

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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INSULIN.

In his address as Chairman of the British Pharmaceutical Conference Mr. F. W. Gamble gave an interesting review of some of the more recent organotherapeutic preparations called for in present-day pharmacy. From this portion of the address we quote his remarks on insulin, in part:

"The story of insulin should possess a special interest for pharmacists. Physiological experiments had shown that the existence of such a hormone in the pancreas was certain; the name Insulin was given to it by Schafer many years before a means of separation was found. Different lines of research had converged upon the islets of Langerhans, so named after their discoverer, distributed through the lobules of the pancreas as the seat of elaboration of insulin. The islet tissue is in intimate relation with the blood vessels of the pancreas, but is remote from the acinous cells which secrete the pancreatic zymogens. Many attempts to prepare an extract of pancreas containing the antidiabetic principle had failed, in spite of unequivocal evidence of the presence of such a principle in the pancreas during life. The idea presented itself to Dr. Banting, of Toronto, that the principle might be lost in the process of extraction, not because of its own instability, but possibly through the destructive agency of the powerful ferments secreted by the pancreas. It was well known that by tying the pancreatic duct a partial degeneration of the pancreas could be brought about. This degeneration affects the cells secreting the digestive ferments, leaving the islet tissue and its blood capillaries intact. Such a partially degenerated pancreas might yield an active preparation of the islet principle, and experiment showed this to be the case. The activity

of such a preparation was destroyed by boiling or by contact with pancreatic juice. Means were now devised for extracting normal pancreas by means of a solution that inhibited the tryptic ferment; an extract made with acidulated alcohol was found to be active and capable of keeping alive a depancreated dog. Experiments were then instituted to obtain a preparation from ox pancreas suitable for use in human diabetes. It was found that 50 per cent. alcohol extracted insulin from finely minced pancreas, whilst inhibiting the tryptic ferment. If the alcoholic strength of this solution be raised to 80 per cent., insulin is retained in solution whilst other substances are precipitated. This alcoholic solution is concentrated *in vacuo* at a very low temperature; fats and lipid substances are removed, and crude insulin is precipitated from the concentrate with absolute alcohol. The crude insulin is further purified by re-solution, precipitation as picrate, and conversion into the readily soluble hydrochloride. The process requires the most absolute control if loss of activity is to be avoided. Insulin is destroyed by heat, except for short periods in strongly acid solutions. Alkaline solutions lose their activity even at body temperature. It is readily absorbed by filtering media if its solutions have a hydrogen-ion concentration near the isoelectric point. The activity of insulin requires to be determined by physiological experiment. The dose is expressed in arbitrary units which represent the amount of insulin required to produce a certain effect when injected into a rabbit; the usual dose is 10 units. Insulin is destroyed by the digestive ferments, and cannot therefore be administered orally. Subcutaneous injections are given twice daily. Insulin treatment enables the

diabetic patient to assimilate carbohydrate; the immediate result of an injection is to cause a fall in the percentage of sugar present in the blood."

THE INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL FEDERATION AND LEGISLATION AFFECTING PHARMACY.

The International Pharmaceutical Federation at its recent convention in London approved resolutions presented by delegate C. L. Butchers, which provide that when in the future new legislation is proposed affecting pharmacy, the various governments should be asked to confer and cooperate with the respective National Pharmaceutical Associations. The Federation expressed the opinion that adequate representation should be accorded to pharmacists on all committees controlling state health dispensing. Another resolution presented by Mr. Butchers asked that the Federation affirm the principle that an adequate dispensing fee be charged by pharmacists in all cases where professional services are rendered. The first resolution was approved and the latter was referred for further consideration.

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION OF CINCHONA BARK AND ITS PREPARATIONS.

In a paper presented before the British Pharmaceutical Conference, C. T. Bennett recommends that cinchona bark and its preparations be standardized by international agreement. He considers that the importance of the drug merits such consideration. The paper presented is comprehensive and shows that not only do the galenical preparations vary according to the proportion of alkaloids and extractive in the bark but the preparations official in the pharmacopœias of different countries differ in formulas and in alkaloidal strength.

Mr. Bennett recommends that the bark should be standardized for total alkaloids by titration and the limits fixed for galenical preparations should be based on barks with from 6 to 8 per cent. of total alkaloids.

THE ACTIVITY OF PHARMACOPŒIAL PREPARATIONS OF ERGOT.

