

EDITORIAL NOTES

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL GUIDE FOR STUDENTS OF THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY.

The subjects relating to the History of Pharmacy are indexed in a comprehensive card system by the Wisconsin Pharmaceutical Experiment Station, Edward Kremers, Director. The scope of the guide is indicated by the table of contents: Definitions, Classification—according to Trommsdorf, Buchner, Geiger, Phillippe, Frederking, Schelenz, periods of general history and countries. Bibliography, General—Antiquity, Middle Ages and Modern Pharmacy. An idea of the card system may be had by referring to one of another subject, in JOURNAL A. Ph. A., June 1919, p. 516. Cards for each of the subjects named have been prepared; they serve not only for reference, but in many instances supply the needed information.

A DUTCH BOTANICAL BOOK OF 1696 PRESENTED TO THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

The ASSOCIATION has received through William Beukma, of Denver, a Dutch botanical book by Abraham Munting, and published by Francois Halma and Pieter Vander Aa. The gift comes from the father of Mr. Beukma, Cornelius Beukma, Dallas, Texas. The book has been in the family for a number of generations, passing always to the eldest son. The volume has over 1000 pages; 250 illustrations from copper plate, most of them full-page, about 9 × 12 inches; they are works of art, each one the subject of individual study, inscribed with the name of the designer and engraver. The book is bound in leather. Brief mention only is made at this time, and further notices will be forthcoming.

ROGER BACON USED MICROSCOPE IN PHYSIOLOGICAL RESEARCH.

The *Philadelphia Ledger*, April 3, pictures a double page from the cipher manuscript written in the 13th century by Roger Bacon. It reveals, according to the translator, that Bacon made discoveries by the aid of the microscope, which were not generally known until comparatively recent times. The page shown in the *Ledger* is written in an interlocking cipher. It discusses the medicinal properties of flowers, roots and herbs, of which there are illustrations, and also of receptacles for the storage of drugs. It is contended that Bacon not only invented the microscope, but that he discovered micro-organisms with it.

The owner of the cipher manuscript is Wilfred M. Voynich, bibliographer and medievalist of New York; the translator is Prof. William Romaine Newbold of the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to the translation (in part) of the manuscript by the latter, Dr. Voynich had submitted it to a number of scientists in Europe and America, without satisfactory results in deciphering. Dr. Newbold will discuss the physiological features of the manuscript before the College of Physicians and Surgeons (Philadelphia), April 20, and Mr. Voynich will speak on the history of the manuscript, the day following, before the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia.

THE NEW FRENCH CODEX.

M. Fleury, Professor of Materia Medica at the Rennes School of Medicine and Pharmacy, has been criticizing the Codex, with its latest additions and corrections, and points out that further additions and corrections are required. In designating plants, for instance, he asks why is sometimes the name of the class given

and sometimes the name of the order? Why not adopt a uniform and more general indication, as for example, "*Polyporus officinalis*—*Hymenomycetæ*?" The indication of the portion of the plant to be used is often not only unsystematic but, botanically speaking, vague. For instance, "Poppy part used flower." "The poppy-gatherer who accepted this literally (remarks M. Fleury) would hardly be able to sell his wares, although they might conform to Codex specifications." In certain other cases the word "flower" is used where petals only are clearly implied. The expression "plant in flower" may include the root in the case of the lily of the valley, but not in the case of calamin and rue; but such points should be specified, not left to the individual judgment. M. Fleury notes that though Vera Cruz sarsaparilla can be but rarely obtained nowadays, it is still the officinal species. Would it not be better to substitute the more current "Tampico" variety? If a volume which is a legal authority is not correct, the door is always left open for officials who may cause annoyance.—*Chemist & Druggist*.

A CZECHO-SLOVAKIA PHARMACEUTICAL PUBLICATION.

A *Pharmaceutical Review*, under the editorship of Dr. F. Sperling, of Marienbad, is now published in Czecho-Slovakia. The articles are printed in Czech, French and German, and relate largely to the chemical and pharmaceutical industries of the new republic.

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL CHEMISTS' EXHIBITION (LONDON).

