

EDITORIAL

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PUBLICITY FOR PHARMACY.

DURING recent years pharmacy has received publicity which has been most helpful in acquainting the public with its mission, its organizations and activities. Radio talks delivered by pharmacists have held the attention of the "listeners-in" and, in some localities, they have requested an extension of the series of such talks, thereby exhibiting their interest.

Good publicity in the press and literature is giving the laymen a better understanding of what pharmacy means and they are gaining a higher appreciation of its importance, which stimulates their interest beyond the mere going to the pharmacy for medicines—instilling a realization that pharmaceutical education is of great importance to them, because they are given a most valuable service and are safeguarded. They are beginning to understand what it means to have standards for medicines; that there is such a thing as scientific dispensing, that drug handling and preservation mean very much more than simply storing. They are also becoming better acquainted with the importance of pharmaceutical education and the place of pharmacy and pharmacists in Government service, in commerce and community life.

This comment is made for the purpose of commending and encouraging those who are aiding in good publicity for pharmacy; every form of social, religious, educational and business activity is promoting such work. Pharmacy is being strengthened by renewal of faith in its ideals and a greater realization of the value of service; the members of the profession have a profound sense of their responsibilities to the public.

THE PHARMACY CORPS BILL.

THE Bill for the establishment of a Pharmacy Corps in the Army has made progress to the extent of a Hearing before the Committee on Military Affairs of the House. The brief presented and an account of the Hearing will be found under "Committee Reports" and, therefore, no extended comment will be made in these columns; however, on behalf of the ASSOCIATION thanks and appreciation are expressed for the hearty coöperation of Congressman Kelly and Senator Copeland, of all State and National Associations and the splendid coöperative publicity given by the Pharmaceutical Press. Copies of the Hearing are now being printed and will be available for those who desire them, by addressing the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. The Committee will continue its efforts in behalf of the Bill, with a determined purpose to succeed.

It has been shown that there is need for pharmaceutical service, that inadequate service endangers the health and life of the soldiers. It is not easily understood why the Army Service of the United States, as far as pharmacy is concerned, should not be up to the highest standard; at least, measure up to pharmacy in civil life. Whether the surmise is correct or not, there seems to be an underlying

purpose, in some quarters, to hold down pharmacy, instead of encouraging those who are sincerely desirous of elevating the profession, and are doing so. Those who would hinder the advances of pharmacy will, in due time, be given an opportunity to give their reasons and applying them, reversely, to themselves. In the meantime Congress and the public generally will be made acquainted with conditions as they are and have been, and what these mean to the men in the Service. The *N. A. R. D. Journal* closes a comprehensive editorial as follows:

"Having made an excellent start in this most commendable program, every effort should now be brought to bear to enlist coöperation and support of all branches of pharmacy and the drug trade in pushing this issue to a successful conclusion and to this end the *Journal* pledges its earnest and untiring support."

"FOR THE GOOD OF THE PUBLIC, PHYSICIANS AND PHARMACISTS
MUST WORK IN HARMONY."

AT the February meeting of the Philadelphia Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, attended by members of the County Medical Society, Dr. E. J. Beardsley, professor of Clinical Medicine in Jefferson Medical College, said: "Pharmacy, at its best, is a true profession;" physicians expect pharmacists to be men of character, gentlemen and expert business men, and, he contended that "for the good of the public, physicians and pharmacists must work in harmony; selfishness and self-interest ruin the relations that should obtain between physicians and pharmacists."

The interests of physicians and of pharmacists are largely common interests, the work of one branch of medicine is incomplete without the other, and the fullest measure of success is possible when their service is directed for the welfare of the public; this implies that the value of human life and health should be above class distinction and selfish motives.

Other physicians contributed to the evening's program whereby the value of joint meetings of physicians and pharmacists was emphasized. The relation should be expressive of confidence which strengthens the confidence of the public in the practice of medicine and of pharmacy.

