

EDITORIAL NOTES

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MANUFACTURE AND USES OF TRIMETHYLAMINE AND DIMETHYLAMINE.

A novel process of manufacturing trimethylamine and dimethylamine has been developed by Dr. D. K. Tressler and his assistants at Mellon Institute of Industrial Research of the University of Pittsburgh. The new process will reduce the cost of production of these amines considerably.

Trimethylamine or mixtures of trimethylamine and dimethylamine may be used in the manufacture of rubber accelerators and as an attractant for the cotton boll weevils and may find use in the preparation of poison baits. Both trimethylamine and dimethylamine may be used for the preparation of methyl chloride. Trimethylamine has been suggested for use in the preparation of potassium carbonate according to a process resembling the Solvay process for the manufacture of sodium carbonate except that trimethylamine is used in place of ammonia.

The researches concerning the properties and uses of these amines are being continued at Mellon Institute and probably will disclose other commercial applications.

GOVERNMENT TESTING OF CLINICAL THERMOMETERS.

During the fiscal year just ended the Thermometry Section of the Bureau of Standards has tested 60,000 clinical thermometers. In commenting on the direct as well as indirect value of standardization the Secretary

of the Bureau of Standards, Henry D. Hubbard, said: "The Bureau of Standards advises with respect to the essential points of fitness. By telling the truth about products, testing promotes better factory inspection before delivery to avoid rejections. In turn, factory inspection promotes better measured contract of production process to insure uniformly high quality. The final result is standardized process, the output of which is of predictable quality."

VARIATIONS IN THE ALKALOIDAL CONTENT OF ACONITUM NAPELLUS.

The author reports first on the amount of total alkaloid in *A. Napellus* var *vulgare*, and *A. Napellus*, var *pyramidale*; this he found to be practically the same. He next determined the total alkaloid in aconite roots obtained from different localities (in France), ranging from the marshy plains of the Aisne to the mountainous regions of the Pyrenees; the plants were collected in the summer and at the same state of growth. The total alkaloid varied from 0.186 to 2.971 per cent, those from the marshes of the Aisne being the richest, and those from the plateaus of the Aisne being the poorest. Plants growing at different heights in the Pyrenees were next investigated, and it was found that the percentage increased with the altitude, varying from 0.4 to 1 per cent. He next directed his attention to differences according to the age. Cultivated plants and also plants growing wild in three different localities in the Pyrenees were collected every month from April to October.

* Deceased.

The determination of the total alkaloids in the different organs showed the following variations: The alkaloid in the parent root diminishes progressively, while that of the rootlets increases, the increase being particularly noticeable when the seeds are forming. The alkaloid in the daughter root increases during the same period, as does also that of its rootlets. It might appear that the daughter root was being enriched at the expense of the parent root, but this is not the case, the lives of the parent root and daughter being quite independent as far as their alkaloidal content is concerned. Sometimes the percentage of alkaloid in both roots falls simultaneously; sometimes that in the parent falls appreciably, while that in the daughter root remains constant, and again the increase in the daughter root may be much greater than the loss in the parent root. The alkaloid in the leaf is relatively high in the spring, but diminishes rapidly from May onwards. The parent root should therefore be collected a little before the flowering period, leaving the daughter root for transplantation; the rootlets are richer than the root, and should not be rejected. The leaves should be collected while they are still young. Transplantation of wild plants and cultivation do not result in an increased percentage of alkaloid, but the seeds of such transplanted plants germinate better, and the parent root produces nine (as many as ten) daughter roots, two facts which facilitate the propagation of the plant.

The pharmacological action of the total alkaloids from aconites in different localities varies enormously, those from aconites of one region being as much as fifty times as toxic as those from another. The alkaloids of the parent root are more toxic than those of the daughter root. The author proposes to continue his investigations, more particularly with the view of determining the pharmacological activity of different organs of the plant in various stages of growth, and also the chemical composition of the alkaloids present.—M. Mëtin (*Bull. sci. pharmacol.*, xxxviii, 197 through *Chemist & Druggist*).

PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

Samuel Y. Harris, Past-President of the Maryland Pharmaceutical Association, and Mrs. Harris celebrated their thirty-fifth anniversary recently at Bozmanns in Calvert County, Maryland.

Samuel C. Davis, Nashville, Tenn., has been named for the legislature, running independently on his record in the last legislature and opposed by Mayor Howse. From newspaper accounts the vote is a tribute to the personal popularity of this well-known pharmacist.

