

pital service," leads to the inquiry—is hospital pharmacy keeping pace in service and standardization with the other departments of the hospital? Standardization for this department is sure to come. Shall it be standardized from within, that is, by the hospital pharmacists themselves, or by some outside agent? Would it not be well for the Section on Hospital Pharmacy of the American Pharmaceutical Association to devote itself to a nation-wide canvass and statistical tabulation of hospital pharmacies and to an endeavor to bring about a standardization of hospital pharmacy?

WILLIAM GRAY.

E. N. GATHERCOAL.

PHARMACISTS IN THE OFFICERS' RESERVE CORPS, U. S. ARMY.*

Pharmacists are eligible, under existing laws and regulations, for appointment as officers in the Medical Administrative Officers' Reserve Corps, provided they have the necessary qualifications. Representative pharmacists are needed in the scheme of national defense, and the success of the plans for such defense will be measured largely by the success of the Reserve forces of the Army. The World War found the nation with a small Regular Army and, with the exception of the National Guard troops, there was practically no Reserve. Consequently it became necessary for the Medical Department to commission upwards of forty thousand officers whose qualifications could not be accurately appraised, and naturally their assignments to specific duties were not based upon appropriate fitness. The object of the Reserve Corps is to create a force of officers whose qualifications will be known and who, being already commissioned, will be ready for duty in advance of an emergency, thus avoiding the mistakes that attend an organizing effort carried on in the hurry and stress of war.

The hospitalization plans call for a certain number of pharmacists who may be appointed 2nd lieutenants in the Medical Administrative Corps. Promotion to the grade of 1st Lieutenant and captain will be dependent upon age, length of service, and military training. Those who held commissions in the World War are eligible for appointment in the same grade without examination, or they may elect to take an examination for appointment in a higher grade. Training has so far been voluntary, and in all probability the War Department for some years to come will be able to train only those who volunteer for active duty during the training season.

Applications for appointment should be addressed to the Commanding Officer of the Corps Area in which the applicants reside. From this officer blank forms for application and for the physical examination may be obtained. The application should be accompanied by three letters of recommendation, one of which should be from the Dean of the College of Pharmacy or of the Department of Pharmacy of the University of which the applicant is a graduate.

The opportunity afforded by enlistment in the Officers' Reserve Corps has great significance—it is an opportunity for service for Country and for Pharmacy—in the selection of qualified pharmacists pharmacy receives a desired recognition, and pharmacists are placed in positions whereby they may benefit and promote

* See pp. 54, 717, 763-766, volume XI, 1923, JOURNAL A. PH. A. We are also indebted to the Surgeon General and Lt. Col. C. R. Reynolds for assistance in preparing this comment.

pharmacy. The unsatisfactory situation at the time when the United States entered the War has not been forgotten, and now the value of pharmacy in military service may be further demonstrated.

The American Pharmaceutical Association has always exhibited a deep interest in the status of pharmacists in the Government service; the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties shares in a duty to perform with the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy in directing qualified pharmacists to a service and, perhaps, preparing them for it, whereby several of the departments of the Government are brought into closer relation with pharmacy. A vision may be pardoned—although this comment is specifically for the purpose of enlisting cooperative interest in the Officers' Reserve Corps—which reveals more pharmacists engaged in the service of other departments wherein the knowledge of pharmacy is of great value.

E. G. E.

NEWSPAPER ETHICS AND AMERICAN PHARMACY.

The American Society of Newspaper Editors convened in Washington during the last week of April. A preliminary meeting for organizing the Society was held in Chicago early in 1922, when a temporary organization was effected and the foundation laid by the present structure. Another meeting was held prior to the one in Washington. The purpose of this comment, however, is not to give an historical account, but, without presumption, to commend the Society's aims and purposes.