Only an unwilling person can fail to note the progress of pharmacy as evidenced by the schools and boards of pharmacy and no reasonable person will deny that the progress of medicine is dependent on the coöperation of the related professions, and that pharmacy is made increasingly helpful by encouragement that signifies belief in one another. Examples seem to us unnecessary but we cite a recent report in the London *Lancet* on a case of poisoning which emphasizes one phase of coöperation. We quote, in part: "It is reasonably clear, however, that the mistake would not have occurred if the original prescription as written by the anaesthetist had actually reached the dispenser who was a qualified chemist and druggist. . . . Both the doctor and the patient are well served by the pharmacist's experience in interpreting prescriptions, and no prescriber would be willing to forego the safeguard of the dispenser's expert and often critical eye."

While the foregoing presents a very important phase, a general application of coöperative effort and research is more significant, and the daily practice of medi-

cine and pharmacy testifies that success and progress have been achieved through coöperation. A deduction can be made that the votaries may work together for the common good, but each class is best qualified to render service in the department for which the individuals have been trained by experience and education; the success of one is dependent on the advancement of the other.

AMMONIUM SALT OF ACETYL SALICYLIC ACID.

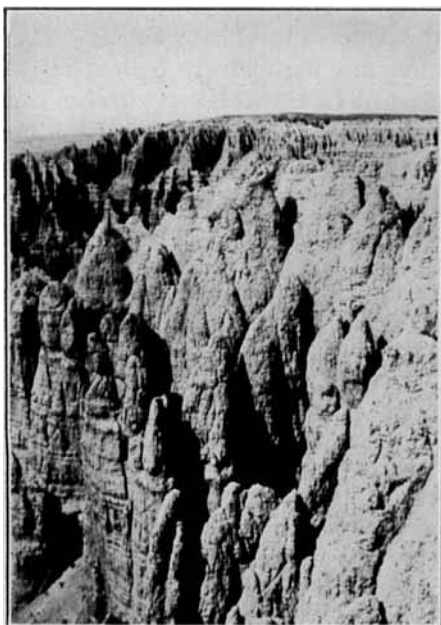
BY M. N. DVORNIKOFF.

A recent publication by N. E. Woldman (*JOUR. A. PH. A.*, XVIII (Jan. 1929), 14) describes a method of making the ammonium salt of acetyl salicylic acid.

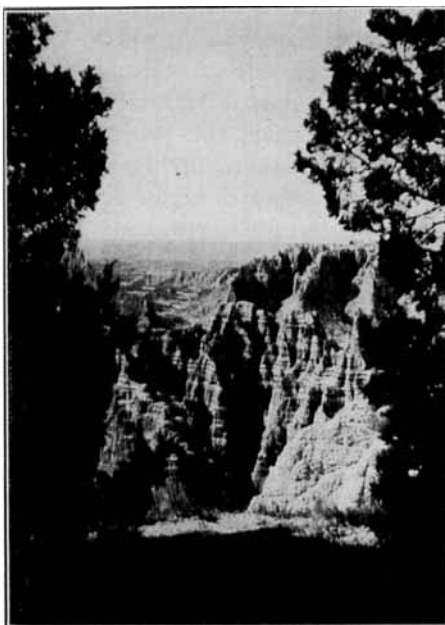
Following Woldman's procedure, 1 mol. of aspirin was dissolved in 1 mol. of 9.5% NH_3 solution at 60° C. (It is assumed that a typographical error occurred on page 16, where percentage of concentrated ammonium hydroxide is given as 94% and that it should read 24%.) On cooling the solution a white crystalline product was obtained. This was not, however, the ammonium salt of acetyl salicylic acid as claimed by Woldman but proved to be the free aspirin contaminated to a small extent with ammonium salts.

Aspirin is soluble in ammonium hydroxide solution and is hydrolyzed by the excess of ammonia under formation of ammonium salicylate and ammonium acetate (or, perhaps, acetamide). The hydrolysis takes place very readily, and by the addition of aspirin to a solution of ammonium hydroxide the consumption of ammonia approaches the ratio 2 mols. of NH_3 per 1 mol. of aspirin. When all the NH_3 is neutralized and more aspirin is added to a warmed solution, the aspirin simply goes into the solution and separates out unchanged on cooling.

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