

# THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF PHARMACEUTICAL FACULTIES

[EDITOR'S NOTE.—At the 1922 meeting of the Conference at Cleveland, Ohio, a complimentary dinner was given by the Conference in honor of Dr. H. H. Rusby who had but recently returned from South America where he had gone as the organizer and soul of the Mulford Biological Expedition, exploring the Amazon Basin. After the dinner Dr. Rusby spoke informally upon the experiences and observations of his journey. The lecture was illustrated with lantern slides and the observations were of so much general interest that the Editor requested Dr. Rusby to abstract his remarks for publication. The abstract is presented in this issue.

"How to interest the student in the use of the library?" is a question that interests every pharmaceutical educator. Like everything worth while it cannot be done without an effort on the part of the individual instructor and the effort of the instructor cannot be spasmodic. It must be constant and persistent.—

At the Cleveland meeting, Dr. Edward Kremers of Wisconsin, at the request of the Chairman of the Executive Committee, gave an informal talk upon this subject. The talk was illustrated with original drafts of bibliographic sheets, with a copy of the sheets—showing how the sheets are used by the student in writing his thesis, with published bibliographies, and, finally, with typed and printed cards which showed how each institution can build up its own system of bibliographic information for the use of students as well as instructors. Any method that will bring to the student the value of an acquaintanceship with pharmaceutical literature is well worth while. In fact the future of scientific pharmacy depends largely upon our being able to do this. Dr. Kremers is pointing the way and we may well take notice.

Again Dr. Kremers, in his fascinating way, told of an experiment which he carried out in the summer session at the University of Wisconsin in 1922. Experiments such as this one would, if they could become general, interest greater numbers of high school students in Pharmacy—and what is more important—would direct a better type of student into Pharmacy.

At the request of the Editor, Dr. Kremers has abstracted both of these informal talks for publication in the present issue.

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American Conference Pharmaceutical Faculties.*]

## SOUTH AMERICAN EXPLORATION.

BY DR. H. H. RUSBY.

Let us begin with some illustrations of Indian life on the Andean table-land of Bolivia, at an altitude varying from 11,000 to 19,000 feet above sea-level, and in about 18° S. latitude. Here the climate is very cool, even in mid-summer. Although the sun's rays are very powerful at mid-day, the nights are cold, and frosts are liable to occur in any month. Trees are wanting, except for a few under cultivation, and the range of cultivated crops is narrow. Potatoes do well. Oats and other grains are grown for the straw, but do not produce grain. The chief crop is quinoa (*Chenopodium Quinoa*), its seed constituting the staple food of the Aymara Indians. There are some cattle, with the production of butter and cheese, but sheep-raising is the principal grazing industry. Many hogs are also raised, and hens do well. The pig is a household pet, and when young, is very playful, accompanying children as do their dogs. Navigation on Lake Titicaca is by small boats, with or without sails, composed entirely of dried sedges. Mining industries are exceedingly varied and important, providing the chief wealth of the region. Some of the ranges, especially of the eastern cordillera, are perpetually snow-covered, and there are many large glaciers.