A. J. Clark and W. A. Broom reported on the activity of pharmacopœial preparations of ergot before the Scientific Section of the British Pharmaceutical Conference; comparisons of the fluidextracts of the British and U. S. Pharmacopœias. Various physiological

assay methods are given in the paper. In the introduction of the subject the authors state that "unfortunately, ergot contains a large number of pharmacologically active substances, and there is no general agreement as to which of these is the most important. Clinical evidence gives little help in this matter, for clinicians appear to be equally satisfied with the most varied assortment of ergot preparations, and many of the preparations in clinical use appear from pharmacological tests to be almost completely inert. The active constituents of ergot consist of the specific alkaloids ergotoxine and ergotamine, and a group of amines, which latter bodies can be obtained from many other sources."

The action of ergot and the different methods of assay are explained in the paper; the processes for various preparations, chiefly of the British Pharmacopœia, are outlined; in part to explain the findings. The conclusions arrived at by the authors, which were sustained by those participating in the discussion, follow:

(1) The methods of standardizing ergot preparations upon the isolated uterus or upon the cat's uterus *in situ* measure chiefly the amine content of the ergot preparation.

(2) The action of ergot preparations in reversing the action of adrenalin upon the isolated rabbit's uterus can be made the basis of a convenient method of standardizing ergot preparations. The method measures only the content in ergot alkaloids and very small quantities of these can be detected. The results obtained agree with the results obtained by the cock's comb method and the cat's blood pressure method.

(3) The instructions of the British Pharmacopœia, if followed exactly, result in preparations almost completely devoid of ergot alkaloids, although from the same samples of ergot the U. S. P. method extracts considerable quantities of ergot alkaloids. The B. P. method can, however, be modified so that a certain proportion of the ergot alkaloids are obtained.

(4) Since the ergot alkaloids are the only known active principles of ergot that are specific to ergot the methods of preparation laid down in the B. P. appear to be frankly absurd.

U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE INFORMS VACATIONISTS RELATIVE TO POISON IVY.

The Naval Radio Station, Arlington, and broadcasting stations have been releasing health hints for vacationists; recently in-

formation has been given out relative to poison ivy. There are many plants that have more or less similar toxic properties, among them: Aconite, aianthus, asparagus, catalpa, dog fennel, lady's slipper, wild carrot, hop, lobelia, oleander, nightshade, ox-eye daisy, parsnip, pokeweed, smartweed, primula, buttercup, poison elder or poison dogwood, blood-root, mullein, cocklebur, and the mustards.

Gasoline is said to be effective against poisonings from these sources, especially when applied soon after contact. Sodium chloride, sodium bicarbonate, boric acid are among the well-known household remedies.

WHO PAYS FOR ADVERTISING?

The Associated Advertising Clubs of the World have stated that a billion dollars was expended for advertising in the United States during the year 1922.

Some persons claim that advertising increases the cost of commodities to consumers; others emphatically deny this statement.

The production cost of any commodity depends largely upon the volume of goods produced, and the advertiser claims that by the use of advertising he increases his output so that his costs are substantially less and this enables him to make a much lower price on his commodity to the consuming public.

Without advertising manufacturing would become a small scale proposition and the economies effected by volume production would be lost to the public. Advertising also educates the public to a better understanding of commodity values and it materially increases the volume of sales by dealers.

Price cutting of standard, branded articles undermines the efficiency of advertising, because it casts suspicion upon the advertised goods. If one retailer sells a 50c article for 34c the public reasons that the dealer who charges the standard price is profiteering. This is a demoralizing influence. It undermines the value of advertising and reacts to the detriment of the manufacturer as well as the dealers.

Standard goods at standard prices increase the efficiency of advertising and this, ultimately, means lower prices to the consumer.—*The Pharmaceutical Era.*

A COLLECTION IDEA.

A check was received by an Atlanta store recently drawn on a local bank in the sum of \$5, but which the sender had forgotten to

sign. It came in a printed return envelope, but not being accompanied by a letter or note of any kind the company had no way in the world of ascertaining who had sent it.

The idea occurred to William F. Greene, manager of the department, to send out several letters to old Atlanta accounts, telling of this check and asking the one who had sent it to let the company know, so it could be returned for signature and duly credited to his account. It was not Greene's idea merely to find out who had sent the \$5 check, but he thought such a letter would have a good moral effect on those receiving it and result in several making payments on their accounts.