Dr. R. B. J. Stanbury, Secretary of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association, and **Dean G. A. Burbidge** of the Maritime College of Pharmacy, Halifax, have been appointed delegates to the meeting of the A. Ph. A. in Philadelphia.

Prof. Otto Raubenheimer has been sending cards from various places visited by him in Europe. The most recent is one from Tyrol, where, on August 17, an Historical Society of Pharmacy was organized, of which the correspondent has been elected reporter for the United States.

Former Secretary, A. Ph. A., **Prof. Wm. B. Day** was taken seriously ill while on a journey from Chicago to Boston, where he and Mrs. Day were to visit Ex-President and Mrs. Charles H. Packard. On arrival it was found necessary for **Professor Day** to go to a hospital for an appendicitis operation. Word from Mr. Packard informs us of the rapid recovery of the patient. Members of the A. Ph. A. regret the illness which may prevent Professor Day's attendance at the Philadelphia meeting. Best wishes for restoration to health is expressed and a hope that he may be able to go to the Convention.

The distinction of Officer of the Order of Orange-Nassau has been conferred on Secretary-General **J. J. Hofman** of the International Pharmaceutical Federation.

Prof. Dr. L. van Itallie, honorary member of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, celebrated the 40th anniversary of his graduation from the University of Utrecht, July 1st.

Pharmacist **Julia E. Emanuel**, of Fort Wayne, member of the A. Ph. A., has been actively engaged as owner of a pharmacy for nearly a quarter of a century. The *American Magazine*, in a recent issue, gave an account of her methods in conducting her store. Not only has Miss Emanuel been successful in business, but she takes a personal interest in her employees.

Samuel S. Dworkin, Chairman of the Committees on Biologicals for the A. Ph. A. and N. A. R. D. has issued a message to retail pharmacists urging them to hold on to

and develop the sales of biologicals. He states that "a recent survey made throughout the United States reveals the fact that vast quantities of these products are being distributed in a more or less haphazard manner by supply houses who engage in this business largely in a commercial way only, without any attempt to render a real professional service to the medical fraternity." He impresses "the need of proper storage under refrigeration, the prompt delivery of all orders, the selection and carrying stock only of products of the highest standards, the checking up of stocks of outdated potency, are only a few of the important duties that devolve upon the shoulders of the distributor."

The award of the Jones Medal for 1926 has been made to Lloyd M. Chew. The Medal is presented annually by **William D. Jones**, Chairman of the House of Delegates, A. PH. A., and President of the State Board of Pharmacy, to that graduate of the College of Pharmacy of Florida University making the highest average on the Board Examination. Mr. Chew received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy in June, and at the same time received the Ramsauer Medal, presented annually by **D. W. Ramsauer**, of Jacksonville, to that graduate of the College of Pharmacy making the highest scholastic record.

President **L. L. Walton** represented the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION at the ceremonies under direction of the American Chemical Society, honoring the memory of Joseph Priestley. An interesting program was carried out at the home of the discoverer of oxygen in Northumberland, Pa., where, in 1874, a like ceremony inspired the founding of the American Chemical Society.

Among recent visitors at the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION offices were **Publicity Director E. L. Newcomb** of the A. PH. A. Headquarters, who is also Secretary of the N. W. D. A., **Treasurer Charles W. Holton**, **Prof. E. V. Kyser**, of Chapel Hill, N. C.

Dr. Julius A. Koch is the Councilor in the American Association for the Advancement of Science for the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

The late **Dr. H. M. Whelpley** is credited with the authentic explanation of the use of the discoidal by American Indians. An aboriginal Indian pipe, in his possession, is carved, showing an athlete throwing the discoidal with his

right hand while the left clutches a handful of arrows. Accordingly archaeologists hold that the success of the game is to roll the discoidal and shoot an arrow through the hole in center of the discoidal. **Dr. Whelpley's** collection contains 20 or more of hematite discoidals.

Dr. E. Emmett Reid, head of the Department of Organic Chemistry at Johns Hopkins University, will be consultant and director of the Research Department of Hynson, Westcott & Dunning; **Dr. Daniel Twistt** is head of the Department. **Dr. David I. Macht**, formerly of the Department of Pharmacology of Johns Hopkins Medical School, will become head of the Department of Pharmacology.