We are requested to give notice of the Chemists' Exhibition by the *British & Colonial Pharmacist*. This Exhibition has done much to foster international trade, and will be held June 20-24 at Central Hall, Westminster, London, S. W. The claim is that it will comprise the largest display of drugs, medicines, druggists' sundries, toilet articles and chemists' wares generally ever shown under one roof in any part of the world. It will be attended by merchants, manufacturers, and chemists from all sections of the world, and any interested trader visiting the "Old Country" can obtain admission on presentation of his business card.

GOVERNMENT NEEDS CHEMISTS AND OTHER LABORATORY WORKERS.

The United States Civil Service Commission states that there are openings in the Gov-

ernment service for associate chemists at \$2,500 to \$3,600 a year, assistant chemists at \$1,800 to \$2,500 a year, and junior chemists at \$1,200 to \$1,800 a year. Appointees at an annual compensation of \$2,500 or less will also be allowed the increase of \$20 a month granted by Congress.

It is stated that the openings offer opportunities for those who are qualified in the various specializations of chemistry.

The Commission also announces that the Ordnance Department at Large, War Department, needs catalytical chemists at \$3,000 to \$4,000 a year, assistant catalytical chemists at \$2,000 to \$3,000 a year, and junior catalytical chemists at \$1,600 to \$2,000 a year. The increase of \$20 a month is allowed for these positions also when the basic pay is not more than \$2,500 a year.

There is also need in a number of Government establishments for laboratory assistants, laboratory aids, and laboratory apprentices of various kinds, requiring training in chemistry, physics, ceramics, textile technology, paper technology, civil, mechanical and electrical engineering, etc.

Full information and application blanks may be obtained by communicating with the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., or by calling upon the secretary of the United States Civil Service Board at the post office or customhouse in any city.

In this connection, competitive examinations will be held for "druggist," May 11; application should be made at once. The applicants must be graduates in pharmacy; further information may be had from *Civil Service Bulletin* 193, issued March 25, 1921.

NEW SPECIALLY DENATURED ALCOHOL FORMULAE.

Commissioner of Internal Revenue Williams has approved two new formulae for specially denatured alcohol for use in the manufacture, in one case of lotions for external purposes only, and in the other case in the preparation of antiseptic solutions for external purposes only. The newly issued formulae are:

Specially Denatured Alcohol Formula No. 37.

—The following formula, to be known as Specially Denatured Alcohol Formula No. 37, is hereby authorized for use in the preparation of antiseptic solutions for external purposes:

To every 100 gallons of pure ethyl alcohol add 45 ounces eucalyptol, U. S. P.; 30 ounces thymol, U. S. P.; 20 ounces menthol, U. S. P.

Specially Denatured Alcohol Formula No. 23B.—The following formula, to be known as Specially Denatured Alcohol Formula No. 23B, is hereby authorized for use in the manufacture of lotions, for external purposes only:

To every 100 gallons of pure ethyl alcohol add 15 pounds of camphor, U. S. P.; 2 pounds of menthol crystals, U. S. P.; 3 pounds of carbolic acid, U. S. P.

HONG KONG'S TRADE IN GINSENG.

Vice-Consul Schenk at Hong Kong writes that the trade in ginseng is increasing and that the United States is increasing its share in the trade. The total exports for the first nine months of 1920 amounted to £141,706 worth. The total imports amounted to £684,418, 77 percent of which was supplied by the United States. The discrepancy between imports and exports of the root in Hong Kong is accounted for by the large amount used locally in the manufacture of Chinese tonics and other medicines or proprietary articles.

DRUG CULTIVATION IN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

With the purpose of promoting both the cultivation and collection of medicinal plants the Czecho-Slovak Government, through the Agricultural Board of Moravia, has issued instructions to the director of the Government experimental institute for plant cultivation in Brünn to undertake investigations regarding the cultivation of medicinal plants, and also to analyze the plants collected locally.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA.

A committee of Indian botanists has been formed to inaugurate the Botanical Society of India; the main objects of which are to encourage research and instruction in botany throughout the Indian Empire; to improve the scattered and scanty literature available in India, and to make it more accessible to all botanists; to organize various expeditions; and finally, to establish one or more biological stations with suitable locations.

BOSTON GIVES FREE MEDICAL ADVICE.