The letter used was multigraphed and filled in individually with the customer's name and address—an important point in making use of this idea. Seventy letters were sent out to a selected list of rather old accounts, the copy reading as follows:

"Through the mail this morning we received check, No. 1556, drawn on the Atlanta National Bank and payable to our order, for \$5.

"This check was not signed, and, being unaccompanied by a letter or note of any kind, we are unable to ascertain the identity of the sender.

"Thinking that you may have sent this check we thought it best to write you this letter regarding it.

"Please let us know if this check should be credited to your account, and we will return it at once for your signature.

THE GEORGE MUSE CO."

Out of seventy letters sent, forty replies were received in one week, and in these forty replies there were twenty-three checks. There was one check for \$56.50 for payment in full, another for \$50 for part payment on an account, a third and fourth for \$31 and \$30, respectively, and a fifth and sixth for \$25 and for \$22.13, respectively. Of the others the amounts were from \$15 down to \$5, and there were several checks for the latter sum.

Furthermore, all the customers replying to the letter, with possibly two or three exceptions, promised payment shortly if they were not among the twenty-three who sent checks, while two telephoned the store and one called personally.

It is the company's intention, says the *Motor World*, to use this plan regularly hereafter on old standing accounts.

Incidentally the sender of the unsigned

check is still unknown.—Through *Bulletin of Pharmacy*.

THE THOMPSON INSTITUTE FOR PLANT RESEARCH.

A statement issued recently by Dr. William Crocker, Research Director of the new Thompson Institute for Plant Research which Colonel William B. Thompson is establishing in Yonkers at a first cost of more than \$500,000, gave details of the plan by which powerful electric lamps are to supplement sunlight in growing plants. "This new institution with its gardens, greenhouses and laboratories," said Mr. Crocker, "is to be to plants and flowers what the Rockefeller Institute is to humanity. In other words, it is to study and try to cure diseases of plants and flowers and other vegetation. Eventually the institution is to cost \$2,500,000. Seeds from the tomb of King Tutankhamen will be tested for germination in the new laboratory.—From *Scientific American*.

CENTENARY OF JEAN HENRI FABRE.

The French entomologist, Jean Henri Fabre, was born at St. Léons, December 21, 1823. On the 6th of last month a series of fêtes was begun at Millau to honor the man whose interesting studies of insect life became known only a few years before his death. Since then his books have been translated into the principal languages. The principal ceremony was the unveiling of a statue of the scientist by the sculptor Malet.

PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

Dean Wortley F. Rudd of Richmond, Va., and W. L. Cliffe of Philadelphia were registered at the recent meetings in London of the International Pharmaceutical Federation and British Pharmaceutical Society.

Dr. A. R. Bliss has accepted the professorship of Pharmacology and Physiology in the College of Medicine and Dentistry and the School of Pharmacy, University of Tennessee.

James E. Bartlett, former president of Parke, Davis & Co., and identified with that company in various capacities from 1889 to 1921, has purchased a controlling interest in the Pitman-Moore Company, pharmaceutical and biological chemists, Indianapolis, of which corporation he is the president and general manager.

E. G. Swift, secretary and comptroller of Parke, Davis & Co., has retired from active

business life after forty years' connection with the company he has served in various important capacities.

Hugh O'Connor, well known to druggists of California through his former connection with the office of the narcotic division of the internal revenue department in San Francisco, has joined the staff of the *Pacific Drug Review* as its field representative.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Keim and F. W. Nitardy have returned from an extended tour and vacation trip to the Pacific coast and Canadian resorts.

Prof. H. A. Langenhan contributed an interesting historical article on "Digitalis" to the August *Pacific Drug Review*; a list of preparations of digitalis is given and the synonymy of digitalis and its preparations of the United States Pharmacopœia from 1820-1920.

Thomas J. Keenan, formerly editor of *Paper*, is now editor of the publications of Lehn & Fink, and located at their laboratories in Bloomfield, N. J.

William H. Schuller, president of the Oregon Drug Clerks' Association, has been appointed member of the Oregon State Board of Pharmacy by Governor Pierce.

W. Bruce Philip has graduated in law. He also holds the chair of "commercial pharmacy" in the University of California. In conjunction with other duties Mr. Philip found time to continue his law studies and earned the degree of LL.B.

