

EDITORIAL NOTES

Editor: E. G. EBERLE, Bourse Building, Philadelphia, Pa.

Committee on Publication: A. G. DUMÉZ, *Chairman*; S. L. HILTON, H. M. WHELPLEY, R. A. LYMAN, W. L. SCOVILLE, and the Editor-in-Chief of the JOURNAL, General Secretary, Treasurer and Reporter on the Progress of Pharmacy, *ex-officio*.

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SYRUP OF MANGANOUS IODIDE.*

M. Guyot writes as follows:

"Manganese plays the rôle of conveyor of oxygen as does iron in supplying haemoglobin. It is a reconstructive in anemia. The soluble salts should be included in the therapeutic arsenal, preference being given to the iodide. In the series of metals, manganese is neighbor to iron. Its atomic weight is 55, that of iron is 56; like iron it is bivalent, tetravalent, hexavalent; their oxides and salts are isomorphous. These analogies are important.

"It is proposed to adopt the same strength for syrup of manganous iodide as that of syrup of ferrous iodide.

"The iodide as found in commerce will not answer. Some firms produce a white salt, others a red one. Besides, the salt is very hygroscopic, and must be kept in amber bottles, carefully ground and tightly stoppered, protected from sunlight. The white manganous iodide on exposure to air becomes rose colored, then a deep red, by oxidation; on this account it must be prepared extemporaneously in making the syrup.

"Theoretically, it requires to obtain 5 Gm. of manganous iodide, 0.88 Gm. of manganese and 4.10 Gm. of iodine, but it is necessary to use an excess of manganese in order to obtain the manganous salt, so we will take 2.50 Gm. to 3 Gm. of manganese in very fine powder. At first about 2 Gm. is placed in a flask with 10 cc of orange flower water, then the iodine is added in small portions, reaction taking place immediately, with rise of temperature, the liquid becomes green, then red. After cooling, the remainder of the manganese is added in portions, the liquid assuming a grayish

tint, turning to rose. It is then rapidly filtered into 990 cc of simple syrup, to which 1 Gm. of tartaric acid has been previously added (as a preservative). The syrup thus prepared contains 5 Gm. of manganous iodide in 1000 cc and keeps well even in daylight without discoloration. If the manganous iodide solution is not filtered rapidly, or is allowed to stand in the flask, the color will become yellow, turning to bright red.

"For convenience, a glycerinated solution may be prepared by filtering the solution of 5 Gm. of manganous iodide into 30 or 50 cc of glycerin, and the product used in proper proportion with syrup as needed. The glycerinated solution keeps well, but if long exposed to light will turn yellow."

SOURCE OF INSULIN.

As a result of the improved histologic technic introduced by Lane and Bensley and of the recent demonstration by Banting, Best, Collip, Macleod and Noble that an alcoholic extract of mammalian pancreas—known as insulin—profoundly lowers the percentage of blood sugar in normal rabbits, Macleod says, the whole question as to the significance of the islet tissue, and particularly whether it is the source of insulin, is reopened for investigation. There are two aspects to the problem, the one being to compare by modern histologic methods the exact cytologic structure of the islets in the mammalian and the *Elasmobranch* pancreas with that of the principal islets found by Rennie in the *Teleostei*, and the other, to study the effect of extracts prepared from these sources on the percentage of blood sugar in normal rabbits. In general, the plan of investigation has been to observe from time to time the amount of blood sugar in normal rabbits injected with extracts prepared from the following sources: (1) the pancreas of representative *Elasmobranchii* [*Squalus* (dog

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fish) and *Raja* (skate)]; (2) the principal islets of representative *Teleostei* [*Myoxocephalus* (sculpin) and *Lophius* (anglerfish)], and (3) the zymogenous (acinar) pancreatic tissue, as free as possible from islets, in the same and certain other *Teleostei*. Potent insulin preparations were readily made from the pancreas of the cartilaginous fishes—the dog fish (*Squalus acanthias*) and the skate (*Raja*). Still more so was this the case with the principal islets of Rennie, which are found in many bony fishes, the Angler (*Lophius*) and the sculpin (*Myoxocephalus*). Since these are readily available fishes, they may serve as a practical source of insulin. No insulin could be prepared from the pancreatic tissue proper (zymogenous or acinar) of the representative bony fishes (*Lophius myoxocephalus* and *Zoarces*). Although the anatomic relationships of these tissues are still somewhat obscure, these results, in Macleod's opinion, afford strong direct evidence for the hypothesis that insulin, as its name implies, is derived from the insular and not the zymogenous tissue of the pancreas.—From *Journal A. M. A.*, January 27, p. 278.

THE STRUCTURE OF FUCOSE.

ATTACKING DISEASE WITH SEAWEED.

In diagnosing many of the pernicious diseases, such as typhoid fever and pneumonia, the method employed by the bacteriologist involves a study of the way the germs grow upon media containing certain of the so-called rare sugars. There are at the present time some twenty of these rare sugars which are available for such use. A new member of this group of organic substances has been added to the list by the working out of a method whereby fucose may be made with relative economy from ordinary seaweed known as fucus, or commonly called rockweed.

