

## EDITORIAL NOTES

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### A CASE OF TETANUS FOLLOWING POISONING BY FIELD NARCISSUS (*Narcissus Pseudo Narcissus* L.).

CONDENSED FROM THE FRENCH BY WM. H. GANO.

In May 1922, a family of four, father, mother and two sons (14 and 15 years), during a walk in the country gathered some bulbs which they believed to be jonquils with the intention of transplanting them in their garden.

The bulbs were placed in a cool place near the kitchen sink; when evening came, the cook, desiring to prepare some stewed leeks for the evening meal, used, inadvertently, these bulbs. The dish was consumed to the liking of all hands. During the night, the four members of the family were seized with violent abdominal pains and nausea. The physician called diagnosed the trouble as a poisoning—the error in cooking was recognized and an emetic was prescribed for each, with an abundance of milk as an antidote. Only the younger son, who presented the same primary symptoms, failed to respond to the treatment. During the following day the symptoms continued, with retching and diarrhoea. The following day saw rapid recovery of the father, mother and older son.

The younger son alone had not done any true vomiting, only violent retching, with abdominal pains, and diarrhoea.

The attending physician reports the progress of the disease and details two "crises" of tetanus, the second following the first after a few days. Only the concluding paragraph of the physician's report is quoted:

"There is no doubt that the two 'crises' of tetanus were caused by the poisoning cited above. It is not usual to come upon this malady in the course of an alimentary intoxication; we have found no reference to it in medical literature. On these grounds this case merits reporting. It is known that tetanus has

shown itself with children during nursing, and in the course of certain maladies, such as typhoid fever, cholera, gastric dilatation. Digestive troubles play a preponderant rôle in the etiology of tetanus. The patient was an 'enteritic' of long standing, perhaps in this fact resides the reason for the attacks noted above."—M. E. Martin-Sans and Dr. de Verbizier—of the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Toulouse, in *Bull. des sci. pharmacolog.*

### IS ANY PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH BEING PERFORMED?

In discussing the subject—"Pharmaceutical Research," in *International Clinics*—Dr. H. V. Army (now president-elect A. Ph. A.) submits four questions; the one indicated by the title is the third, the answer to which he introduces by reference to an address delivered in 1920 before Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association\* in which a roll of honor of forty-seven workers is given. He continues: "Taking up the work of the past as well as the present, I will here only cite Scheele, the Swedish pharmacist, who discovered the fruit acids as well as the element chlorine; Sertürner, the apothecary of Eimbeck, who isolated morphine, the first discovered alkaloid; Pelletier and Caventou, *pharmaciens* of Paris, discoverers of quinine and other cinchona alkaloids; Procter, the Father of American Pharmacy, whose research work included the development of the art of percolation, the manufacturer of elegant pharmaceuticals and the study of the constituents of crude drugs; Squibb, the great manufacturer whose study of percolation is a classic; Lloyd, another manufacturer, whose work on capillarity and adsorption is now cited by physical chemists as pioneer

\* J. AM. PHARM. ASSOC., 9, 684, 1920.

work along these lines; and thus unto the present time, when those investigators cited upon a preceding page are performing work of vast credit to science as a whole and to pharmacy in particular.

"No better answer to the question: 'What research work is being done by pharmacists?' can be given than the bare statement that at the 1922 meeting of the Scientific Section of the American Pharmaceutical Association over eighty papers were presented by their authors."

#### THE CURIE FUND OVERSUBSCRIBED.

From the fund collected by the women of America to present a gram of radium to Mme. Curie, there remains, after about \$110,000 had been paid for the radium, a surplus of about \$50,000, the annual income from which will be given to Mme. Curie.

#### ERRORS IN ORDERS FOR BARIUM SULPH.

It is a fact quite generally observed that an error in the sale of a poison is often followed by others. The unfortunate errors in dispensing barium sulphide have been so generally reported in the press that no warning is needed for the present, but it is well to guard against recurrences. There was a time when the calomel bottle was next to the one containing mercuric chloride, and physicians used abbreviations which might have left the dispenser in doubt as to whether hydrated chloral, calomel, corrosive sublimate, or hydrochloric acid was wanted. The containers for barium sulphate and that of barium sulphide should not be in the same section; physicians who write "barium sulph." should discontinue doing so. Everyone regrets the errors committed and sympathizes with all concerned; both barium sulphate and sulphide are called for in drug stores.

#### COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR CHEMIST.

The United States Civil Service Commission announces open competitive examinations for the positions listed above. Vacancies in the Chemical Warfare Service, Edgewood Arsenal, Edgewood, Md., at the salaries indicated, and in positions requiring similar qualifications, at these or higher or lower salaries, will be filled from these examinations, unless it is found in the interest of the service to fill any vacancy by reinstatement, transfer, or promotion.

The salaries range from \$3000 to \$5000 for chemist, \$2000 to \$3000 for associate chemist, and \$1600 to \$2000 for assistant chemist. Applicants should apply for Form 2118 to the

Civil Service Commission. Receipt of applications will close March 27.

#### PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

Prof. J. U. Lloyd has returned from West Indies where he had gone for recuperation. It will be remembered that about a year ago he was seriously ill with pneumonia. Advices indicate that he is much improved in health.

President J. L. Hopkins, of J. L. Hopkins & Co., has returned to his desk after an absence of eight weeks due to illness, much improved in health.

Miss Marie A. Piesinger is president of the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy.

