

## EDITORIAL NOTES

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### CHANGES IN ABBREVIATIONS AND SPELLING.

Following the U. S. Pharmacopocia and National Formulary as guides, the abbreviation "cc" replaces "mil" for liquid metric measure and the spelling "gram" is adopted, replacing "gramme" heretofore used in the JOURNAL; the abbreviation "Gm." is continued. Uniformity in the spelling of "ampul" and plural "ampuls" is desired; this follows the "Century Dictionary."

### RUSSIA REVIVING DRUG PRODUCTION.

July 1, 1921, the Central Administration of Pharmaceutical Factories, organized in 1919, embraced thirty-seven establishments, ten of which were in Moscow, and fourteen in Petrograd. Chiefly important among them were the factory of Tschimkent (Turkestan), the only one manufacturing santonin from wormseed, having an output of about 500 poods;\* the bromine factory of Saki (Crimea), with an annual production of 2,000 to 2,500 poods; the atropine factory in Nowotsherkask, with an annual output of about 36 kilograms; the iodine factory of Archangelsk, which is equipped for an annual production of 400 poods.\*

### JAPAN PLANS DRUG PLANT CULTIVATION.

A recent issue of the *Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter* states that "the Japanese Government has decided to transplant cinchona, jalap and other plants which yield drugs, from their native countries to Japan, evidently on the strength of its experiments made a few years ago. A party of experts will soon visit several districts along the coast of the Pacific with a stock of young plants which have been lately imported.

"A number of cinchona trees, all young shoots, were planted some time ago in Miyazaki Prefecture, which is known to be one of the warmest sections of Japan. That test having proved somewhat successful thus far, the government is going to carry the project further. Jalap and cinchona will be planted on Hachijo Island in the Pacific, which is known to be semi-tropic in its climatic conditions. Their cultivation will be under the supervision of experts. The party will soon also visit Shizuoka and Wakayama prefectures, where they will plant principally cinchona shoots."

### TEACHING PHARMACY IN BRITISH HOSPITALS.

A recent issue of the British *Hospital Gazette* contains an article by F. A. Hocking, M. B.E., B.Sc., embodying the text of a memorandum submitted by the Pharmacy Unit of the Incorporated Association of Hospital Officers to the British Pharmaceutical Society. Quoting the *Pharmaceutical Journal*: "This memorandum, which followed upon communications with the Society, set forth suggestions relative to the conditions upon which students should be received in the dispensaries of hospitals and similar institutions, and it recommended that only those institutions be approved that possess as a minimum fifty beds and a minimum of 300 outpatients per week—with a limitation of indentured apprentices at any one time to one in an institution with less than 100 beds, two when the beds are more than 100 but less than 300, and three when there are more than 300 beds. Mr. Hocking states that beyond an acknowledgment the Council of the Society have not intimated whether they have considered the memorandum but he suggests that the questionnaire which is reproduced *in extenso* in the article issued by the Society to

\* A pood equals 36 pounds av.

certain institutions proposing to take apprentices may be based on the memorandum; it is not merely a remarkable coincidence. He adds that it must not be assumed that the question of pharmacy training in hospitals has been settled. The Unit is still in communication with the Pharmaceutical Society in the hope that a satisfactory arrangement may be effected without the necessity of taking any other action."

#### THE PREPARATION OF METHYLARSINATES.

At the October meeting of the Paris Society of Pharmacy, M. Mellère read two papers by M. Picon, one on methylarsinate of mercury, the other on solutions of methylarsinates of quinine and of iron. "Mercury methylarsinate," M. Picon states, "cannot be prepared by the action of mercuric chloride on sodium methylarsinate. The best method of obtaining pure mercuric salts is slightly to modify the method laid down in the Codex for preparing benzoate. Methylarsinate of mercury readily dissolves in a solution of antipyrin without decomposition. Solution of methylarsinate of mercury readily dissolves in a solution of antipyrin without decomposition. Solutions of methylarsinate of quinine for injection may be prepared from methylarsenious acid, quinine, and antipyrin. Ferric methylarsinate in solution is obtained by the action of ferric hydrate on methylarsenious acid, the solution being afterwards neutralized with ammonia."