This method is described in Scientific Paper No. 459 of the Bureau of Standards, entitled "The Structure of Fucose," which can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington D. C., at 5 cents a copy.

This sugar is not entirely new, yet because of the difficulty of making it by the older procedures, as well as its excessive cost, it was unobtainable. Now that it can be made cheaply and easily, the bacteriologists will have another means for hunting out the germs that cause disease, thus enabling the physician to at once administer the proper treatment and so minimize the effect of the disease.

RESEARCH ON EDIBLE GELATIN.

The Edible Gelatin Manufacturers of America, Incorporated, announce the establishment of an Industrial Fellowship in the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research of the University of Pittsburgh, for the purpose of ascertaining the real food value of edible gelatin in its manifold applications in the American dietary.

The founding of this Fellowship is the outgrowth of the desire of the members of the Association to uphold high standards in the manufacture of this food and to have available for their own use and for the trade data of scientific and technical nature respecting its advantageous use in the food industries.

In addition to experimental investigations, a correlation of all available facts regarding edible gelatin will be made, to be held at the disposal of all users and prospective users of the product. It is hoped that real service may be rendered by supplying scientific data and technical advice.

The present incumbent of the Industrial Fellowship is Dr. Thomas B. Downey, who will be glad to furnish any available information to those interested in the uses of edible gelatin.

GERMANIUM IN THE TREATMENT OF ANEMIA.

Dr. John H. Mueller spoke on Germanium at the December meeting of the Philadelphia branch of the American Chemical Society.

The results of the clinical application of Germanium in the Philadelphia General Hospital by Dr. Solomon Solis-Cohen were discussed in a letter from him to Dr. Meeker and read by Dr. Meeker. In the case of anemia caused by loss of blood and in ordinary secondary anemia Germanium was beneficial and could not be replaced; while in cases of pernicious anemia it gave but a temporary relief and resulted in a quicker exhaustion of the power of the bone marrow to produce red corpuscles. It would give a shorter but more efficient and better life to the patient. The possible use of Germanium in the diagnosis of cancer was pointed out by Dr. Cohen in this letter.

After reporting on the investigations of the physiological effects of Germanium carried out at the Wistar Institute of Anatomy in cooperation with Dr. Abbott and Miss Iszard, Dr. Mueller spoke of the detection of Germanium—0.06 milligram can be detected by

the Marsh test; the Ge mirror differs from that of As in being red when viewed by transmitted light. The best quantitative method is by precipitation with Mg mixture, which precipitate is white and unaltered by ignition. The sulphide method is unsatisfactory because of the difficulty of the oxidation of the sulphide with nitric acid.

PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

Prof. Ivor Griffith, of the Stetson Hospital, Philadelphia, delivered an address on "One Drop of Blood," under the auspices of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, January 6. The speaker was chairman of the Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, A. Ph. A., from 1920-1922.

Miss Clarissa M. Roehr, secretary, San Francisco Branch, A. Ph. A., apothecary at University Hospital, is president of the Women's Pharmaceutical Association of the Pacific Coast.

Dr. Henry Kraemer delivered an illustrated lecture at the Detroit Institute of Technology January 9. In addressing the students of the Department of Pharmacy he said—"The history of pharmacy and the biographies of pharmacists show that another name for pharmacy is opportunity." He concluded with the advice that a man must be loyal to his profession and never permit anyone to persuade or coerce him to say anything which is derogatory to it. The conduct of business should reflect credit upon the man and his associates.

Dr. H. M. Whelpley has presented the records of the late Prof. Charles O. Curtman, as member of the U. S. P. Revision Committee, 1890-1900, to the St. Louis College of Pharmacy. This donation is to become part of an extensive historical museum of the college.

Dr. Caswell A. Mayo recently was honor guest of Cincinnati Chemists' Club. After the dinner he delivered an illustrated lecture on "Some Modern Problems of the Manufacturing Pharmacist."

Dr. Henry H. Rusby addressed a joint meeting of the alumni association and the membership of the College of Pharmacy of the City of New York, January 16. He spoke of his experiences during his recent trip of exploration in South America. His address was illustrated by motion pictures, including those taken of the ceremonies accompanying caapi drinking by the native tribes of Colombia.

Editor Hugo Kantrowitz of the *Apotheker Zeitung* is recovering from a severe attack of the grippe, which kept him from his office for several weeks.

Dr. Royal S. Copeland, senator-elect of New York, has expressed himself in favor of a simplification of regulations of the Revenue Department and is of the opinion, which is gaining strength, that there are too many laws.

Arthur S. Lovenhart, of the University of Wisconsin, addressed students of the biological and chemical sciences at Columbus, on January 18 and 19, under the joint auspices of the Columbus Section of the American Chemical Society, and the Society of Sigma Xi. The titles of the lectures were, "The Relation between Chemical Constitution and Pharmacological Action," and "Biological Oxidation."

Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and president of the National Academy of Sciences, formerly director of the United States Geological Survey, has been elected president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Chairman E. Fullerton Cook, U. S. P. Revision Committee, delivered an illustrated lecture, open to the public, on "The Making of Medicines," from the time of the Pharaohs to the present, at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, January 17.

Prof. C. H. Stocking, of Ann Arbor, reports the omission of his name from the list of registrants at the Cleveland A. Ph. A. meeting. The error, which is regretted, occurred in transcribing the names.

Secretary C. H. Waterbury, N. W. D. A., in a communication, questions the statement made in the sketch of Louis Pasteur, December JOURNAL A. Ph. A.—"that among scientists the picture of the latter will be the first to adorn postage;" he refers to that of Benjamin Franklin on U. S. postage. Franklin was a scientist, he may be considered the father of radio, in 1753 the Royal Society of England elected him a member in appreciation of his electrical discoveries and also awarded him the Copley gold medal. Every industry shows his influence, but his Will began with "I, Benjamin Franklin, Printer, late Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States of America to the Court of France. . . ." Evidently he wished to be remembered as "Printer," and, hence, our statement. France and England vied with the United States to honor him, as also the cities of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia; he had a part in every art and

science—the American Federation of Labor claims him; he was the inventor of bifocal lenses, he was interested in flying machines, invented the harmonica, outlined a proper system of insurance; even the medical profession paid respect to his memory in floral wreaths, he was elected to honorary membership in the medical societies of Paris and London in 1777 and 1778, and so we could present other connections and references. Pharmacy also claims him—the recently issued "First Century of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy," p. 79, states: "... it was Franklin who had John Morgan elected Apothecary of the Pennsylvania Hospital and gave him material aid in his medical studies abroad, so that when he returned to this country, he strenuously fought for the separation of pharmacy from medicine and as a result the course pursued by Dr. Morgan may be said to have given the original impulse to the cultivation of the profession of pharmacy and sanctioned its independent existence' . . ." (Dr. Joseph Carson, 1869).

The *American Druggist* for January published "A brief story of a strenuous life." The illustrations present Louis Pasteur at different life periods and show memorials honoring this scientist.

The *Druggists Circular* for January shows the pharmacy of Louis Serrés of Vosages, France—a free translation of a tablet on this building is quoted: "Here on April 25, 1507, during the reign of René II, the members of the Gymnase Vosgien, Gautier Lud, Nicolas Lud, Jean Basin, Mathias Ringmann and Martin Waldseemuller, printed and published 'La Cosmographiæ Introductio,' in which the new continent received the name of America."

United States Naval Medical Bulletin for December published a report of the International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy held in Brussels, July 1921, and of the meeting of the Permanent Committee held in Brussels in February 1922. The report is made by Commander William Seaman Bainbridge (U. S. N.) and covers about 140 pages with a number of illustrations. It is a comprehensive and interesting report.

J. R. Bruce, president of the Bruce Publishing Company, St. Paul, and publisher of the *Northwestern Druggist*, has been appointed publisher and manager of the *Journal of Radiology*, which is devoted to the science of X-ray.

The *National Drug Clerk* printed and distributed the Code of Ethics, A. Ph. A. The same official publication has also prepared a model questionnaire for employer and employees in the drug business.

The *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* has prepared a list of moving picture films related to chemical subjects; among these are some of interest to pharmacists: Perfumes; Aqua; Chocolate Industry, from bean to cup; Crystallization; Getting Acquainted with Bacteria; Microscopical View of the Blood Circulation; Tea and Coffee. Data regarding the source of these films may be obtained from the publication office.

The *Stirring Rod* for January is an historical number devoted to pharmacy of the Pacific Coast, and the drug industries of that section.

"The Cousins Book," a book by Walter H. Cousins of the *Southern Pharmaceutical Journal*, has been published by Arthur S. Mathis of Dallas and is having a large sale, not only among druggists but also the laity.

"Pharmaceutical Research," by H. V. Army, a pamphlet reprinted from "International Clinics," Volume IV, series 32, J. B. Lippincott Company, is being distributed.

Bulletin de la Société d' Histoire de la Pharmacie (Paris), No. 36, contains on p. 126 some complimentary remarks about the Section on Historical Pharmacy of the American Pharmaceutical Association, and the papers read at the Cleveland convention. Two of the contributors, namely, Professor Edward Kremers and Otto Raubenheimer, are also members of the Société d' Histoire de la Pharmacie. In the usual polite French style the abstract concludes with sincere compliments to the members of the Section for their laudable activities in history of pharmacy.

The *Pharmaceutical Era*, including the *Drug Trade Weekly*, is now issued weekly.

OBITUARY.

FRANK HARMAN GALBRAITH.

Frank H. Galbraith, secretary of the Yahr & Lange Drug Co., Milwaukee, Wis., died at his home in that city, January 6, following

a stroke of paralysis. He was born in Hamilton, Ontario, sixty-seven years ago.

Mr. Galbraith spent all of his business life in the wholesale drug business. He came to