

"Remington, Practice of Pharmacy," 6th Edition, page 1890: "Sal æratus, Potassium Carbonate."

"Arny, Principles of Pharmacy," 3rd Edition, page 410: "The crude bicarbonate (of potassium) . . . was placed on the market under the name of Saleratus."

"Parrish, Treatise on Pharmacy," Wiegand, 1874: "Saleratus is a useful and tolerably pure sesquicarbonate of Potassium . . . it occupies a position intermediate between the carbonate and bicarbonate and is much used in baking to furnish carbon dioxide . . . recently most of the Saleratus of the shops is an imperfectly carbonated bicarbonate of sodium."

The "United States Dispensatory," 1889, 14th Edition: "The salt in powder form called Saleratus . . . is in composition between a carbonate and bicarbonate."

The "National Dispensatory," 5th Edition: "Bicarbonate of Potassium, etc."

"Dorland: Medical Dictionary," 1906, "Potassium Bicarbonate."

"Gould: Medical Dictionary," 1910, "Potassium Bicarbonate."

I was also given a list of Common Names, published several years ago by Prof. Adolph Ziefle, Dean of School of Pharmacy of Oregon, in which Saleratus is defined as "U. S. P. Sodium Bicarbonate."

Of course, it is well understood that the name "Sal æratus" means literally an ærating salt, hence since any of the above chemicals might be used to carbonate a liquid, all of them might be rightfully called by this synonym.

In order to determine, if possible, which of the above chemicals is wanted when a customer asks for Sal æratus, I asked numerous housewives what they used when a recipe called for Sal æratus. Without exception they all used Baking Soda.

I therefore quite agree that what the customer in the case under discussion wanted was Sodium Bicarbonate U. S. P.

This difference of opinion in the Textbooks of Pharmacy probably will give some information as to why the clerk or manager in question did not exactly know what the customer wanted.

## THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF DR. HENRY MILTON WHELPLEY.\*

BY J. H. BEAL.

Henry Milton Whelpley was born at Harmonia, Michigan, May 24, 1861. He died after a brief illness while visiting with friends at Argentine, Kansas, June 26, 1926, a little more than a month following the 65th anniversary of his birth.



Dr. H. M. Whelpley.

His parents, Dr. Jerome Twining Whelpley and Charlotte (Chase) Whelpley were of New England stock, and both from literary and professional families. His mother was a relative of Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury under President Lincoln and afterwards Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court. His father, paternal grandfather, two uncles and one brother were practicing physicians.

His grammar school education was obtained at Cobden, Ill., and his later training at Otsego, Michigan, where he graduated from High School in 1880, with special honors in mathematical subjects. His proficiency as a student and his extraordinary capacity for work were evidenced even at this early period. During his senior year he was special instructor in algebra to the sophomore class, President of the High School Lyceum, Editor of

\* From an address at the Whelpley Memorial meeting held under the auspices of the St. Louis College of Pharmacy, St. Louis, Nov. 17, 1926.

the High School News, school reporter to the local newspapers, and also took an active part in amateur theatricals. During school vacations and following graduation from high school he studied pharmacy in drug stores at Otsego, Michigan, and at Cobden, Illinois.

He entered the St. Louis College of Pharmacy in the fall of 1881, where he continued his record as an exceptional student by taking all of the optional studies and completing the junior year with the highest general average in all subjects. He graduated in pharmacy in 1883, again with the highest average in all subjects, and was awarded the gold medal for general excellence in scholarship. In both junior and senior years he served as student assistant in chemistry to Prof. Charles O. Curtman.

Following his graduation in pharmacy, he was for a brief period manager of a drug store at Mine La Motte, Mo., but returned to St. Louis in 1884 to assume an editorial position with the *St. Louis Druggist*, afterwards *The National Druggist* and at the same time became officially associated with the St. Louis College of Pharmacy. In his 42 years of continuous connection with the College he successively filled various teaching positions connected with the subjects of microscopy, materia medica and pharmacognosy, the last being that of Professor of Pharmacognosy, Materia Medica and Physiology. He served as Dean of the College Faculty from 1904 until his death.

In addition to his numerous professorial and editorial functions in pharmacy, Prof. Whelpley found time to pursue a medical course, graduating from the Missouri Medical College in 1890 and taking first honors in a class of 115 members. For many years he was a member of the Medical Faculty of the Missouri Medical College, and was later Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacy in the Medical Department of the Washington University. He also served as Professor of Physiology and Secretary of the Faculty of the St. Louis Post-Graduate School of Medicine.

He married Laura Eugenie Spannagel, of St. Louis, June 29, 1892, in whom he gained a companion and helpmeet of rare sympathy and helpfulness; a woman who took an active and intelligent interest in his various scientific and professional pursuits and to whose faithful and efficient help he was greatly indebted.