#### THE VILLAVECCHIA REACTION FOR THE DETECTION OF SESAME OIL IN OLIVE OIL.

Certain olive oils, Tunisian oils especially, yield a red coloration with Villavecchia's reagent similar to that given by mixtures of olive oil and sesame oil. If such oils are shaken with an equal volume of 90% alcohol containing 10 percent of ammonia, and then heated for five minutes on a water-bath to expel the alcohol and ammonia, the red coloration does not take place when the reagent is applied.—*J. Prax (Ann. Falsif., 14, 270, 1921; through J. Soc. Chem. Ind., November 15, 1921, 777A).*

#### PETTENKOFER AND THE BAVARIAN ROYAL PHARMACY.

The *Chemist and Druggist* of December 17 states that "the former Bavarian Royal Pharmacy, situated in the palace of Munich, which was founded in the reign of Albrecht V

(1550-1579), and opened to the public from 1770, has, since the proclamation of the republic, become state property. Recently, the pharmacy has been reopened in the former guardroom of the late King's bodyguard. The connection of the well-known German scientist, Pettenkofer, with this pharmacy has been commemorated by affixing a tablet over the entrance to the new premises, with the inscription: 'State Residence Pharmacy, formerly Royal Body and Court Pharmacy—Public Pharmacy since 1770—Dr. M. von Pettenkofer, manager 1850-1895.' "

#### THE A. M. A. JOURNAL REFERENDUM ON THE USE OF ALCOHOL IN THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

Three thousand and sixty-three physicians in Indiana and Illinois, replying to the alcoholic liquor questionnaire sent to 53,000 doctors by the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, divided almost equally on the value of whiskey as a therapeutic agent, while a big majority declared they did not consider that wine and beer had any value in medicine.

The *Journal* in its issue of December 24 gave the tabulation in these two States, the first in which the canvass has been completed.

In Illinois and Indiana combined 1,552 doctors declared they did not "regard whiskey as a necessary therapeutic agent in the practice of medicine," while 1,511 replied they did regard it of value. In Illinois alone 1,149 physicians replied in the affirmative and 594 in the negative, but the Indiana returns reversed the combined totals, 598 Hoosier doctors opposing whiskey and 362 favoring its use.

On the question of the medicinal value of beer, 855 doctors, 668 in Illinois and 187 in Indiana, believed it to be of value, while 2,193, of whom 1,428 live in Illinois and 765 in Indiana, opposed it.

Wine as a medicine found 1,015 supporters, 804 in Illinois and 211 in Indiana; while its opponents totaled 2,028, 740 being Hoosiers and 1,288 Illinois practitioners.

Five hundred and ninety-three doctors reported they know of incidents in their own practice "in which unnecessary suffering or death has resulted from the enforcement of the prohibition laws." On the other hand, 2,326 reported they had encountered no such incidents in their practice.

The doctors of both States returned a majority in favor of restrictions on the prescrib-

ing of whiskey, wine and beer, and a limit on the number of prescriptions to be issued by any one physician. In the two States, 1,813 replies, 1,163 from Illinois and 650 from Indiana, favored restrictions on the prescribing of alcoholic liquors, while 1,166 opposed such restrictions, 891 of the negative answers coming from Illinois and 275 from Indiana.

On the limitation of prescriptions, 1,781 answers ranged from absolute prohibition of liquor to an increase in the present allotment, while 1,118 favored the removal of all limitations.

The *Virginia Pharmacist* of December contains an interesting letter of William Byrd and reference is made also to one of Sir Hans Sloane. The latter bequeathed his library to Great Britain, and this became the nucleus of the British Museum. John Bartram collected plants for Sir Hans Sloane; some references will be found in the *JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION* for 1917, p. 754. William Byrd was one of the commissioners to fix the boundary between Virginia and North Carolina; an account is found in the "West-over Manuscripts;" see also reference to paper by C. A. Mayo, *JOURNAL A. PH. A.*, December 1921, p. 969.

#### PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

**Wilhelm Bodemann**, Chicago veteran druggist, honored member of the American Pharmaceutical Association, chairman of the National Telephone Committee of the N. A. R. D., was seriously injured in an automobile accident November 21. He sustained fractures of two ribs and other severe injuries. The machine by which he was struck dragged him some distance. We regret that the opportunity was not given to make mention of the painful and serious accident in an earlier issue, but pleased to learn that the veteran is rapidly recovering. He states that the expressions of sympathy and messages have cheered him and contributed greatly to his convalescence. May he be fully restored to health and given many more years of service and happiness.

**Prof. Edward Spease** was speaker on the occasion of the installation of the officers of Ohio Valley Druggists' Association in Cincinnati.

**Louis V. Middleton**, secretary of the Michigan State Pharmaceutical Association, has been confined to his home on account of an attack of pleurisy but well enough to enjoy the Christmas holidays.

**J. W. Gayle**, of Frankfort, Ky., has been secretary of Kentucky State Pharmaceutical Association for thirty-two years, and of Kentucky Board of Pharmacy for twenty-four years.

**Sinclair S. Jacobs** of Atlanta, Ga., was married to Miss Muriel Helene Fried of Lawrence, L. I., November 16.

Surgeon-General **Sir George Evatt**, Great Britain, died November 5. He favored a properly organized Army Pharmaceutical Service.

**Harry B. French** has been elected an honorary member of the Philadelphia Drug Exchange following his resignation as president of this organization, a position he held since the death of the late John Ferguson. A dinner was tendered Mr. French at the Manufacturers' Club, December 15.

