

## EDITORIAL NOTES

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### COMMUNITY OF INTERESTS IN CHEMICAL MANUFACTURE.

The British Mission referred to editorially reported on the coöperative working of the German chemical industry whereby a community of interests is served. The system particularly referred to is the *Interessen Gemeinschaft* in which eight well-known chemical firms participated, among them Bayer, Hoechst, Kalle, Anilin and Soda-Fabrik, and others. The establishment was for the purpose of price maintenance and developed into an organization of coöperative manufacture, the participants taking up the activities best suited for their respective investments and for the protection of all concerned. Without going into extended detail the plan, in a general way, will be recognized as one whereby efficiency and conservation, utilization and production are brought up to thoroughness.

### A "SEASICK" HOUSE AT LONGPORT, N. J.

Many members of the Association know that much of the work on the U. S. Pharmacopoeia was done at Longport, the summer home of the late Professor Joseph P. Remington. During the early part of February a seastorm visited the coast of New Jersey, and that of Longport was damaged. Among the buildings turned topsy-turvy was the one which gives visitors an experience with mal de mer. The slanting floors of the house are responsible, and so effective, it is said, that even visiting mariners fall victims to the sensations that a storm at sea evokes in an amateur on a pitching ship. Chairman LaWall also has a home in Longport, and it may be questioned whether a U. S. P. preparation has been improvised to meet the exigency of the case.

### SPECIAL STRAINS OF MEDICINAL PLANTS BY SELECTION.

W. G. Smith, B.Sc., Ph.D., delivered a lecture on the above subject before a recent evening meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society

of Great Britain. Dr. Smith laid down his text by saying, "A comparison of plant-breeding of agricultural plants and of medicinal plants suggests that the former has developed much more than the latter." He concludes that what has been done for the improvement of agricultural plants may be done for medicinal plants. The principles and methods employed in agricultural work were cited, that the standard species (Linnaean, etc.) is not a uniform unit, and when any species is studied intensively there is revealed a great range of variations of the species. This is recognized in medicinal plants, such as digitalis, belladonna, etc., from different sources.

In continuing, cultivation and development were spoken of, also hybridization and improvement; as an example the higher yield of sugar, from the sugar beet, by selection, was referred to. For his illustrations the speaker drew largely on the mints, and concluded with extended notes on American drug culture of belladonna and stramonium.

Dr. Smith remarked that Hungarian oil of peppermint was an illustration of the higher yield in countries where intelligent cultivation is carried on and the growers have experience in the selection of suitable races. Continuing he said that organized effort to secure improvement began in 1904, and has been greatly developed. One of the pioneers was Curé Joseph Agnelli, who has raised the *Agnelliana* varieties of *Mentha crispa* and *Mentha piperita*. The high excellence attained by cultivation and selection is indicated by the following comparative statistics. Hungarian oil of *Mentha crispa* yielded from 62 to 71 percent of lævo-carvone, while American yielded 35 to 56 percent; German, 35 to 56 percent; and Russian 5 to 10 percent. Hungarian oil of *Mentha piperita* yielded 43 to 56 percent of free menthol and 35 to 65 percent of total menthol, while American oil of *Mentha piperita* yielded 40 to 45 percent free menthol and 60 percent menthol.

Camus has shown (*International Bulletin*, 1912, page 160) that *Mentha piperita* is really

a hybrid between *Mentha viridis* and *Mentha aquatica*. This explains its great variations in pubescence, color, etc., some individuals tending towards the characters of one parent plant and others to the other. The variety cultivated in France, and becoming more cultivated, is known as "Red Mint," and can grow on certain soils where the true peppermint does not grow. The "Red Mint" can be cultivated for four or five years in the same field, but the true *Mentha piperita* can be cultivated in the same field for two years only. "Red Mint" gives a higher yield of oil, but of inferior quality. Such a tendency to variation opens the way to improvement.—Abstracted from the *Journal and Pharmacist* of February 7, 1920, p. 116, *et seq.*

#### MEXICAN DRUGS AND RESIN-YIELDING PLANTS.

According to Willys A. Myers, American vice-consul at Vera Cruz, there are numerous medicinal plants in Mexico that are little known in the United States and up to this time may never have been exported. He refers to an official list of 233 distinct species of medicinal plants. The names and very brief descriptions of a few follow:

*Tabaquillo Oloroso (Hedeoma piperita).*—Contains an oil with about 50 percent of menthol.

*Tronadora (Tecoma mollis).*—Said to be a cure for diabetes. The leaves are used in making a decoction.