IN MEMORY OF HENRY MILTON
WHELPLEY.

(Continued from August JOURNAL.)

E. FULLERTON COOK, CHAIRMAN U. S. P. REVISION COMMITTEE.

The writing of that name in this far-off land brings to my mind so many happy and interesting experiences associated with **Dr. Whelpley** during the past twenty-five years that there is for the moment only a glow of friendliness and anticipation. Only a few days before sailing we were together and then he was so forceful, so interested in everything, so delightfully reminiscent, and yet so deeply interested in the future.

But I am compelled to face the sad reality that we are not again to have that genial smile, that hearty handclasp, that interested listener, that kindly adviser and inspirational presence.

The death of **Dr. Whelpley** is a loss to all of pharmacy in the United States for his interests were so broad and his desire to advance the profession so sincere, that in the most unexpected places he will be missed. But it is in certain specific activities that the loss is being most keenly felt. Others are better qualified than I to point this out in his college work or in the editorial field or where his many interests led him in St. Louis or in the State of Missouri, whether medical, pharmaceutical, historical or archaeological. Others will speak of his continuous and varied services, so valuable to the A. PH. A., but it is especially of his interest in the Pharmacopœia to which I would refer.

Facts are not at hand to trace his former connections with the Pharmacopœia but

his election to the newly organized Board of Trustees of the Pharmacopœial Convention in 1900 is sufficient indication of his reputation in that Convention for integrity and excellent judgment.

That first Board of Trustees in 1900 had many problems to face as it established rules and precedence which have so fully justified themselves during the last two decades. But it was especially in the decades beginning in 1910 and again in 1920, when Secretary of the Board of Trustees, that the most signal service was rendered.

There was no flourish of trumpets, no loud shouting or boasting, but the affairs of the Board moved quietly and smoothly, the records were complete, and a system was established which proved satisfactory to all, even though much of the business was by correspondence and extended over a decade. I would not detract from the credit due other members of the Board, and in fact it was that perfect harmony and strong bond of common interest which existed between the members of the Board, especially the Chairman and the Secretary, which was responsible for the success of the administrations, but often the guiding hand of Dr. Whelpley could be seen in a crisis and certainly his judgment was an important factor in every issue. This was doubtless due to the fundamental honesty, unselfishness and common sense back of every decision and that, without forgetting his kindness and good will toward all associates.

When all has been said probably the truest praise is the unexpressed confidence and trust which every member of the Board gave to the work of the Secretary. It will be difficult to fill the many empty places his death has left and he will be missed nowhere in pharmacy more than as Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the U. S. Pharmacopœial Convention.

Bern, Switzerland, July 31, 1926.

WILLIAM D. JONES, CHAIRMAN HOUSE OF DELEGATES, A. P. H. A.

I feel it a great honor to lay my humble tribute upon the bier of a truly great man. While the pleasure of knowing Dr. Henry M. Whelpley intimately was not given to me, yet in my short acquaintance with him, I soon learned to respect, honor and love him. He,

of all members of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, upon my first attendance, commanded my attention by his interest, his loyalty and his ability. His personality was most attractive to me. He had entered into the afternoon of his life, but there still seemed to be with him the ardor, the vital interest and the enthusiasm of youth. I have known few men who seemed to grow old with more grace and beautiful dignity than did Doctor Whelpley. May I not ask that all of us at this time do that which I am sure would please him most; namely, take up the burdens and problems of our ASSOCIATION, to the service of which he gave his life and ability, and dedicating our lives to the carrying on of the work he loved so well; and that our thoughts and affections may still follow him, even into the great beyond. Let us bow our heads and ask "that his soul may, through the mercy of God, rest in peace and that light eternal may shine upon him."

W. H. ZEIGLER, PAST-PRESIDENT AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

For many years I have loved and admired Dr. Henry M. Whelpley and I shall always cherish the memory of my associations with him. He was loved and honored by all who knew him. American Pharmacy has suffered a great loss by his death but his achievements and lovable personality will never be forgotten.

OBITUARY.

JOHN N. W. OTTO.

John Nicholas Washington Otto—New Orleans, member of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION—died at his home June 18. He had been in business since 1876 at the same location. The deceased had a large number of friends and was highly esteemed by them, evidenced by the attendance at the funeral ceremonies. He was a member of local and State pharmaceutical organizations and took a deep interest and active part in them.

Mrs. Otto, three sons and a daughter survive the deceased.