**Edward Plaut** has been elected president of Lehn & Fink, Inc.; **Robert R. Lampa** is advanced to first vice-presidency of the same corporation.

**Dr. W. C. Braisted** said at the dinner given to President Ambrose Hunsberger, of the N. A. R. D., that the more he sees of the profession of pharmacy, the more respect he has for it.

Among those present at the dinner to President Hunsberger were: S. L. Hilton and Eugene Brokmeyer of Washington; Julius A. Koch of Pittsburgh; Samuel C. Henry of Chicago; James F. Finneran of Boston. The speakers included some of the above named and also S. F. Rutter, Associate Federal Prohibition Director; James F. Cortelyou, Director of Public Safety, Philadelphia; Vice-President C. Mahlon Kline, who spoke for the N. W. D. A.; Dr. F. E. Stewart; E. Fullerton Cook, Chairman U. S. P. Revision Committee; Chairman Charles H. LaWall of the Council, A. Ph. A., and J. C. Peacock, President Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association. John W. Raker spoke as Chairman of the Entertainment Committee, and former President Louis Seip, P. A. R. D., ably filled the place of toastmaster. About 150 guests were present to honor the president of the National Association of Retail Druggists—**Ambrose Hunsberger**, who is also an active member of the A. Ph. A., and a past-president of the Philadelphia Branch. The medical profession was represented on the Honorary Committee by the following physicians: George M. Piersol, President of the Philadelphia County Medical Society; William Krusen, president of the Philadelphia Clinical

Society; Ross V. Patterson, dean of the Jefferson Medical College; George H. Meeker, dean of the Post-Graduate School, University of Pennsylvania; Frank C. Hammond and John R. Minchart of Temple University; William A. Pearson, dean of Hahnemann Medical College. Aside from those already mentioned the city of Philadelphia was represented on this Committee by Mayor J. Hampton Moore

and Congressman George W. Edmonds; the latter is a graduate of pharmacy.

**Henry Watters**, member of the A. Ph. A., from Ottawa, Canada, has been elected treasurer of the Canada Retail Merchants' Association.

**Joseph W. Noble** was elected president of the Philadelphia Association of Retail Druggists' at the recent annual meeting.

## OBITUARY.

### WILLIAM PENDLETON DE FOREST.

William P. De Forest, of Springfield, Long Island, N. Y., died December 12. The deceased had been in poor health for a number of years, a condition that resulted from the strain of constant attention to the duties of his store during the prevalent influenza of a few years ago.

He was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., December 4, 1847, where he received his earlier education, which was completed in Plainfield, N. J. His first employment in the drug business was in 1863, with William Hegeman at Broadway and Walker Street. Devotion to duty and interest in the business of his employment won for him special recognition and consideration. In 1873 he opened up a store on his own account in Brooklyn, which he sold in 1887, to engage as chemist for a New York firm; however, pharmacy was his life-work, and two years later he purchased a store at Clason and Green Avenues; in 1906 he opened a store in Springfield, L. I., which business he continued until 1920, when failing health compelled him to dispose of it. During the years in the drug business he gained a well-earned and enviable reputation as pharmacist.

Mr. De Forest was one of the organizers of the Kings County Pharmaceutical Society and its third president, and active member of the New York State Pharmaceutical Association, and an honorary member of the New Jersey Association. He was member and president of the Kings County Board of Pharmacy for five years, when he declined re-nomination. He was a member of the New York College of Pharmacy, and started the movement in Brooklyn which resulted in the establishment of the new college, of which he was a charter member, and one of the first faculty, being elected Professor of Pharmacy.

He joined the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1879, and became a life member in 1916; was a member and vice-president of the New York and Brooklyn Formulary Committee, and when the continuation of the work was given over to the A. Ph. A. he became a member of the National Formulary Committee.

In 1875, Mr. De Forest married Miss Emma Eagleston, who, with their three children, Harriet M., Irene L., and Arthur E., survives him. The latter served in France during the war, and we are indebted to him for these data.

The deceased was an occasional contributor to pharmaceutical literature, and the brief references indicate his interest in pharmaceutical affairs. He was a Past Master of Kings County Masonic Lodge.

### CHARLES WILLIAM BENFIELD.

Charles W. Benfield, head of the Benfield Drug Company, Cleveland, died November 11. He was born at Chichester, England, in 1864, and came to this country when seven years of age. He started his first drug store at Cleveland in 1886, and later opened several other stores. He was an ex-president of the Northern Ohio Druggists' Association. The deceased is survived by his wife and two daughters, Grace, and Mrs. Carl Schleicher.

Mr. Benfield joined the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1893.

### W. D. WHITE.

The death of W. D. White, oldest member of the Luzerne County (Pa.) Druggists' Association, is reported. The esteem in which our fellow-member was held was evidenced by the closing of the drug stores in Wilkes-Barre and surrounding towns during the hour of his funeral, December 18. The deceased lived at Dorranceton, Pa.