According to newspaper reports, when things go wrong with health in Boston homes hereafter, the family doctor and his fee may be ignored. Boston, through its health department, stands ready to tell its citizens and their dependents what ails them: "If baby cries without apparent cause, if father has spots before

the eyes or mother suffers fainting spells, a letter to the new Municipal Health Information Bureau will bring in the next mail a diagnosis of the ailments, with advice for self-treatment or for recourse to clinics or specialists without cost. Communications will be confidential."

"Symptoms should be told in brief detail. Age, sex, occupation and other facts should be given. A self-addressed stamped envelope should be enclosed for reply." Those are the only requirements, Commissioner Woodward said.

WHY THE BURDEN OF DIFFERENT MONEYS, WEIGHTS, MEASURES AND LANGUAGES?

Richard Spillane, "Men and Business," introduces this subject by repeating Mark Twain's remark "Everybody complains about the weather but nobody does anything." Continuing, Mr. Spillane says: "Everybody who has anything to do with three of the great departments of international affairs—money, weights and measures and languages—complains about the confusion and waste attending them, but nobody does anything to correct them, except at rare intervals, such as that started a few years ago in regard to making the metric system universal." After discussing the monetary standards, he concludes that the whole system is absurd. "Everybody who knows anything about international finance appreciates the fact, yet the muddle of money systems endures and is likely to endure to the discomfort and cost of the world until the leaders of the world come together and arrive at a sane and sensible method of curing the evil.

"It is so, too, with weights and measures. A ton is 2,240 pounds in some parts of the world and 2,000 in others. A ton of coal is 2,240 pounds in Philadelphia and 2,000 in New York. In Great Britain two systems of weights and measures are recognized—the imperial and metric. A full list of the variety of weights and measures in use throughout the world would take up the whole page on which this article is printed. No one can appreciate the confusion this produces unless he has had experience in international trade.

"In languages it is no better than in money or in weights or measures, although English has made such great headway in the last few years that there is probability that in time it will be in as near to universal use as is possible without official acceptance by all the nations.

"What's the reason the world burdens itself with such a mixture of moneys, weights, measures, languages? No reason except custom. In nothing is man so rooted as custom. He pays a heavier price than he knows for adherence to old forms and age-worn habits, but by reason of his prejudices he wants others to conform to his methods rather than that he should change to theirs."

PUBLIC IS STAMPEDING TOWARD EDUCATION.

Peter A. Mortenson, Superintendent of Chicago Schools, in an address to the Revenue Committee of the Illinois Legislature, March 29, said: "The public is literally stampeding toward education. Where 40 percent used to be considered excellent, Chicago high schools last month got 87½ percent of the pupils finishing grade school courses. The rush to education is bankrupting the school city.

"A great surge of self-improvement, of personal betterment, is on in America," he said, "and the schools must meet it. They cannot do so as they are financed to-day. Foreigners stream in demanding education. Thousands of young people have quit high-paid, no-future jobs in industry to fit themselves for college. It would take five big high school buildings to accommodate the increase in high school attendance in Chicago alone."

A complete reorganization of commercial courses in the schools of the city is seen as one of the pressing needs of the near future by F. G. Nichols, director of commercial education of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction. "The great demand to-day among public school pupils is for commercial education," said Mr. Nichols. "Fifty percent of the girls enrolling and 30 percent of the boys want such an education. The time has passed when we can give them more or less perfunctory courses in bookkeeping, stenography and a few other fundamentals.

"What is needed to-day are live courses that comply with the demands of the business world. In Chicago, Boston and Cincinnati matters have progressed so far that pupils spend one week in school and the next working out their problems in business houses. The demand for such education is general all over the country."

PHILANTHROPIC PHARMACY.

The *Virginia Pharmacist* for March comments on a Service Club established by Thornton-Thomas Pharmacy of Roanoke, Va. The

club membership dues are twenty-five cents a week for males and fifty cents a week for females. Cut prices are given the members, and—free doctors' attention, and any doctor you wish; free prescriptions, as many as the doctor sees fit to write; free delivery, on the minute; merchandise at absolute cost to members. Then the following advertisement is quoted:

"We agree to pay all Doctor fees with the exception of Surgical operations and Hospital bills, no fees for treating Obstetrical cases, venereal diseases, drug addicts or consumptives. It is understood that the doctor called shall be a local doctor for treatment of club members only. We also agree to fill all prescriptions FREE with the exception of vaccine serum and anti-toxin."

