamine. The terms Salvarsan, Arsenobenzol, Diarsenol, Arsaminol, Kharsivan, etc., are all trade names and refer to products emanating from the various laboratories. The term "Salvarsan" has become so ingrained in the literature that it is difficult to have it completely superseded by the word "Arsphenamine." It should be remembered, however, that Salvarsan is a proprietary name which is registered and owned by one German laboratory and one laboratory in the United States.

There are now four laboratories in the United States which are producing Arsphenamine and Neorsphenamine: The Dermatological Research Laboratories of Philadelphia, the H. A. Metz Laboratories of Brooklyn, the Takamine Laboratories of New York, and the Diarsenol Laboratories of Buffalo.

STATUS OF SALVARSAN PATENTS.

Under "The Trading with the Enemy Act" passed during the war, the alien Property Custodian was empowered to seize all enemy-owned property. Acting in conformity with the authority granted under the said act, the Alien Property Custodian seized some four thousand five hundred German chemical patents and sold them *en bloc* to the Chemical Foundation.

The Chemical Foundation is a corporation that was organized for the purpose of encouraging the chemical industries of this country and of stimulating chemical research both for industrial and medical purposes.

The Alien Property Custodian—Mr. Garvan—happens to be the president of this corporation. The corporation is conducted for the public good and not for private gain. After the preferred stock is retired, the proceeds, which are re-

ceived from royalties on Arsphenamine and other medicinals and dyestuffs, etc., will be utilized to subsidize chemical research. Those at the head of the Foundation are philanthropic and public-spirited citizens who are well-known figures in American public life. It is recognized by those in charge of this work that the dye industries and the chemical industries are indissolubly bound up with the production of explosives used in war. It is realized that the United States, in order to be in a position of adequate defence against future aggression by any foreign nation, must have a firmly established chemical industry under loyal American ownership.

LICENSE TO MANUFACTURE ARSPHENAMINE.

During the war, The Federal Trade Commission, a body nominated by the President of the United States to confer licenses upon American citizens to manufacture articles under hitherto German patents, licensed a number of laboratories and citizens to make Arsphenamine and other drugs. The licensees bound themselves to obey the regulations established by the United States Public Health Service Laboratories at Washington. These laboratories, under the able leadership of Dr. George W. McCoy, adopted toxicity standards for Arsphenamine and Neoarsphenamine which are the most rigid of any that exist anywhere in the world. Every lot of Arsphenamine and Neoarsphenamine manufactured in the United States must be submitted to test at the Hygienic Laboratory and receive the approval of the said laboratory before it may be released from the original manufacturing laboratories. This provides a safeguard against the issuance of ampoules which do not come up to the high standard required by the Government experts.

ARSPHENAMINE STANDARDS.

It is required by the Hygienic Laboratory at Washington that Arsphenamine must be administered intravenously to a series of white rats of given weight and be tolerated by 60 percent of the said rats in the dose of 100 milligrams per kilo of bodyweight. This represents a dose, proportionate to bodyweight, about ten times higher than the ordinary dose administered to man. The animals injected must live at least forty-eight hours.

Neoarsphenamine must be tolerated under the same conditions in a dose of 200 milligrams per kilo of bodyweight and the injected animals must live for at least seven days.

It is a remarkable fact that the Salvarsan originally furnished from Germany was tested merely by subcutaneous injections in mice. It is most curious that, despite the highly organized state of science in Germany, a drug which is given intravenously in the human subject should be tested by injection beneath the skin of a mouse instead of being injected into the veins of a lower animal. Various tests that have been made in different laboratories in the United States indicate

that the products which have emanated from Germany have been irregular in their toxicity, some being extremely pure and others being relatively impure. Two out of three preparations of the German product recently examined in the United States Government Laboratories failed to pass the standard toxicity tests required by the Government. There can be no doubt as to the credit which is due to Ehrlich for the masterful work in connection with the production of so remarkable a compound as Arsphenamine. It is to be regretted, however, that greater care was not exercised in testing the toxicity of the drug. It is likewise to be regretted that the drug was marketed at so high a figure as to have made it inaccessible to hundreds of thousands of the sick poor.

Despite the fact that the war brought about great misery and calamity among the various peoples of the world, there has been some slight compensating advantage in the fact that the destruction of the monopoly on Salvarsan has permitted various laboratories throughout the world to manufacture this drug and to furnish it at an infinitely lower figure to hospitals and state boards of health that are now freely employing this drug for the benefit of indigent unfortunates.

TREATY OF PEACE AND THE PATENTS.

The Versailles Treaty of Peace contains a clause which validates the acts of the United States Alien Property Custodian. It therefore confirms the sale, by the said officer, of the German Chemical Patents to the Chemical Foundation. To be sure the Treaty of Peace, as between Germany and the United States, has not yet been signed; it is contended, however, by eminent legal counsel that the sale of the German Chemical Patents to the Chemical Foundation is an accomplished fact and that the corporation in question has full legal title to the patents in question.

Licenses who are producing Arsphenamine and other medicinals, and who are manufacturing dyestuffs formerly under German patent, are obliged to pay to the Federal Trade Commission or to the Chemical Foundation (according to the guarantor of the license in operation) five percent of the gross receipts from the sale of the patented article. Under the Treaty of Peace, German nationals are obliged to look to their own Government for reimbursement, and the German Government is obliged to settle all such claims.

