

EDITORIAL NOTES

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STUDIES OF VITAMINS.

At a recent meeting of the Royal Institute of Great Britain, Dr. Arthur Harden presented a summary of present knowledge on the question of vitamins. Dr. Henry Leffmann has abstracted the report for the March number of the *Journal of the Franklin Institute*, as follows:

Experiments on these substances are difficult and tedious. It seems to be established that vitamins A and C are fairly resistant to moderate increase of temperature provided air is excluded, but deteriorate rapidly when exposed to oxidation. Vitamin B is less affected by heat and aeration. All three vitamins originate in the vegetable kingdom, and in view of this fact, it is interesting to recall the Biblical endorsement of the "green herb for meat" as given to the residents of Gan-Eden. In fats, the vitamin seems to reside entirely in the unsaponifiable portion, and as this usually consists largely of cholesterol, which has no value, it is evident that the amount of the really active substance is very minute. Vitamin A does not appear until the photosynthetic actions occur. Vitamin C is not in seeds, but appears when they germinate and before any green parts are formed. The conditions under which vitamin B is produced are still somewhat uncertain, but its existence in yeast shows that it may be produced without action of light. Milk from stall-fed animals is poor in A and also likely to be deficient in C. The comparatively enormous amount of A in cod-liver oil has been one of the most striking results of recent investigations, but in connection with these data the fact that liberal exposure to sunlight will often counteract certain dietetic deficiencies must not be overlooked. It must not be forgotten that most of these feed-

ing experiments are conducted in laboratories not open freely to sunshine and that the animals are under decidedly unnatural conditions in some ways.

Testing of Foodstuffs for Vitamins is described by J. C. Drummond and A. F. Watson, of University College, London (*Analyst*, 1922, xlvii, 235-246). Physical and chemical methods do not exist for the detection and determination of the vitamins, so they must be studied by the biological method, *i. e.*, their action on animals. Fat soluble A, which promotes growth and prevents the eye disease known as xerophthalmia, accompanies the unsaponifiable fraction of a fat, provided the latter be isolated under conditions which exclude oxidation. A daily dose of approximately 0.01 milligram of this vitamin, as it occurs in cod-liver oil, is sufficient to produce nearly normal growth in an albino rat. The traces of this vitamin, which occur in casein, are destroyed if that protein be spread out in thin layers and be exposed for several hours to a temperature of 110° C. in a current of air. In testing for water soluble B, determination of the growth curve of the rat is preferred to determination of the curative effect on a polyneurotic pigeon. Commercial yeast extracts are especially rich in this vitamin. In the past, food control officials have tested meat extracts for adulteration with yeast extract; in the future, they probably will have to combat adulteration of the vitamin-rich yeast extracts, with less potent materials. In testing for the antiscorbutic vitamin, water soluble C, use is made of the guinea-pig. Lemon juice is a far more potent antiscorbutic than lime juice.

J. S. H.

PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

Chairman E. Fullerton Cook, of the U. S. P. Revision Committee, announces that reprints of the first abstract of proposed changes for the U. S. P. X. (See *JOURNAL A. PH. A.*, pp. 57-73, January 1923) may be obtained by addressing him at 636 South Franklin Square, Philadelphia. The Committee of Revision invites comments or criticisms at this time, that the maximum degree of perfection may be attained in the revision.

The Chemist and Druggist (Great Britain) of February 24, 1923, comments on the changes and summarizes various alterations. We quote in part:

"The first impression is that the 'tried and trusted' remedial agents are to undergo little or no change in specification. Secondly, there is an endeavor to eliminate points where individual opinion might vary. Thus quantitative turbidometric tests for chlorides and sulphates are to replace the former statements respecting these of 'not more than slightly turbid or slightly opalescent.' The difficulty of remaining consistent is shown by the case of pilocarpine nitrate and sodium diethylbarbiturate (new) where the term 'an opalescence' is re-introduced in the test for 'chloride,' and 'turbidity' in sulphate test for latter. Increasing regard for limits of impurity is evident in several ways, *e. g.*, in melting point limits, new or reduced ash limits, non-volatile matter in volatile compounds, tests for readily carbonizable substances, tests for acidity in alkaloidal salts, and limits for free acids in vegetable oils. Again, after specifying exactly such limitations, a lapse occurs in some ash limits as negligible. The suggestion of therapeutics in connection with pepsin is removed by deletion of reference to incompatibility with alkalis and activity in dilute hydrochloric acid solutions. On the other hand, a dispensing note is added to phenol—'When phenol is to be mixed with collodion, fixed oils, or petrolatum, use melted crystalline phenol instead of liquid phenol.' Another curiosity is the deliberate omission in some instances of descriptions of 'taste.' It is not stated whether this is due to grave danger arising out of this procedure in the case of poisons or to such test in other cases being individual in character. One also wonders why a poison warning is added to aconitine and removed from mercury perchloride. Quite a number of new identity tests are added, and assay processes included for such preparations as caffeine, sodio-benzoas, which may vary in

composition. A concession to purity of principle, irrespective of whether source is natural or artificial, is reflected in the omission of definition of source in several instances."