He found his chief diversion in the pursuit of American Archeology, in which science he was an original investigator and an acknowledged expert, and accumulated one of the largest and most valuable private collections ever made of flint and hematite implements and other artifacts representing the culture of the American Indian prior to the advent of the white race.

He early became an enthusiast in microscopy, for many years took an active part in the proceedings of various microscopical societies and accumulated an extensive library upon that subject and an equally valuable collection of prepared specimens.

It was as an ASSOCIATION worker, for which his qualities of mind and character especially fitted him, that Dr. Whelpley had his widest contact with pharmacy and medicine, and in which he rendered services of the greatest value and of lasting benefit.

For the full period of twenty-five years he was Secretary of the Missouri State Pharmaceutical Association, rendering services which the members of that organiza-

tion will always hold in grateful remembrance. One of his constant achievements was to have the PROCEEDINGS of the annual meetings printed and distributed to the members before the proceedings of most other State associations were even ready for the press.

As reporter for the *St. Louis Druggist* he began attending the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION in 1884 and became a member in 1887, attending a total of 42 consecutive annual meetings, a record unequaled by any other member of that organization. Officially he served the ASSOCIATION as secretary or chairman of its various sections, as chairman or member of numerous committees, as member and *Secretary* of the Council, as *President* of the ASSOCIATION and as *Treasurer*, and in each capacity filled the office with distinction.

In the early years of the present century the affairs of the ASSOCIATION had arrived at such a stage as to occasion serious apprehension in the minds of members acquainted with internal conditions. A large percentage of members were in arrears and were being dropped for non-payment of dues, while the new accessions to membership were few. Running expenses were largely in excess of the annual income, and the small reserves of cash were being depleted to pay current obligations. Within the ASSOCIATION also there were certain discordant elements which disturbed the peace and occasionally threatened the disruption of the organization. The future seemed so uncertain that one of the oldest members, in a letter to the writer, expressed the thought that the ASSOCIATION had about reached the end of its usefulness, and that the only prospect remaining was to continue operations until the remaining funds had been paid out in salaries and running expenses and then quietly disband the organization. At one of the annual meetings a small group of the more active members held a private conference at which the affairs of the ASSOCIATION were thoroughly canvassed and a plan of rehabilitation agreed upon, which the members present severally pledged themselves to support.

As part of the plan then formulated Dr. Whelpley was, several years later, elected Treasurer, a position which it was believed he could fill more successfully than any other possible candidate, and it was in this capacity that his most valuable and lasting services to the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION were rendered. A new financial policy was inaugurated; existing funds were tied up so that they could not be readily dissipated; expenditures were closely watched; and many applications for funds that had formerly been granted were refused. By the tireless industry and diplomatic means of approach of the new Treasurer delinquent members were induced to pay up their arrears, and the entire membership accustomed to the prompt payment of their annual dues. An active membership campaign was begun and a general feeling of confidence in the future of the ASSOCIATION established. When Dr. Whelpley voluntarily relinquished the office of Treasurer in 1921 the ASSOCIATION had over one hundred thousand dollars in its various funds and reserves, and was upon the high road to the prosperity in membership and finances which it has since enjoyed.

In the spring of 1903 Dr. Whelpley was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the United States Pharmacopœial Convention to fill the unexpired term of George W. Sloan, of Indianapolis, then lately deceased. At the 1910 Convention he was reelected to the Board for the full term of ten years, and again for the full term at the Convention of 1920, making a period of over 23 years of continuous service

on the Board at the time of his death. In 1910 he was made Secretary of the Board of Trustees, which exacting position he continued to fill to the utmost satisfaction of the Board during the remaining years of his life. The position is one which requires close attention to a large amount of detail and, since most of the business of the Board is transacted by mail, also involves a very voluminous correspondence. Dr. Whelpley brought to this position the ripened skill and experience of his many years of service in secretarial positions, and his records, minutes, reports and circular letters were models of accuracy, conciseness and completeness. His death removed from the Board one whom all of the members had learned to love and respect, and in whose judgment they placed implicit confidence, and leaves with each of his remaining colleagues a profound sense of personal loss.

In addition to his regular membership in State and National pharmaceutical and medical organizations, he was a member of the Naturalists' Club of St. Louis, the Chicago Veteran Druggists' Association and of various other scientific, professional or educational associations, to many of which he contributed valuable papers.

Notwithstanding the multifarious activities to which reference has been made, Dr. Whelpley still found time to deliver numerous lectures and addresses before colleges of pharmacy, professional organizations, educational and historical societies and Masonic bodies. He had a pleasing manner of delivery, knew his subjects thoroughly, and never failed to hold the close attention of his hearers.