Every trade and profession is to some extent misjudged because of imperfections; ethical standards which they adopt are guides for conduct of those engaged therein. The drug business and pharmacy have suffered because their codes of ethics are not fully comprehended, nor can a large group claim absolute strict adherence to standards, for the individual is not without fault. The development and service of pharmacy are promoted not only by the determination of its votaries to keep the ideals of the profession before them, but also by the confidence of and the encouragement given by those served; such relation obtains in all lines just as with the individual—approval rightly bestowed is always an incentive to advance; approval of wrong-doing or indifference, undermines or honeycombs codes of ethics.

There is much in the transactions of the Society that brings to mind the discussions of pharmacists and, therefore, liberty is taken by quoting various points that exhibit related problems and aims. President Caspar S. Yost in outlining some of the purposes of the Society said—"it is to defend the properly conducted press against unjust and untruthful attacks and counteract the influence of unjustifiable antagonism—

"First, by collective expression in some form to show the untruth that lies in them, where they are in fact untruthful; and, second, by collective action to establish definite standards of journalistic conduct which will serve to lessen occasion for truthful criticism."

It is unnecessary to comment on the application of what President Yost said to pharmacy. Our Committee on Publicity has accomplished much and in some cities coöperation with newspapers has produced good results. The adoption of the revised code of ethics and the splendid publicity given thereto by the pharmaceutical press and, to some extent, by other publications has been influential for good.

Taking into consideration the transactions and the men who participated in the convention, sincerity of honest purposes was evident strengthened by faith and hope. The definition of the "modern newspaper," its duties, obligations and responsibilities is set forth in the prelude to the "Canons of Journalism" adopted as basic principles of the profession:

"The primary function of newspapers is to communicate to the human race what its members do, feel and think. Journalism, therefore, demands of its practitioners the widest range of intelligence, of knowledge and of experience; as well as natural and trained powers of observation and reasoning. To its opportunities as a chronicler are indissolubly linked its obligation as teacher and interpreter."

The following declaration of principles was adopted without a dissenting vote:

"A newspaper cannot escape conviction of insincerity if, while professing high moral purpose, it supplies incentives to base conduct, such as are to be found in details of crime and vice, publication of which is not demonstrably for the general good. Lacking authority to enforce its canons, the journalism here represented can but express the hope that deliberate pandering to vicious instincts will encounter effective public disapproval or yield to the influence of a preponderant professional condemnation."

In framing the code of ethics the American Society of Newspaper Editors has grouped "Sincerity, Truthfulness and Accuracy," fundamentals of our own code; the best and better practices of newspaperdom have been drawn upon for the guidance of its members; the time-honored, modern and better practices of pharmacy served in constructing the revised code of ethics of the American Pharmaceutical Association. The hope is restated and wishes extended that the efforts of the Society may be eminently successful; it is more or less concerned with all activities, but speaking for pharmacy—the realization is growing with its hopes and aspirations, in faith, that a better understanding of its aims will aid in promoting the greater work of the American Pharmaceutical Association, and make possible greater and better pharmaceutical service.

"Faith is the backbone of the social and the foundation of the commercial fabric; remove faith between man and man, and society and commerce fall to pieces."

E. G. E.

THE EFFICIENCY OF HYDRATED OXIDE OF IRON AS AN ANTIDOTE FOR ARSENIC.

To the Editor, Journal A. Ph. A.:

It is perhaps unusual to criticize the conclusions of a scientific investigator without adducing new evidence. The matter, however, is of so great practical importance that I feel justified in questioning the interpretation of the experimental results in the paper of Drs. McGuigan, Atkinson and Brough on the antidotal efficacy of ferric hydroxide in arsenic poisoning, in the April number of the JOURNAL.

The conclusion of the authors that this traditional antidote is of no practical value in the treatment of arsenical poisoning seems to me not only unproved but in direct contradiction to their published experiments.

In the first place, the basis of the claim for antidotal action of the iron salt is that it forms a relatively insoluble compound of arsenic that will be less rapidly absorbed, not that there is a complete destruction of the toxicity of the arsenic. To gauge the efficacy by simply following a superfatal dose of arsenic by the antidote