

EDITORIAL NOTES

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ABSTRACTS OF RECENT SCIENTIFIC PAPERS.

MIRE (MÉÉ-RAY).

By H. H. Rusby, M.D.

The botanical origin of this botanical drug is not as yet established, inasmuch as only roots and leafy stems could be collected from the mire shrub. So far as is known to the natives of the producing region, the plant is so scarce as to prevent commercial possibilities, except as a result of cultivation.

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON STUDIES OF MIRE.

By Thomas S. Githens, M.D.

The active principles, not thus far isolated, seem to be completely extracted by hot water, and by various strengths of alcohol from 10 per cent. to 95 per cent. Extraction by ether, chloroform and acetone yields weaker preparations, though similar in action. The active principles were not injured by boiling and were not volatile with steam.

While there is no curare action, mire causes, among other changes, paralysis of voluntary motion by an action on the spinal cord.

PROGRESS IN VITAMINE RESEARCH.

By Casimir Funk and Harry E. Dubin.

Vitamine research has advanced along three lines—first, the demonstration of the actual existence and the nature of specific vitamins; second, the study of the vitamine content of various foodstuffs, raw and cooked; and third, investigation of the chemistry of the vitamins.

While advances have been made all along the line, the most important progress has been in the discovery of new vitamins to account for a number of disturbances in normal nutrition. It is in this direction that we must look for the most fruitful developments.

MICRO-METHOD FOR THE DETERMINATION OF FERRIC ION CONCENTRATION IN COLLOIDAL SYSTEMS.

By Newton Kugelmass.

A colorimetric micro-method is described for determination of free, combined and total iron inorganic or organic combination in colloidal solutions, as blood, urine, milk, etc. The method consists of direct complete extraction of the formed ferric thiocyanate by isoamyl alcohol and comparing the more intense colored isoamylic layer with a parallel prepared standard. The physico-chemical equilibria involved in the color reaction are considered as well as the conditions for the maximum sensitivity of the method. This colorimetric method for minute amounts is more accurate than either the volumetric or gravimetric; the analysis is rapid, not requiring more than ten minutes.

PHARMACOLOGY OF CADMIUM AND ZINC.

Schwartz and Alsberg state that in the case of animals that vomit, such as cats, the chief effect of the oral administration of cadmium and zinc salts is emesis, which is dependent on the concentration in which these substances are present in the gastric contents. This local effect varies with the character of the food, being more powerful when the metals are administered in diets of liquids than when administered in those of raw hashed, lean meat. The consumption of an average-sized meal of raw hashed meat containing from 350 to 400 parts per million of cadmium or 3000 parts per million of zinc is almost always followed by emesis. Cadmium calculated as the metal is eight to nine times more effective as an emetic than zinc.—Abstract from *Journal A. M. A.*

PERSONAL AND NEW ITEMS.

Paul H. Fall, of Chicago, has been awarded the \$2000 fellowship to be given annually by the Palmolive Company for the study of the chemistry, physics and colloidal principles involved in the detergent action of soaps. Mr. Fall will conduct his researches at Cornell University.

J. T. Lloyd, of Cincinnati, attended the fortieth annual meeting of the Texas Eclectic Medical Association, held at Mineral Wells. He contributed to the program of the Scientific Section, A. Ph. A., in Asheville.

Paul S. Pittenger delivered a lecture on "Accurate Therapeutics Based on Drug Standardization," being one of the series of lectures held in connection with the post-graduate course at the University of Buffalo School of Medicine.

F. S. Bukey has accepted a position as instructor of pharmacognosy and botany in the School of Pharmacy at Western Reserve University, Cleveland. Mr. Bukey is a graduate of the University of Nebraska.

Herman A. Metz is now one of the three honorary deputy police commissioners of New York City, appointed by Commissioner Enright.

Frederick H. Baetjer, of Johns Hopkins Hospital, who has an international reputation as an X-ray expert, has had to return to his own hospital for treatment for an affection of the arms brought about by exposure to the Roentgen rays.

G. Barret Moxley, president of the Kiefer Stewart Drug Company, was elected President of the National Wholesale Druggists' Association at the recent meeting held in Cleveland.

Wilhelm Bodemann gave an interesting account of the recent N. A. R. D. convention in the *Apotheker-Zeitung*. He was particularly well pleased with the Silver Anniversary Luncheon when charter members of the N. A. R. D. and members of the C. V. D. A. assembled.

Prof. Dr. H. Thoms and wife are reported safe and well in Japan.

Carl Meyer, president of Meyer Bros. Drug Co., has been elected president of the "St. Louis Ad Club." His devotion to civic duties and public affairs greatly contributed to the success of the "Aero Congress and Air Meet" held in St. Louis, Oct. 1-6.

J. Leon Lascoff was chairman of a special Retail Druggists' group, formed in accordance

with the campaign plan of organizing the entire city into various industrial, mercantile and professional groups to facilitate the Roll Call effort for the Red Cross. A special Roll Call committee of representative leaders among the retail druggists functioned under the chairmanship of Mr. Lascoff.