He was elected to honorary membership in numerous State pharmaceutical associations, and received the honorary degree of Master of Pharmacy from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. He was awarded two medals and two diplomas of honor for meritorious services rendered in connection with the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in 1904, and in 1924 received the Joseph P. Remington Honor Medal for distinguished and outstanding services to Pharmacy. He was a member of the City, University, Contemporary and Authors' Clubs of St. Louis, was a Mason of long standing and a Unitarian in religion.

The outstanding feature of Dr. Whelpley's career was his amazing industry and the vast amount of work he was able to accomplish. He was not merely a member of many societies and institutions, but an active member, contributing papers, serving on important committees, and in other official capacities. According to the statement of another member, Dr. Whelpley in his 28 years of membership in the Naturalists' Club missed only two of the 236 monthly meetings held during that period, and never once failed to respond when a paper from him was on the program.

He did not seek the many offices which came to him. In most instances, especially in his later years, they were literally thrust upon him, probably in pursuance of the old maxim that when you want a job well done give it to a busy man. All of his work was well done and much of it was exceedingly well done.

That he was able to accomplish so much more than many other men who consider themselves to be reasonably industrious was due to several factors: to the power of intense concentration gained through the severe training which he imposed upon himself during his preparatory years, to a highly systematic method of working and keeping of records, and to an industry that seemed untiring. Furthermore he was fortunate in a wife capable of understanding and helping in his

various lines of study and who gave herself unreservedly to his assistance, thus relieving him of a large burden of detail which otherwise would have demanded his personal attention. This invaluable service he fully appreciated, and never failed to acknowledge when his various activities were referred to in his hearing.

Dr. Whelpley was serious-minded in the sense that he took little or no interest in the games and sports which are attractive to many. The time some men would have bestowed upon the study of baseball scores he utilized to acquire for himself a working knowledge of some branch of natural science, and found his enjoyment and recreation in his beloved study of archeology, or in assembling the data used in his many public lectures and addresses.

Dr. Whelpley's character was marked by certain primary qualities of which the various features which made him the efficient teacher, educator and successful association worker, and so endeared him to his friends were but different natural manifestations.

In his outlook upon life and human institutions he was what might be termed a rational conservative: he believed in progress through evolution rather than by revolution, and that true advancement is made through gradual growth rather than by sudden jumps. He did not permit himself to be blown about by every new gust of political or economic doctrine, believing that institutions proved by experience to be reasonably efficient should not be suddenly discarded in favor of new and unproved expedients.

One of the primary qualities of character which all who knew him will recall was his strong sense of duty or loyalty to any cause to which he attached himself, or the quality we have in mind when we use the term integrity—the most fundamental ingredient in the character of the man of honor. With him moral obligations were equally as binding as legal ones.

Another quality which his associates will recall was the spirit of kindly tolerance which reached through and tintured his entire character. It was one of the chief charms which one found in his companionship. He was one of the comparatively small percentage of present-day Americans who comprehend the original spirit of American institutions, that we have no better right to impose restraint upon the thoughts or actions of our neighbor than he has to impose restraint upon us.

He did not expect everybody to agree with him, and was willing to admit that others might hold opinions contrary to his own, without being either foolish or insincere. He discussed controversial subjects not with the mere object of proving the correctness of his own opinions, but with the higher object of discovering what a correct opinion should be. His attitude was that of the impartial judge—without prejudice—he did not prejudge a cause.

Dr. Whelpley was temperamentally well-balanced, and did not permit his emotions to over-ride his reason in his judgments upon the incidents of life. He had the rare and desirable combination of firmness with gentleness. He did not need to be roused to the pitch of anger before he could nerve himself to oppose resistance to what he did not agree with. He could contend against what he believed to be wrong without first becoming furious.

He did not long remember injuries. He did not hate anybody or anything, regarding hatred as a waste of nervous energy that might more profitably be spent

in the pursuit of subjects which brought him happiness. He had attained to that stage of philosophy where he could realize that one who cherishes resentment is to that extent the servant of his enemy, and that one who carries the recollection of injury in his heart burdens himself with unprofitable luggage.

What was frequently referred to as Dr. Whelpley's diplomatic ability was really his broad spirit of tolerance, or his kindly regard for the opinions and peculiarities, and even the foibles of others, coupled with a keen and accurate knowledge of human nature acquired through contact with all sorts of men during his many years of association work. He did not expect perfection in any one; he knew that human nature could not be made over and that it was necessary to accommodate himself to the peculiarities of men as he found them in order to develop their best and most useful qualities. He knew how to distinguish between essentials and non-essentials, and was always ready for reasonable compromise—an adjustability which enabled him to work successfully with men of temperamental disposition. When circumstances made opposition unavoidable his own views were presented with such temperate fairness and with such consideration for opposing opinions that he frequently gained coöperation where some less kindly method of procedure would have provoked only obstinate resistance.