Dr. Zdenek F. Klan, in charge of food and drug inspection in the new republic of Czechoslovakia, has written to Secretary A. G. DuMez, expressing appreciation of the *JOURNAL A. PH. A.*, and has sent copies of the *Chemical Journal* and *Pharmaceutical Journal* of his country. Dr. Klan is a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow of the Hygienic Institute of Prague, and studied in this country. It will be remembered that sets of *A. Ph. A. Year Books* and *Proceedings* were donated to the latter institution, last year.

Dean Henry Hurd Rusby of the College of Pharmacy, Columbia University will receive the 1923 Remington Honor Medal at a banquet to be given on April 16th at the Pennsylvania Hotel, New York City. Previous awards of the medal have been to Professor James H. Beal, John Uri Lloyd and Dr. H. V. Army. The medal is awarded annually by a committee consisting of the past presidents of the American Pharmaceutical Association, Professor Hugo H. Schaefer, of the New York Branch, *A. Ph. A.*, acting as secretary for this committee. Dr. Jacob Diner, the senior past president of the branch, will make the award. Phases of Dean Rusby's activities which resulted in the award of the medal will be related by speakers who have been in close contact with the recipient of the medal during his years of valuable service to American pharmacy.

L. L. Shull, retail druggist of Sharpesville, Ind., and member of the Indiana Legislature, has been successful in the promotion and passing of all measures advocated by the Legislative Committee of the Indiana Pharmaceutical Association. Mr. Shull graduated from Valparaiso College of Pharmacy in 1905. He was a member of the House Health Committee and in that capacity rendered valuable service.

Dean Frederick J. Wulling, in a letter to the *JOURNAL*, states that few people elsewhere realize how successful and largely attended were the meetings of the Minnesota Pharmaceutical Association. The total registration was over 1300, and between 600 and 700 were present at an illustrated lecture on the Colleges of Pharmacy of the United States given by him. The drug exhibition held during the convention was a popular success; it is said that over 50,000 visitors were in attendance during the week.

Prof. Julius Stieglitz, of the University of Chicago and well known to pharmacists, has been awarded the Willard Gibbs Medal by the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society for his researches in organic chemistry. The medal will be presented in May.

Prof. Hugo H. Schaefer, of the College of Pharmacy, Columbia University, and Secretary of the New York Branch, A. Ph. A., will go to Switzerland some time during this month for the purpose of continuing his studies at the Pharmaceutical Institute in Bern, where our Honorary Member Professor Dr. Alexander Tschirch presides.

O. L. Biebinger, General Manager of the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works, with his wife and daughter, has gone to Europe on a visit to continue several months. They will visit in France, Italy and Switzerland.

Capt. N. Fujita, a chemist in the Medical Supply Department of the Japanese Army, is in this country making a survey of the pharmaceutical industries of the United States for the information of his government.

Dr. A. R. L. Dohme is among those prominently mentioned in Baltimore as a candidate for President of the City Council.

Dean L. E. Sayre, of University of Kansas, School of Pharmacy, was in attendance at the meeting of the Joint Committee of Definitions and Standards held at the Bureau of Chemistry, March 12th to 16th. The Dean is a member of this Committee.

Dr. Paul S. Pittenger lectured at Western Reserve University and New Jersey College of Pharmacy recently. The lectures were illustrated by charts and by demonstrations requiring animals; in the latter, he demonstrated how by the effect on a dog the ten millionth part of an ounce to epinephrine can be determined, on a guinea pig the ten thousandth part of an ounce of pituitary extract, and a rooster, will weigh the thousandth part of an ounce of ergot; *i. e.*, the effect of that dose of ergot can be shown.

Dean Willis G. Gregory, of the Buffalo College of Pharmacy, was a guest of Secretary Robert S. Lehman at the luncheon of the New York Veteran Druggists' Association, on March 6th. The talks after the meeting related to early experiences in the drug store, and the Dean most interestingly responded to the subject.

William H. Glover is President of the Lawrence (Mass.) Retail Druggists Association.

Ex-President John G. Godding, of the

American Pharmaceutical Association, is sketched in the February number of the *Boston Masonic Club Bulletin*. He is a past Master of his Lodge, and active in other Masonic bodies of his home city. He has been treasurer of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy since 1889.

Simon Rau and Company of Bethlehem, Pa., contend for honors in early pharmaceutical history of this country; the store, in which they are successors, was a busy pharmacy in 1752.

