

HENRY SOLOMON WELLCOME
LONDON, ENGLAND

Member of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION since 1875



Courtesy of First Century Philadelphia College of Pharmacy.

HENRY S. WELLCOME.

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HENRY SOLOMON WELLCOME.*

Henry S. Wellcome, for fifty years a member of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, is a native of Wisconsin. When about five years of age his parents moved to Garden City, Minn., where he received his early education. While still very young, a highly cultivated English chemist came to Garden City to manage a local pharmacy, and from him Wellcome received practical training in chemistry and pharmacy, and, later, was appointed assistant pharmacist. At the age of 17 years he was placed in charge of the dispensing department of Poole & Geysinger's Pharmacy, Rochester, Minn. After several years' experience here he went to Chicago and engaged with the late Thomas Whitfield, and during one year of this period attended the Chicago College of Pharmacy. Then he came East and continued his studies at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, from which institution he graduated in 1874; Dr. F. B. Power¹ was a member of the same class.

After graduation Mr. Wellcome accepted a position with Caswell Hazard & Company, of New York. After two years of service with the latter firm he engaged with McKesson & Robbins, by whom he was sent on special missions to various parts of the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central and South America. While in South America he studied the native cinchona forests, and presented a most interesting paper thereon to the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, which is printed in Volume 27 of the PROCEEDINGS, pp. 814 to 830.

The English chemist, under whose guidance Mr. Wellcome studied in Garden City, had loaned him various English scientific publications, and had given him information relative to British libraries, museums, and educational institutions, and impressed him with the importance of London as a financial center. He discussed the advisability of engaging in chemical and pharmaceutical manufacturing in England with his friend S. M. Burroughs;² as a result, in 1880, a partnership was

* Most of the data for this sketch have been taken from the "First Century of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy."

¹ See Volume XI, JOUR. A. PH. A., p. 403.

² JOUR. A. PH. A., September, 1921, p. 653.

established under the firm name of Burroughs, Wellcome & Company, and these comparatively small beginnings have grown into the present large establishment.

From very early days Mr. Wellcome has been interested in the science of his profession, and he has contributed largely, not only to researches in pharmacy, but also in history and archaeology. He founded the Physiological Research Laboratories in London in 1894, and during the World War extensive research in this institution led to the development of various sera and vaccines which proved of great importance and assistance to the Allies.

The Chemical and Research Laboratories of the firm were founded by Mr. Wellcome in 1896; Dr. Frederick B. Power was the director for more than 18 years. The researches in these laboratories have been varied in character, comprising problems in both pure and applied chemistry, and the synthetic production of various substances. Later, Mr. Wellcome founded the Bureau of Scientific Research, and the auxiliary Entomological Laboratory, which is largely concerned with tropical medicine and hygiene. The Museum of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene was founded in 1913, and during the same year the Wellcome Historical Museum, well known to pharmacists and other scientists of the world, was opened. Mr. Wellcome is continually collecting for this museum, which is affiliated with various research institutions. He also established a fully equipped and floating tropical research laboratory on the Upper Nile in 1902. At a meeting in London, February 1922, of the governing board of the Gordon College, Khartoum, with which these laboratories are affiliated, the chairman, General Sir Reginald Wingate, stated—"We must readily acknowledge the immense benefits conferred on the country by the institution of the Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories. Their generous founder is still with us, constant in his endeavor to maintain tropical research and all it entails at its present high standard of efficiency." These foundations are of great importance but they do not comprise all of the founder's successful enterprises.

As already stated, the childhood of Mr. Wellcome was spent in a frontier settlement of Minnesota, and here his interest had its inception in archaeological subjects, and this has continued to develop and find expression in some of Mr. Wellcome's larger undertakings, which are well known to archaeologists and others. During one of his expeditions to the Soudan, after Kitchener's reconquests, he discovered several prehistoric Ethiopian archaeological sites in the Upper Nile region; the excavations here have since been carried out under his personal direction, and the researches have been fruitful of results. The extent of this work is shown by the employment of a technical and administrative staff of 25 Europeans and more than 3000 native workmen. Prof. G. A. Reisner, of Harvard University, writing of this work said—"The excavations carried on by H. S. Wellcome have thrown unexpected light on early Ethiopian history in this region. For the first time a scientific archaeological record has been made of a site in the interior of Africa."

Mr. Wellcome's interest in pharmacy continues, not only in Great Britain but also in the United States, and his encouragement of these promotions of pharmacy, including those of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, has been evidenced by words and deeds. Because our honored member has passed the half century mark of ASSOCIATION affiliation, congratulations are extended to him, complemented by wishes for good health and continued activity during many more years.

E. G. E.