COMPARISON OF AMERICAN AND FOREIGN ARSPHENAMINES.

There has recently been published in the Archives of Dermatology and Syphilology, September 1920, by Dr. George B. Roth, of the Hygienic Laboratory at Washington, an article giving the results of a study of the toxicity of the various American and foreign preparations of Arsphenamine and Neoarsphenamine. It is gratifying to learn from this most carefully carried out investigation that the American products in a general way exhibited a lower toxicity than the foreign

products and this is particularly true with regard to certain preparations of neo-arsphenamine made in this country. It is evident, therefore, that not only have the American laboratories produced organic arsenicals equal in quality to those made in the original laboratories abroad but they have actually produced products of lower toxicity and, therefore, of greater safety.

J. F. S.

THE YEAR BEFORE US.

IN one of his "Two Minutes of Optimism" Herman J. Stich says: "If we are ever to get on our feet and enjoy something like normal times, we ought to cut out ten-tenths of the talk and rise to the business of working, and working our hardest to earn and deserve our present keep and future comfort. Team work, loyalty, coöperation—these are the words that were potent in war and are more than ever powerful in peace. They are the driving wheels of commerce and happiness, and they must be the motive power of every worth-while worker."

It has been said that the dissemination of propaganda by the Russian Reds turned many of the followers of Baron Wrangel against him and accomplished his rout. The value of propaganda was revealed in the great war, and that the influences may be for good or evil. It is contended that a panic would have resulted in 1907 from the then depressed conditions, but the newspapers refused to lend themselves to bringing it about; their attitude turned the minds of the people from gloom to light, and confidence was gradually restored. As the *New York Commercial* said in a recent editorial: "We can make no mistake if we dwell with the utmost confidence upon the greatness and richness of our country's resources. They are illimitable. We have fed the world. We have clothed the world. We have given the world the machinery which enabled it to help itself, and yet we have been able to supply our own wants and have vast surplusses in store. Our ability to produce is greater than it ever was. Our financial power is unimpaired. Some things are out of joint, but only out of joint."

This is a readjustment period, in which there are always attendant inequalities and uncertainties, differing in various sections of the country. While some may have contended otherwise, quite as many suffered because of inflation of prices as from present deflation. The rational point of view is to build up on the established foundations; the conditions of recent years could not be permanent without more difficult adjustment than the present. This country will go forward; deflation of prices has its pains and sorrows; there is need for more coöperation, less selfishness; more thought for the welfare of the nation, less doubt of the ultimate outcome.

The Association has had a steady growth throughout the year; with over three hundred names already added to the list of membership, it is reasonable to expect a larger number of additions than in any previous Association year; it

must, however, not be overlooked that the time elapsing between the Washington and the New Orleans meetings will be nearly four months longer than usual and, hence, there should be many more accessions.

The higher price of paper added to the costs of the Association's publications; we profited by a contract which terminates with this issue; we will have to pay considerably more for paper than ever before, but no one doubts the reasonableness of the assertion that there will be a material reduction in paper prices before the end of 1921. The increased income of the JOURNAL has largely offset the higher costs of the year, but the coöperation of the members will be required in order to do so next year. An official organ is subject to many limitations from which other publications are exempt; there should, however, be opportunities for the members to lend a helping hand by encouraging advertising patrons; for such aid and all other coöperation the Publication Committee is grateful. Lend a hand!

Viewed from the point of averages the past Association year has been satisfactory; the revisions of the United States Pharmacopoeia and National Formulary are going forward and, we are advised, greater progress has been made than during former like periods. Possibly the most distressing things pharmacists have to contend with are the uncertainties and rulings of the prohibition law; there should be some way to stop illegitimate sales of alcoholic beverages without disturbing the legitimate sales of medicine.

It is probable that Christmas will have passed before this issue of the JOURNAL reaches the members, due to additional work of preparing the index, etc., for the December number; may the Christmas have been a joyous one and free from sadness. A New Year will soon be entered on the records of time, and in bespeaking for all the members a reasonable share of happiness and prosperity the hope is expressed, which in our opinion is well founded, that the Association will go forward in its good work, confident that a broad survey of antecedents and concomitants will reveal that Pharmacy and the Association have progressively developed in the past and will so continue, with a realization by pharmacists of their important mission.

E. G. E.

MORALITY IN BUSINESS.

Governor Coolidge in an address in New York on December 4 dwelt with especial emphasis upon one phase of the business life of today that is receiving the serious attention of sober-minded folk who are old-fashioned enough to cherish the belief that morality is still the basis of permanent success. That phase has to do with the gradual weakening of public faith in what is known as the "sanctity of contracts," a term that is quite as often abused as it is used in its proper meaning. When business men imagine that they can with impunity break a contract or agreement whenever they find it to their interest to do so, they strike at the very root of all commercial intercourse and destroy that basis of confidence and mutual respect without which the whole commercial and economic structure would speedily fall to pieces.—From an Editorial, *Philadelphia Public Ledger*, December 6.