J. W. Sturmer spoke on "The Great American Rubber Industry," November 8th, at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. This is one of the popular science lectures provided by this institution for the public. The first of the series was given October 11th by **Dr. Henry Leffmann** on "Some News from Outer Darkness," and the second one, "Wire and Wireless Telephony," was the subject of **George Rosengarten**. "Chemistry in and about the Home," by **Freeman P. Stroup**; "Water," by **Ralph R. Foran**, and "Idiosyncrasies, or the Story of a Sneeze," by **Ivor Griffith**, are subjects of succeeding lectures.

Henry C. Kruckeberg, veteran Minneapolis pharmacist, was assistant secretary of the N. A. R. D. convention in Boston and participated in the Silver Anniversary Luncheon as representative of the Minneapolis Veteran Druggists' Association.

J. W. Cookson, of Wichita, Kas., was elected second vice-president of the N. A. R. D. He was one of the organizers and has attended 21 out of the 25 annual meetings.

Charles Ehlers is president of the North Cincinnati Business Men's Association.

Marie E. Piesinger, of New Prague, president of the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy, has been instrumental in organizing a women's pharmaceutical association of her State, with fourteen charter members.

A number of marriages are reported in the current issue of the *Carolina Journal of Pharmacy*. Among the registrants of the Asheville A. Ph. A. meeting we find the name of Miss Theo Twitty, of Asheville. The Journal mentioned announces the marriage of Miss Theo Bryan Twitty to Mr. E. A. Watkins and states "that Mrs. Watkins is one of the few women in North Carolina engaged in the profession of pharmacy; she is a member of the drug firm of Powell & Twitty, of Asheville."

J. L. Alderman, of Chapel Hill, and Miss Mary Goodwin, of Edenton, announce their marriage. Mr. Alderman is a member of the firm of Sutton & Alderman.

The marriage of Miss Eleanor Lambdin to **Mr. Sam Sowell** is also announced. Mr. Sowell was an officer of the U. of N. C. Branch.

A. Ph. A., and one of its organizers. He is associated with his brother in the Clyburn Drug Company, of Camden, S. C.

REPORTS OF THE MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

It is unnecessary to dwell upon the coöperation of the pharmaceutical press in giving publicity to the work of the American Pharmaceutical Association and relating to the Asheville convention. All of these publications are represented in the Association and therefore, quite naturally, are interested in its promotions, but it is a source of great satisfaction to record in these columns grateful appreciation of the reports which have been published.

NOBEL PRIZE FOR INSULIN.

The Nobel prize for medicine for 1923 has been awarded to Dr. Frederick G. Banting and Dr. J. J. R. MacLeod, of Toronto, for their discovery of insulin.



Joint Winners of 1923 Nobel Prize for Medicine.

Drs. J. J. MacLeod (upper) and F. G. Banting, Toronto, Joint Winners of the 1923 Nobel Prize for Medicine, Discoverers of Insulin.—Courtesy of *Philadelphia Bulletin*.

Dr. F. G. Banting was overseas for three years during the war and served with distinc-

tion, being awarded the military cross for valor. Upon his return he held posts at the Christie Street Hospital for disabled soldiers, Toronto, and later at the Sick Children's Hospital here. Finally he devoted himself to research work in the Connaught laboratory of the University of Toronto.

Prof. J. J. R. MacLeod received his medical training in Aberdeen, London and Leipzig. He was awarded the Anderson Traveling Fellowship at the University of Aberdeen and became examiner and professor of physiology in the medical faculty, later being made associate dean of the faculty. He is the author of an important work dealing with the physiological pathology of diabetes.

Dr. Banting said he deeply appreciated the assistance of his co-workers, particularly of Dr. C. F. Best, whom he wished to share the Nobel award "both in the honor and financial aspect." He said he would devote the rest of the money to medical research.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE N. A. R. D.

Thirty-seven resolutions were adopted by the N. A. R. D. at the recent meeting in Boston. They support: Perpetual registration of soda fountains, affiliation of State and Local Associations, truth in advertising, reasonable profit, college education requirement, ownership of pharmacies by pharmacists, the Kelly Bill, manufacturers who coöperate, withholding issuance of "I" permits until after a pharmacy has been established for a year, automatic renewal of "H" permits, enforcement of the 18th amendment according to law, placing responsibility for medicinal prescribing on physicians, appointment of pharmacists for prohibition directors and assistant directors, a survey of pharmacy and pharmaceutical education. Other resolutions relate to alcohol and narcotic regulations supporting prior actions of the N. A. R. D.; sales tax is opposed, also unfair trade practices, certain phases of advertising, consolidation of State Boards. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue is commended, also Congress in its action on the Wood-Ernst Bill. Appreciation is expressed of the services of Secretary S. C. Henry and the efficient office force, for services rendered by the Alcohol Trades Advisory Committee and of those who participated in making the Silver Anniversary convention a success.

The code of ethics, as adopted by the American Pharmaceutical Association, was adopted by the N. A. R. D. A resolution authorizes the securing of permanent headquarters.