The concluding comment of the *Virginia Pharmacist* is: "This is something of a new wrinkle in the drug game, and evidently bases its hope for success on the same statistical grounds that the less altruistic insurance companies work under, but if they essay to satisfy the whims of the many chronic cranks who will qualify at the price, they stand a pretty fair chance to get into hot water."

BUSINESS IS ON THE UPTURN.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATED ADVERTISING CLUBS OF THE WORLD.

Business in America is getting its stride again.

It is going to set a steady pace it can keep. Swing along with it, the best is yet to come.

Recent months have marked a return to normal habits and wholesome standards. Business houses are in training to conserve strength and build up vital powers on a better, broader basis.

Prices have reached or are reaching stable levels.

Goods and services no longer sell themselves. They must be sold.

Good salesmanship is the order of the day. It is a help-the-buyer kind. It puts service on a par with profit. Its aim is to attract buyers by making buying attractive.

Merchants and all sellers are not merely getting business, they are building it on foundations of integrity.

Just recently the president of a national business spent thousands of dollars to apologize to the public for misstatements in advertising published in hundreds of newspapers by his company.

He said policies of truth-telling and fair treatment must be maintained by his company at any cost because he valued the confidence of the public and the good-will of his business too much to have it impaired by wrong practices.

Legitimate business believes in "playing fair" and "dealing square." It aims to safeguard the interests of the purchaser in all transactions.

With the spirit of service as a guiding force, business is worthy of your faith on which its activity relies. There is the nub of the whole matter.

American security lies not only in our mines, forests, factories and farms, but also in the work of our hands and the confidence in our hearts.

Let us turn these to constructive purposes and enjoy a wholesome measure of prosperity.

PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

The following is from an Associated Press dispatch of March 22.

Dr. A. R. Bliss, member of the faculty of Emory University, and six or more students were injured in an explosion in the pharmacology laboratory of the university.

The explosion was believed to have resulted from gas ignition. The laboratory was badly damaged and several windows were blown out. Approximately thirty students were in the room at the time. The injured were taken to a hospital.

The blast occurred just before the opening of the winter term convocation exercises.

Thus far we have had no further advice from Dr. A. R. Bliss.

Mrs. Hamilton Wright, of Washington, D. C., has been appointed by the Council of the League of Nations to the board of assessors which will operate with the League's advisory committee on traffic in opium. Her co-workers are Sir John Jordan, of Great Britain, and Henri Breanier, of France. Mrs. Wright is the widow of Dr. Hamilton Wright, known internationally for his work in restricting and regulating the sale and production of narcotics, and a member of the Peace Commission in Paris, where he was killed in a street accident.

Madame Marie Curie will visit the United States in May. The women of this country hope to contribute a fund sufficient to present Madame Curie with a gramme of radium. It goes without saying that the visitor will re-

ceive a hearty welcome. Her busy life prevents an extended visit.

Dr. George Frank Butler, professor of materia medica, therapeutics and clinical medicine in various Chicago medical colleges for many years, author of several medical works, and who also has gained a wide reputation as poet, essayist and story writer of excellence, was in his younger years a drug clerk in Pittsfield, Mass. It was there that the literary urge came upon him. He has written three volumes of poems, two of essays and one book of fiction, "The Exploits of a Physician-Detective."

Ex-President John Uri Lloyd received honorary membership from the Chemists' Club, New York, at the tenth anniversary of the opening of its home. Representatives of the embassies of Great Britain, Belgium, France and Italy were present. The foreign chemists who received the honor of membership were: Dr. Giacomo Ciamician, Italy; Dr. Henri Louis Le Chatelier, France; Dr. Ernest Solvay, Belgium; Sir Edward Thorpe, England. Other Americans thus honored were: Dr. William Henry Nichols, New York; Dr. Edgar Fahs Smith, Philadelphia; and Dr. Edward Weston, of Newark, N. J.

Dean William A. Pearson, of Hahnemann Medical College and School of Science, Philadelphia, was presented by the faculty and students with a loving cup filled with \$2,000 in gold, March 11.

Dr. H. M. Whelpley delivered an address on "Hunting Arrow Heads and Other Indian Relics," before St. Louis Natural History Museum Association, March 16.

Otto W. Osterlund has been elected President of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, succeeding Howard B. French, who held the office for about a quarter of a century.