John McKesson, New York, and James W. Morrisson are in Europe, seeking rest and pleasure.

J. T. Coulson, an ex-president of Texas Pharmaceutical Association, is now president of Texas Drug Company of Dallas. The wholesale drug corporation has recently been reorganized—it was established in 1894 and is one of the larger wholesale drug houses of the southwest.

M. Schlesinger and Dr. Wm. C. Anderson related early experiences at a recent meeting of New York Veteran Druggists' Association. The former gave an interesting account of his start with the late Samuel J. Bendiner. The latter was a graduate of the University of Vienna. He was active in the compilation of the "New York and Brooklyn Formulary," and one of the five who constituted the editing committee; at the Pittsburgh A. Ph. A. meeting, the Formulary was offered to and accepted by the Association, the offer being made by Mr. Bendiner for the committee.

Mr. Schlesinger names his preceptor "the father of the National Formulary." Mr. Bendiner joined the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1882; he died February 20, 1897.

Emil Roller presented a paper on M. Louis

Pasteur at a recent meeting of the German Apothecaries' Society.

Dr. Henry Kraemer was an honor guest of Utah Pharmaceutical Association; the subject of his address was "The Masters of Pharmacy."

OBITUARY.

N. EMERY WILLIAMS.

N. Emery Williams, well and favorably known pharmacist of St. Louis, died at his home, after a lingering illness, aged 50 years. Mr. Williams was proprietor of the drug store in the Metropolitan building, Grand Boulevard and Olive Street, where he had built up a flourishing business which was limited to the filling of prescriptions.

The deceased was born at Rushville, Illinois, and educated at the Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois. He is survived by his widow. Mr. Williams joined the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1912.

MISS ANNIE M. PATTERSON.

Miss Annie M. Patterson died August 4, at the home of her mother in Baltimore, after an illness of a year or more. Miss Patterson attended high school in Baltimore and then the University of Maryland. She gradu-

ated from the Department of Pharmacy, U. of M., ranking second in her class. She was for a time employed with Messrs. Hynson, Westcott & Dunning and later with Morgan & Millard. For a time the deceased resided in Denver where she was connected with the Chemical Manufacturing Company.

Miss Patterson joined the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1915, was a loyal alumna, a member of Maryland Pharmaceutical Association, deeply interested in pharmacy and beloved by all who knew her.

CARL G. KREMERS.

Sympathy is expressed to Dr. and Mrs. Edward Kremers in their bereavement by the death of their son, Carl G. Kremers, of scarlet fever. The young man was a junior in the College of Letters and Science at the University of Wisconsin and was registered in the course in chemistry.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION HEAD-QUARTERS BUILDING FUND.*

Previously reported	\$7,506.90
No.	
168. Chas. G. Westbrook, Newbern, Tenn. (Paid)	5.00
169. Charles P. Greyer, Morgantown, N. C. (Paid)	12.50
170. Fred W. Rauth, Springfield, Ill.	25.00
171. John Stuchlik, Chicago, Ill.	10.00
172. Carl C. Rennecker, Wilmette, Ill. (Paid \$10.00)	50.00
173. Fred L. Pfaff, Centralia, Ill.	25.00
174. Paul Eiche, Effingham, Ill. (Paid \$5.00)	25.00
175. W. F. Baeslau, Chicago, Ill.	25.00

176. Edward Stuchlik, Berwyn, Ill.	50.00
177. Albert Zimmerman, Peoria, Ill. (Paid \$10.00)	50.00
178. George Zoeller, Chicago, Ill. (Paid \$10.00)	50.00
179. Wm. D. Duncan, Ottawa, Ill. (Paid \$100.00)	500.00
180. James P. Crowley, Chicago, Ill.	25.00
181. J. B. Michels, El Paso, Ill. (Paid \$5.00)	25.00
182. Illinois State Pharmaceutical Association (Paid \$100.00)	500.00
183. Herman Fry, Chicago, Ill. (Paid \$10.00)	50.00
184. H. Mayber, Chicago, Ill. (Paid \$5.00)	25.00
185. John A. Mertes, Chicago Ill. (Paid \$5.00)	25.00
186. Harold N. Bruun, Chicago, Ill. (Paid \$5.00)	25.00
Total	\$9,009.40

* For preceding reports on funds see Volume XI, 1922, Jour. A. Ph. A., pp. 392, 644, 872; Volume XII, pp. 90, 555.