*Axocopaque (Gaultheria acuminata).*—Grows in the state of Pueblo, Mexico, and in Hidalgo. Contains an essential oil like that of wintergreen.

*El Cuapinole (Hymenaca courbarii).*—Grown in the warmer regions of Mexico. Contains a resin suitable for making varnishes.

*Le Hierba de la Cucaracha.*—Used as an insect destroyer.

*La Raiz del Oso* (Bear root).—Similar to valerian in effect.

*Los Cuajioles* (Green and Chinese) (*Bursera aptera* and *Bursera trijura*).—Plant contains a large amount of juice, which when solidified is used as a porcelain cement.

#### MELEZITOSE.

Announcement relative to melezitose has recently been made, following a long period of investigation by Professor John Davidson, F.L.S.; F.B.S.E., botanist in charge at the University of British Columbia at Vancouver. Professor Davidson was assisted by James

Teit of Spence's Bridge, B. C., who has spent the major part of his life in the interior of the province and who has an intimate knowledge of the country. The sugar is intensely sweet and the areas in which this sugar is found take in the Thompson River Valley, west of the mouth of the Nicola River, the district near the junction of the Fraser and Thompson Rivers at Lytton, and a small part of the Fraser Valley, above Lillooett. In the Kamloops district, the Nicola and Similkameen valleys and the eastern part of the state of Washington it is also reported to occur. The analyses made by Dr. F. T. Shutt, Dominion scientist, Ottawa, Canada, and by the Bureau of Chemistry in Washington, show a high degree of constancy in the composition of the fir sugar.

#### MEMORIAL TO LORD LISTER IN SCOTLAND.

It is proposed to perpetuate the memory of Lord Lister by establishing in Edinburgh an institution where the scientific investigation of disease can be undertaken. A suitable site has been secured near the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and the Medical School of the University. The committee in charge of the memorial is presided over by the Chancellor of the University, Mr. Balfour, and the Honorable Vice-Presidents are the Duke of Atholl, Lords Roseberry, Beatty, Glenconner, Leverhulme, and Sir J. Lorne McLeod.

#### REWARDS FOR BRITISH MEDICAL RESEARCH.

A Joint Committee of the British Medical Association and the British Science Guild has recommended that rewards should be given by the State for useful medical discoveries. Pensions of £500 to £1000 a year are suggested as the form the awards should take. It is considered that awards are necessary to encourage medical investigation and to discharge a moral obligation incurred by the public for its use of private effort. There are at present hundreds of medical men and others in the country who possess all the qualities and opportunity for private independent research, who do not attempt it because such work does not pay even when brilliantly successful. These men should be induced to devote their time to research by the offer of reward in the event of success. The proposals, which will be submitted to the House of Commons early in the new session, are (1) that Parliament should resuscitate the

precedent of Jenner by paying compensation, when due, for losses incurred in achieving medical discoveries; (2) that Parliament should provide an annual sum of not less than £20,000 for life pensions to be given as rewards to such of his Majesty's subjects as have made worthy medical discoveries, such pensions amounting to between £500 and £1000 a year. Such pensions would be sufficient, because men of science seek only such independence as will enable them to employ their talents in the manner they think will result in greater service.—From *Chemist & Druggist*.

#### WOULD UNIONIZE DOCTORS.

Declaration that the "time has come when the medical profession of the United States is forced to unionize to protect its own interests and those of the public," was made in an address in Los Angeles, February 19, by Dr. Charles A. L. Reed, of Cincinnati, formerly president of the American Medical Association and of the Pan-American Medical Congress.

"The movement, which is already far advanced in Europe, is well under way in many parts of the United States," declared Doctor Reed.

#### EXTENDED USE OF DISTILLED WATER.

The *Scientific American* says that distilled water is coming into such wide use, as for example, in the maintenance of electric batteries for automobiles and other purposes, that the time seems ripe for emphasizing the desirability of having some standard for distilled water which should be prepared and sold under conditions that guarantee its quality to the purchaser. Too few of those who dispense distilled water are familiar with the characteristics which the fluid should have and with the considerable number of impurities which should be eliminated. These include mineral matter, oil, ammonia, carbon dioxide, fixed alkalis, nitrites, chlorine, copper, and iron. Apparatus for preparing distilled water should never be forced and it requires careful flushing and washing if it is to continue to deliver satisfactory water. Even the selection of a raw water supply for distillation is important and the containers in which it is kept and sold must be carefully selected. For scientific work the question of a container is frequently a serious matter, since glass is somewhat soluble in distilled water, at least

to the extent that some of the ingredients dissolve out in amount sufficient to interfere with exact determinations.

