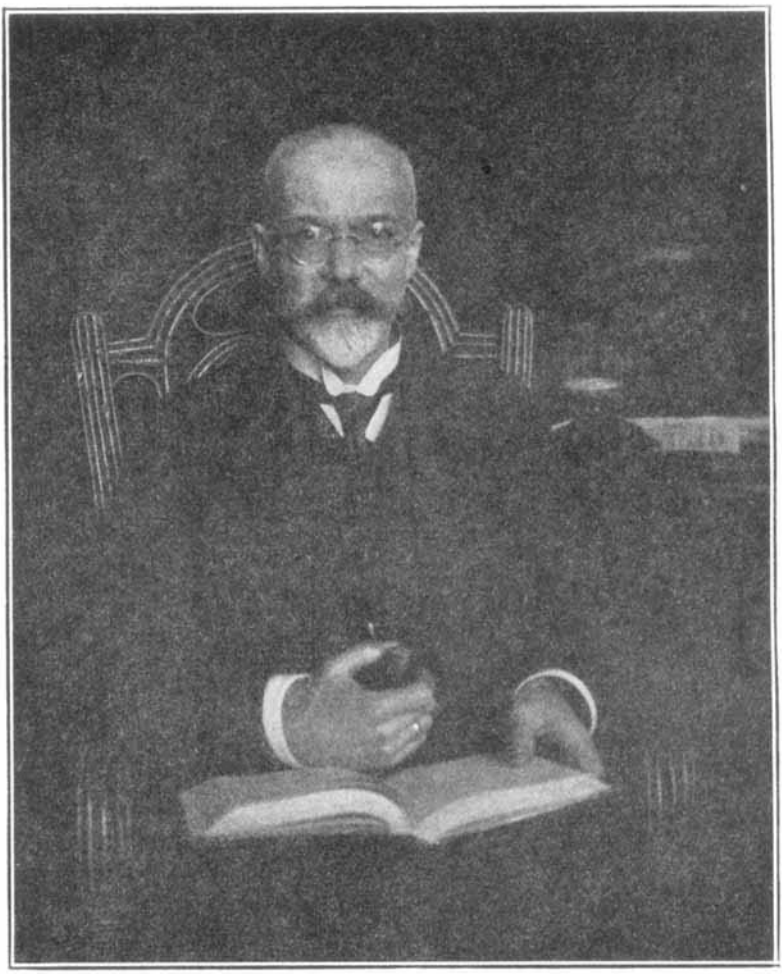
PROF. DR. JOHN GEORGE GADAMER

Director of the Pharmaceutical Chemical Institute of the University of Marburg, Germany
Honorary Member of the American Pharmaceutical Association



J. G. GADAMER.

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION

VOL. XII OCTOBER, 1923 No. 10

JOHN GEORGE GADAMER.

John George Gadamer was born April 1, 1867, in Waldenburg, Germany. The early part of his life was spent in this city where he obtained a thorough preliminary schooling. After graduating from the "gymnasium," he accepted an apprenticeship under a well-known pharmacist in Magdeburg. Here he obtained his practical experience as well as much theoretical knowledge imparted to him by his preceptor. The years 1886 to 1888 were so spent, and from 1888 to 1891 his practical experience was further broadened in several other pharmacies. In the fall of 1891, attracted by the work and reputation of Prof. Dr. E. Schmidt, he matriculated at the University of Marburg. Up to this time, Gadamer had shown great interest in botany, but under the tutelage of Prof. Schmidt he soon chose chemistry as his life-work. In 1893, he passed the State Board examinations and in the same year became Private Assistant to Prof. Schmidt. The following year he became University Assistant in the Chemical-Pharmaceutical Institute at Marburg. In 1895 as a result of a thesis on "Thiosinamin and Its Halogen Addition Products" he obtained the Ph.D. degree. He now decided to devote his life to academic work and in 1897, because of his work on the constituents of black and white mustard, he was appointed Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry and of Food Chemistry. At this time he determined the constitution of sinigrin, sinalbin and sinapin. After considerable more work on similar glucosides, he took up the study of the alkaloids and explained the conversion of hyoscyamine into atropine and of *d*-scopolamine into *i*-scopolamine. Several new alkaloids were also discovered and isolated by him at this time. In 1902 he was appointed Professor at the University of Breslau, where he not only organized the Pharmaceutical Institute but also found sufficient time to continue his research work. The constitution of many alkaloids as well as the syntheses of several was here accomplished. Here may be mentioned his work on the corydalis alkaloids, on berberine, on the columbo alkaloids, on bulbocapnine, corydine and corytuberine, the synthesis of glaucine, on the papaver alkaloids, on the tautomerism of certain nitrogenous bases of the berberine type, on cantharidin, on the use of mercuric acetate as an oxidizing

reagent by use of which he was enabled to convert homochelidonine into chelerythrine and chelidonine into sanguinarine, etc. He also developed a theory on the formation of alkaloids in the plant and of their biological value to the plant.

In 1919 Prof. Gadamer was appointed successor to his former teacher, the late Prof. E. Schmidt, at the University of Marburg. Here he determined the constitution of scopoline of corycavine and of corydaline, etc. He is editor of the *Archiv der Pharmazie*, and author of several scientific textbooks. Since the death of Prof. Schmidt he has also revised and reëdited the several books of which the latter was author. He is an honorary member of many pharmaceutical and other organizations devoted to science and a member of the National Health Commission of Germany.

HUGO H. SCHAEFER.

PAUL S. PITTENGER.

Awarded the Ebert Prize at Asheville Meeting, A. Ph. A., 1923. See report of General Sessions in this issue of the JOURNAL.

CHARLES B. GILLESPIE.

Winner of Fairchild Scholarship for 1923. See report of Fairchild Scholarship Committee in this issue of the JOURNAL.

STUDIES IN THE GENUS MENTHA.*

XII. *Mentha piperita*, L. (Peppermint) as a Subject for Biochemical Research.

Experiments of F. J. Bacon, G. C. Jenison and R. E. Kremers, at the Wisconsin Pharmaceutical Experiment Station, suggest that menthenone is formed first and that menthol considered characteristic of pepperment is formed from it by reduction. Since pipertone gives isomenthones, whereas pulegone appears to give ordinary menthone, upon reduction, these relationships may possibly be definitely traced.

The finding of menthenones in peppermint oil has influenced the authors' biochemical theories and also suggested a means of improving the quality of the oil.

The presence of aldehydes, though in very small quantities, in the natural oil also supports the biochemical theory of oil formation.—[Abstract by Arno Viehoever.]

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* Scientific Section, A. Ph. A.