

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH

Compiled by A. G. DuMez, Reporter on the Progress of Pharmacy.

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PHARMACEUTICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY—A SUGGESTION AND AN ILLUSTRATION.*

BY EDWARD KREMERS.

In the March 1921 number of *THIS JOURNAL*, its editor published a free translation of the Polish editor Tugendhold's article on "The need of an international bibliography of pharmaceutical literature." The plan is a magnificent one. Its greatest failing, however, is that it suffers from a sort of pharmaceutical empiricism. Whereas some empirialistic plans in world politics, unfortunately, succeed temporarily only to collapse ultimately in themselves, this scheme of a pharmaceutical empiricism will, no doubt, fail even before an attempt has been made to try it out.

Of late so much has been orated about scientific research that one hesitates to use the word, lest one be found guilty of popular oratory. Even the *London Times*, in an editorial on national organization and international superorganization, pointed out recently that the scientific politicians, who spout at national and international gatherings, do not at all represent the real investigators.

Whereas research, in its best sense, is highly individualistic, there are other fields of activity in which the individual can accomplish almost nothing or, at best, but little. Not but that coöperation among investigators in the same science, or, better still, among investigators in different sciences, is absolutely essential; the best results, however, are more likely to be attained by voluntary coöperation and not by a machine-like coöperation on part of the members of a given organization.

In the bibliographic field, however, the situation is different. In this line of activity it has become practically impossible to master the progress made year in and year out in but a single science. Furthermore, such an undertaking is frequently a waste of mental energy that should be directed toward research itself.

Bibliographic efforts conducted at cross purposes, such as we find exemplified in Pharmacy and Chemistry or in Pharmacy and Botany and as are suggested in Tugendhold's proposed plan, afford illustrations of the waste of energy, time and money. Moreover, within one and the same science coöperation should find a place. If, for example, the bibliography of a given subject has been thoroughly worked up for years, why do our associations waste their financial and other resources to cover the same subject less thoroughly?

An illustration of this sort we find in the bibliography of the volatile oils. Since 1877 the chemists of Schimmel & Company have covered this subject in thorough fashion. Nevertheless, several organizations—among them our AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION—find it necessary to cover the same ground

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