#### FORMULA FOR NON-ALCOHOLIC VANILLA FLAVOR.

By M. Ebbert Webber\*

Vanillin.....	50 grains
Coumarin.....	3 grains
Glycerin.....	6 fluidounces
Syrup.....	6 fluidounces
Water.....	4 fluidounces
Ether.....	4 fluidrachms
Color	sufficient

Dissolve the vanillin and coumarin in the ether and add to glycerin, syrup and water previously mixed. Beat until the ether is entirely evaporated then add the color.

#### PREPARATION OF STERILIZED CAMPHORATED OIL FOR INJECTION.

The 1:10 solution of camphor in olive oil, which is widely prescribed in French practice for administration by hypodermic injection, may be easily and effectively prepared as follows: Pure olive oil preserved from contact with the air by means of a layer of alcohol (95 percent) is heated in a long-neck flask in a boiling water-bath until all the alcohol is evaporated. The oil will be perfectly sterilized by this procedure. The flask is then removed from the source of heat, and when the temperature of the oil has fallen to about 40° C. the camphor is added and dissolved. If necessary, the camphor may first be dissolved in a small quantity of ether. The author has prepared more than 5,000 camphor injections by this method, and has never had a case showing any ill effects following the administration.—E. Cabannes (*Bull. Soc. Pharm. de Bordeaux*, 57, 158, 1919).

#### PROBLEMS OF THE BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY DISCUSSED BY DR. CARL ALSBERG.

Recently Dr. Carl Alsberg, Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, has discussed many problems confronting his department, the necessity for paying higher salaries and appropriating larger sums of money for research; he also took issue with the Bureau of Standards for invading his department's jurisdiction over sugar and other products. We can only quote from references to the

\* Chief Chemist for Meyers Bros. Drug Company, St. Louis.

work on citrus fruit by-products and the wool-scouring industry. He said relative to the former that the work had been successful in California; the chief products are the citrus oils and citric acid. This year the work has been transferred to Florida, where the conditions are not so favorable for the production of citric acid, not so many lemons being grown there, and it is not profitable to make citric acid from grapefruit and oranges. Relative to the other he said that the Bureau desired to induce the industry to save the wool grease and obtain from it the lanolin and potash.

THE RESIGNATION OF PROVOST  
EDGAR FAHS SMITH, UNI-  
VERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

We quote a few lines of an editorial from the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* on the resignation of Edgar Fahs Smith as Provost and Blanchard Professor in the University of Pennsylvania: "To those who because of present injustices in the recompense of teachers are disposed to seek other lines of work there is a wealth of example in his forty-four years of service." Doctor Smith has been a friend of pharmacy, and on more than one occasion gave expression of his interest, hence this item has a place here. The intention, however, is to extend the comment to a very important matter that concerns everyone, namely, the alarming decline of the number of those who seek to become teachers. It requires no deep research to find the cause; ultimately, unless conditions are corrected, there will be teacherless classes, neglected education of the masses and a lowered efficiency in the teaching forces.

The *Journal of General Physiology*, just launched by the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, 66th St. and Avenue A, New York City, is intended to serve as an organ for the publication of papers devoted to the investigation of life processes from the physiochemical point of view. It is to appear bi-monthly. The editors are Dr. Jacques Loeb, of the Rockefeller Institute, and Prof. W. J. V. Osterhout of Harvard University.

MAJOR GENERAL W. C. GORGAS TO  
STAMP OUT YELLOW JAUNDICE  
ON THE GOLD COAST.

Under direction of the Rockefeller Foundation and in cooperation with the British authorities Major General W. C. Gorgas will

seek to stamp out "yellow jaundice" from the coast areas of Sierra Leone, Nigeria and the Gold Coast Colony, which have given that region the name of "The White Man's Grave." The Gold Coast Colony has an area of 82,000 square miles, Sierra Leone 34,000 square miles, or about the size of Ireland, and Nigeria 330,000 square miles. There are 20,000,000 natives, all blacks, in the combined area, with possibly less than 5000 whites.

SAMUEL W. FAIRCHILD HONORED.

Samuel W. Fairchild was given a luncheon February 12, by Maurice Casenave, Minister Plenipotentiary and Director General of the French Services in the United States. Mr. Casenave took this occasion to confer upon Mr. Fairchild the decoration of a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, recently received from the French Government.

Mr. Fairchild was thus honored for his work as the head, in this country, of the Permanent Blind Relief War Fund for Soldiers and Sailors of the Allies blinded in the war; for his work in connection with the French Institute in the United States, of which he is vice-president; as a director and member of the Executive Committee of the France-America Society; for his services as a member of the committee appointed to entertain the members of the French Commission and other prominent French visitors here during the war; in recognition of his work as chairman of the "War Committee" of the Union League Club and in the interest of the various "drives" for the Liberty and Victory loans, the Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

Mr. Fairchild is the founder of the British and American Fairchild Scholarships in Pharmacy.