In short, Dr. Whelpley's so-called diplomatic ability was merely the manifestation of his spirit of fairness, good-will and good sense, and the uniform courtesy which governed his daily contact with his fellow men.

Another pleasing feature of Dr. Whelpley's character was his generosity with regard to his fellow-workers in pharmacy. A defect not infrequently found in men in all other respects truly admirable is their apparent jealousy of praise bestowed upon others. From this petty defect Dr. Whelpley was entirely free, and when some colleague or fellow-worker was favorably mentioned in his presence, he was more likely than not to add additional complimentary words of his own. He was not greedy of praise for himself, and was not disturbed when credit for something he had mainly accomplished was given to another who had contributed little or nothing to the result. It was the result that was of consequence, not the credit for the performance.

He did not encourage whisperers, or those people who go about associations intimating that if all the facts were known some particular individual would lose greatly in public estimation. He felt this to be an unfair method of attack, which prevented the person assailed from knowing the offense with which he was charged and denied him the opportunity of presenting any proper defense.

He was by instinct and policy a peace-maker. He did not carry tales between friends unless they were pleasant ones. If he knew pleasant things about other people, he told them; if he knew unpleasant things, he kept them to himself, unless circumstances made it a duty to do otherwise. If trouble seemed to be brewing between fellow-workers he tried to think of some pleasant thing he had heard one say about the other and to repeat it to that other if occasion permitted. By such methods he brought many incipient broils to a peaceful conclusion, and made valuable co-workers out of those whose usefulness would otherwise have been largely neutralized by personal enmities.

This, in brief outline, was the character of the man Whelpley as the writer learned to know him through more than 30 years of close association, frequently

under circumstances calculated to discover and exhibit the innermost qualities of men.

Directed by other ambitions and devoted to commercial or industrial pursuits, the same ability and intense application that made him the successful educator and editor and the useful member of scientific and professional organizations would probably have made him a millionaire. But would his life have been happier or more fruitful? What greater or finer estate can a man leave behind him than the love and esteem of a multitude of friends, the high respect of the colleagues among whom his life was spent, and the veneration of a host of students whom he helped to become useful citizens? In his influence upon the lives of his students and associates, and in the great services rendered to the societies and institutions with which he was connected he left an estate that will increase through the years, even though its source be forgotten.

He enjoyed every day of his busy life. He employed himself with the things which he found most delight in doing. He had the consciousness of many honorable tasks efficiently performed. He had occasion for few regrets.

Doubtless he had human faults but they were few and small, while his merits were large and conspicuous. Doubtless he made human mistakes, but he did many things of great and lasting value. As teacher, editor and association worker he exerted influences for good the ultimate reach of which cannot be realized. We cannot but feel that in the place where the deeds of men are weighed and measured, his account will receive a large credit.

His was a useful, fruitful, busy life. He was a rare and fine character whose passing leaves in the lives of his old associates a blank that never will be filled, but with whom the memory of his personality will always remain an inspiration and a benediction.

#### A NOTE OF APPRECIATION FROM PROF. DR. A. TSCHIRCH.

A printed letter from Dr. Tschirch states in substance that the celebration of his seventieth birthday has resulted in so many individual good wishes and of institutions both verbally and in writing, through post, telegraph and radio, that it is impossible for him to acknowledge them in writing and he must, therefore, use this method.

He was surprised and deeply moved by the recognition given throughout the world to his service for science and as teacher, to learn how much his work is valued by his fellow-workers and of the esteem in which he is held by his students. The valuable *Festschrift* to which so many of the foremost scientists in thirteen countries contributed, the plakette which the faculty presented and the beautiful art glass window donated by his students, the memorial tablet placed by the German Apothecaries' Society at his birthplace in Guben, and also the attractive bronze the Swiss Apothecaries' Society have contributed much happiness and

also the certificates and addresses of the officials of the academies, of the faculties, corporations, institutions and societies, and especially of those who have honored him by membership and of which favor he was informed or presented with at the ceremonies on the 23rd of October.

He also feels honored by the degrees given him of "Doctor of Engineering" by the Stuttgart Technical High School and that of "Doctor of Science" by the Technical High School of Zurich, and the Werner-Plakette through the Swiss Chemical Society and honorary membership in the Society of History of Pharmacy, the Pharmaceutical Society in Dresden, and the New York Veteran Druggists' Association.

If only a part of the wishes which were spoken to him would come to pass then he still has before him a long and busy life in the service of science. He closes by saying that the splendid recognition given him will hasten his steps, for only a few spoke of dignified leisure; neither did he, and, therefore, some busy years remain for him.