Prof. Charles H. LaWall was the lecturer at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, in the course of popular lectures. His subject was "The Romance of Spices." He spoke of the great discoveries of the 13th and 18th Century as largely the result of search for spices and drugs. These lectures are now broad casted.

George H. Grommet of Detroit, President of the Michigan State Pharmaceutical Association has been instrumental in having an insurance law passed, in Michigan, which will materially reduce the insurance rates of drug stores.

The fifty-year service of Herman Sattler was celebrated by Sharp and Dohme by a dinner given in his honor and attended by the officials and others of the firm.

Dr. Emanuel August Merck, of the German chemical firm of E. Merck, died February 26th. Mr. Merck was the owner of the historic Angel Pharmacy founded in 1668, in the laboratory of which the first production of alkaloids by the grandfather of the deceased was undertaken on a large scale, a century or more ago.

Dr. Edward W. Morley, for 37 years Professor of Chemistry at Western Reserve University, Cleveland, died at his home in Hartford, Conn., February 24th. He was an ex-president of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Chemical Society.

Sir James Dewar, noted scientist of Great Britain, died March 27th. He is known in connection with smokeless powder, and also the Dewar flask. His researches included studies of the physiological action of light and the liquefaction of gases with particular investigation of low temperatures. His investigations and discoveries were given recognition in Europe and also in the United States. In 1889 he won the first Hodgkins gold medal of the Smithsonian Institution and, in 1919, he was awarded the Franklin Medal of the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL CONCERNS OF CINCINNATI.

The February issue of the "Cincinnatian," the monthly organ of the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, contains an interesting sketch of the history of The Wm. S. Merrell Company, with a portrait of the President, Mr. Chas. G. Merrell. This is the first of a series of articles to appear in the "Cincinnatian," describing the industrial and commercial concerns of the city.

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE IN THE SERVICE OF PHARMACY AND RESEARCH OF PROFESSOR DR. A. TSCHIRCH.

The Swiss Apothecaries' Society has issued an index-reference to publications of Professor Dr. Alexander Tschirch; thirty pages are required for listing the titles of subjects, and impress the service rendered by him—his monumental work is "Handbuch der Pharmacognosie," reviewed by Dr. Frederick B. Power in May 1920.¹ A sketch of Professor Tschirch, an honorary member of the association, appears in the April number, *JOURNAL A. PH. A.*, p. 359, by Dr. Edward Kremers.

"NEWARK LEDGER" SHOWS AN INTEREST IN PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION.

In a recent Sunday edition of the *Newark Ledger*, several columns were devoted to the New Jersey College of Pharmacy, giving an historical account of its activities.

DEATH OF OLIVER FRANKLIN FULLER.

Oliver Franklin Fuller, Honorary President of the American Pharmaceutical Association, 1918-1919, died April 10, aged 93 years. A sketch of the deceased is printed in the October number, 1918, *Journal A. Ph. A.* He was chairman of the board of directors of the Fuller-Morrisson Company of Chicago, and until shortly before his death took an active part in the management of the concern which he founded in 1872. He was an active member of the Chicago Veteran Druggists' Association, and at the Chicago A. Ph. A. meeting participated heartily in the entertainment provided by this association and the local committees. He joined the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1869.

SOCIETIES AND COLLEGES.

READJUSTMENT OF THE A. PH. A. ACTIVITIES FOR BETTER AND GREATER SERVICE TO AMERICAN PHARMACY.

The officers of the House of Delegates A. Ph. A. have addressed the State Pharmaceutical Associations relative to the plan adopted at the Cleveland Meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association for extending its usefulness through the rearrangement of its activities. The letter follows, and see also "The Need for a More Thorough Organization of American Pharmacy," following the Council Letter in this issue of *THE JOURNAL*, page 364, and the editorial on page 291—To the State Associations:

The American Pharmaceutical Association, as the mother association of the other pharmaceutical organizations of our country, both state and national, has rendered a wonderful service to pharmacy, and probably its most effective service has been on inaugurating and encouraging the establishment of the state associations. It can render an even greater service in the future as the clearing house of

the various organizations that have sprung from it, in solving the many problems of interest to all of them. To do this, however, it must be brought into more intimate contact with them, and through them with the rank and file of American pharmacists, and made more responsive to their needs. In recent years it has been realized that the A. Ph. A. was not attracting the interest and coöperation of these organizations, and especially the state associations, to the extent that it should. The state associations sent delegates to the annual meetings, but the plan of organization was such that these delegates could not exert the influence they deserved in the work of the Association.

At the Seventieth Annual Meeting held in Cleveland, Ohio, last August, a constructive plan was adopted for extending the usefulness of the A. Ph. A. through the rearrangement of its activities, so that the state association in particular and the divisional organizations, such as the N. A. R. D., N. W. D. A., A. D. M. A. and others, should have a most responsible

¹ *JOURNAL A. PH. A.*, p. 553.