Dr. Edward Kremers, professor of chemistry of the University of Wisconsin, delivered a lecture February 20, under the auspices of the Cincinnati Chemical Society, at the Cincinnati University. His subject was "The Volatile Oils, their Production and Chemical Composition."

Sol A. Eckstein, member of the A. Ph. A., was elected, February 23, for a second term as president of the Old Settlers' Club of Milwaukee.

L. G. Heinritz, of Holyoke, Mass., vice-president of the American Druggists' Fire Insurance Company, was taken ill while in attendance at the annual meeting of the

company held in Cincinnati last month. We are advised Mr. Heinritz has fully recovered.

**H. C. Christensen**, secretary of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, is back in his office after an attack of pneumonia following influenza.

**Hugo Kantowitz** met with an accident last month, which resulted in an arm fracture. He was however able to enjoy and participate in the concert and dance given by the New York German Apothecaries' Society.

**Louis Gershenfeld**, member A. Ph. A., has established a modern chemical laboratory for conducting diagnostic tests in the Professional Building, Philadelphia.

**Prof. W. G. Crockett**, Pharmacy Department of Baylor University, Dallas, Texas, was married to Miss Ethel Dulin, of Washington, D. C. Professor Crockett accepted the chair in Baylor following the New York A. Ph. A. meeting. He is a brother of Senator R. O. Crockett, of Tazewell, Va.

**Dr. H. S. Adams**, formerly production manager of E. R. Squibb & Sons, is now director of research with the Naugatuck Chemical Company, of Naugatuck, Conn.

**Dr. Allen E. Stearn**, of the Chemistry Department of the University of Illinois, has taken charge of the division of physical chemistry at the University of West Virginia.

At the Mid-Year Commencement Exercises of the University of Pittsburgh, on February 19, honorary degrees were conferred upon **Dr. William Henry Nichols**, past president of the American Chemical Society, and **Dr. William Albert Noyes**, present president, upon the recommendation of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research.

**Ralph C. Root**, who has been appointed by Governor Clement as a member of the Vermont State Board of Pharmacy, is the youngest man ever appointed to the board, being but 23 years old. In 1918 he received the degree of pharmaceutical chemist from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy.

**Mrs. Charles F. Harding**, wife of former president of the National Association of Retail Druggists, died February 19, of pneumonia. Mrs. Harding was 34 years of age. The sympathy of the members of the A. Ph. A. is extended to Mr. Harding in his bereavement.

During the past month a number of letters have been received from foreign honorary

members of the American Pharmaceutical Association. We have also had communications from several of our older members who by virtue of years hold life membership in the Association, among them, from James Vernor of Detroit and John Best of Denver. The latter celebrated his 77th birthday March 18. He graduated from the New York College of Pharmacy in 1865, and sent along with his letter the commencement announcement of that year for the Section on Historical Pharmacy, A. Ph. A.

**Clyde L. Eddy**, Chairman of the Publicity Committee of the War Veterans' Section, has been doing splendid work and receiving the hearty coöperation of the pharmaceutical press. His last message was printed in the February Journal A. Ph. A., p. 218.

**Dr. Hugh S. Cummings**, of Hampton, Va., has been named to succeed Dr. Rupert Blue as Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service.

**George O. Young** of Buckhannon, W. Va., delivered an illustrated lecture on Alaska, before the annual meeting of the American Druggists' Fire Insurance Company, during the recent annual meeting. Mr. Young spent about five months on a hunting trip in Alaska.

**Ex-President Charles H. LaWall** has contributed a timely and well illustrated article to the current issue of the *Forecast Magazine* on "Wood Alcohol."

**Prof. Joseph L. Mayer** recently read a paper on "The Detection of Wood Alcohol in Beverages" before Kings County Pharmaceutical Society.

The Massachusetts Library Club held part of its mid-winter sessions in the George Robert White Hall of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy. Dean Theodore J. Bradley welcomed the visitors and in his address touched upon some of the main historical points of the college, but spoke especially of the Sheppard Library, bringing out the fact that the library is much older than the school; collections were begun nearly a hundred years ago.

**Dr. A. S. Loevenhart**, professor of pharmacology and toxicology in the University of Wisconsin, Madison, was elected president of the National Pharmacological Society at the annual convention of the federated American societies for experimental biology, recently held in Cleveland.