R. F. Grace, chairman A. Ph. A. Membership Committee in New Orleans, has been kept at home as a result of an infected hand. He reports many accessions in Louisiana to the Association, but is distressed over the resignations from the Southern Druggists' Bachelor Club; the marriage of E. J. Perrier to Miss Alma Caballero took place April 13. Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Nuccio entertained the American Pharmaceutical Association and New Orleans Druggists' Glee Club with a supper, March 10.

The February *Tile and Till* contains the "Spring Ode" included in the address by Merle Thorpe, editor of the *Nation's Business*, before the Section on Commercial Interests, A. Ph. A., in Washington. Kipling's "Our Fathers of Old," is printed in the *American Journal of Pharmacy* for March, as part of the address of Ex-President Charles H. LaWall, A. Ph. A.

Prize winners in the National Wholesale Druggists' Association's contest among writers of papers on the jobber, and the prizes they

received, were Harry Jerome, \$100; Vernon Driskell, \$50; and Jacques Fontaine, \$25. Honorable mention was made of the papers by Francis J. Smith, Zeb W. Rike, Frank Farrington, Erford L. Bedient, Horace M. Miller, Harold Rising, Leon Allen, John N. Stansfield, Charles Genolin, W. F. Rightor, R. Bartleson, Abe Caruthers, Eliot Church, F. Garrison, Mrs. Ola Genolin, Asher M. Hawk, S. B. Higgins, A. S. Knapp, H. O. Luck, G. A. Sielly and A. D. Watson.

OBITUARY.

WILFRED F. ROOT.

Wilfred F. Root senior member of the drug firm of Wilfred F. Root & Son, Brattleboro, Vt., died February 28, after an operation for cirrhosis of the liver. Mr. Root, who was fifty years of age, and a native of Brattleboro, had been in the drug business there thirty-two years, first as clerk in the George E. Greene store and afterwards as sole owner of the business to which his son, Ralph C. Root, was admitted a few months ago.

The deceased was president of the Vermont Pharmaceutical Association in 1902-3, of which he had been secretary in 1898-1900, and had also been a member and president of the Vermont Board of Pharmacy. He was the first president of the New England Association of Boards of Pharmacy organized at Boston in 1907. Mr. Root joined the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1912.

Mr. Root is survived by his wife, who was Miss Nellie Bond, and by his son.—*The Druggists' Circular*.

ERNEST J. LEDERLE.

Ernest J. Lederle, Health Commissioner of New York City from 1902 to 1904 and from 1910 to 1914, and widely renowned as a chemist and bacteriologist, died March 7 in a sanitarium near Goshen, N. Y. He was 53 years old and was born on Staten Island. He was a graduate of the Columbia University School of Mines.

JACOB HASSLACHER.

Jacob Hasslacher, well known in chemical circles, died at his home, 322 West 100th Street, in the city of New York, on the morning of March 15, in the sixty-ninth year of his age.

Mr. Hasslacher came to New York in 1884, and with Franz Roessler, established the firm of Roessler & Hasslacher, manufacturing and importing chemists, and in 1889 the co-partnership was incorporated under the name of the Roessler & Hasslacher Chemical Co.

SOCIETIES AND COLLEGES.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON THE PHARMACEUTICAL SYLLABUS.

BULLETIN XXVII.

To the Members of the National Committee on the Pharmaceutical Syllabus:

I hand you herewith the financial statement of the Committee for the period August 8, 1919, to April 21, 1920.

1919		RECEIPTS.	
Aug. 8	Cash on hand.....	\$124.53	
Oct. 13	National Assoc. Boards of Pharmacy.....	25.00	
13	American Conference of Pharm. Faculties.....	25.00	
15	American Pharmaceutical Association.....	25.00	

Sale of 3 copies of the Syllabus.....	3.82
	<hr/>
	\$203.35

1919		DISBURSEMENTS.	
Oct. 13	T. J. Bradley, for postage stamps and clerical assistance.....	\$ 15.00	
1920			
Feb. 28	T. J. Bradley, for clerical assistance.....	10.00	
Apr. 21	Cash on hand.....	178.35	
		<hr/>	
			\$203.35

I now have on hand about one hundred copies of the Syllabus.

(Signed) CLYDE M. SNOW,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Chicago, April 21, 1921.