President Julius A. Koch, A. Ph. A., was one of the speakers at the dedication exercises of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, February 23. His concluding remarks dedicated the site to the use of the institution for "continued service to humanity, to pharmaceutical education and research in the full assurance that the present and future faculties will emulate their distinguished predecessors in maintaining their lofty ideals and raising to ever higher and higher planes our beloved profession."

Ex-President Caswell A. Mayo, A. Ph. A., has on a number of occasions yielded to poetic inspiration; recently, in lines to the "Up-to-date Baby." From these the following are quoted: "You're an up-to-date baby. Maybe it is best To forego the rocker, the songs and the rest; But it seems to me, baby, you'll miss quite a lot Of the romance of life that we old fogies got."

Prof. Curt P. Wimmer has contributed to the *Pharmaceutical Era* an interesting outline of the early history of the New York College of Pharmacy. The institution was founded in 1829 and is approaching its centenary. Illustrations accompanied the article.

A monument, thirty-five feet in height, is to mark the grave of Sergeant Joyce Kilmer, poet soldier, who died fighting in France with the Sixty-ninth Infantry. Sergeant Kilmer, a member of the staff of the *New York Times*, was the son of our fellow-member, Dr. F. B. Kilmer, New Brunswick, N. J. The monument is to be put in place next summer when Dr. and Mrs. Kilmer go abroad to visit the French cemetery where he rests. The memorial is the work of Paola Abbate, famous Italian sculptor.

United States Senator-elect Royal S. Copeland, for many years New York City Health Commissioner, was among the prominent speakers at the annual dinner of the New York

Retail Druggists' Association who paid tribute to the ideals and personnel of the association. Dr. Copcland, who devoted a large part of his talk to a discussion of the growing menace of the drug evil, declared that only to a negligible degree were the retail druggists of the state responsible for the growth of narcotic habit. He added that little or no supervision over the retailers was necessary to compel them to live up to the letter of the narcotic law.

**Ex-President Lewis C. Hopp**, A. Ph. A., met with a serious loss in the destruction of his pharmacy by fire. Those who know the type of pharmacy conducted by Mr. Hopp can realize what the fire meant to him, and sympathy is extended.

**A. & R. S. Lehman** have sold their pharmacy at 375 Third Ave., New York City, to Clement Grassi. The former owners bought the store from Riedel & Son in 1900; it is one of the oldest and best-known establishments in this section of the city.

**Peter S. Rohn** is the new president of the Philadelphia Retail Druggists' Association.

**Frank J. Dubsy**, a former president of Illinois Pharmaceutical Association, is president of Chicago Retail Druggists' Association.

**Secretary-Treasurer A. G. Hulett**, of the recently organized Arizona Pharmaceutical Association, writes of the association as a "good husky western fellow—ready to lend aid and strength to build up pharmacy."

**F. Wayland Ayer**, of N. W. Ayer & Son (advertising), died March 5. He was internationally known as one of the fathers of modern advertising. He was a successful business man and interested in many philanthropic and benevolent movements.

*The Pharmaceutical Journal and Pharmacist*, February 10, 1923, comments at length editorially on "The Digest of Comments on the Pharmacopœia of U. S. and on National Formulary" for the year ending December 31, 1920. The editor states: "By this means the revision committees get a good general impression as to the trend of opinion on the various questions at

issue, a method of working that is now definitely established in the states, and that might, with great profit, be adopted here at home."

**Walter D. Adams**, Secretary-Treasurer, Texas Pharmaceutical Association, has this as a business motto: "No promise is ever barred by the statute of limitation." His advertising attracts attention; the following are the introductory lines of "Fly-Way" advertisement: "A bob-tail cow during fly-time stands about the same show as a humming bird in a bull fight." The store and the man are sketched in *The Crowds Drug News*, for January, a house organ.

**President H. L. Haussamen**, of the North Dakota State Board of Pharmacy, and wife, also Mr. and Mrs. **Charles H. Huhn**, have been spending part of the winter in the South.

**Dr. Edward C. Franklin**, professor of organic chemistry at Stanford University, Palo Alto, Cal., who was recently elected president of the American Chemical Society, will leave about the middle of March for a tour of the country, to lecture before local sections of the American Chemical Society and classes in the large universities.

U. S. Senator-elect from Michigan—**Woodbridge Ferris**, of Big Rapids, Mich.—is the founder of Ferris Institute, attached to which is a department of pharmacy. While not a pharmacist, he has given direction to the studies of many young pharmacists. **Hon. George W. Edmonds** is, if our information is correct, the only graduate pharmacist in Congress.

#### ANNUAL MEETING OF AMERICAN DRUGGISTS' FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

At the annual meeting of the American Druggists' Fire Insurance Company, held February 13 and 14, in Cincinnati, **Samuel C. Davis**, of Nashville, and **Edward Voss, Jr.**, of Cincinnati, were elected directors in place of the late **Simon N. Jones** and **A. O. Zwick**. **Louis C. Hopp** was elected to fill the vacancy on the executive committee caused by the demise of **Dr. A. O. Zwick**.

#### OBITUARY.

##### JOHN BEST.

By Samuel T. Hensel.

John Best, one of the pioneer druggists of Colorado—for fifty years a loyal member of the American Pharmaceutical Association—has crossed "the great divide," leaving behind him memories which his family, friends and busi-

ness associates will ever cherish—of a genial, gentle soul. He was a type of the educated young man coming to the West—of the educated pharmacist and druggist of that day who came to seek his fortune.

The importance of the time and place of his advent to the great West compels me to digress