EDITORIAL NOTES

THE ELEVENTH DECENNIAL PHARMACOPŒIAL CONVENTION.

The Board of Trustees of the U. S. Pharmacopœial Convention met in Washington during the first week of May to dispose of routine matters of business and to provide for the Pharmacopœial Convention to meet in Washington, May 13, 1930. Among other matters of business it was arranged to include representatives in the Convention from the Insular Possessions of the medical and pharmacy schools and medical and pharmacy organizations. The Insular Possessions included are Hawaii, the Philippine Islands and Porto Rico.

The Board of Trustees for the next convention is composed of the following members: *Chairman,* James H. Beal, Florida; Samuel C. Henry, Illinois; Dr. Solomon Solis Cohen, Pennsylvania; Dr. George H. Simmons, Illinois; Dr. Reed Hunt, Massachusetts; E. Fullerton Cook, Pennsylvania; Frederick J. Wulling, Minnesota. The Secretary of the Board is William B. Day, of Chicago, and the Treasurer of the Convention is Samuel L. Hilton, of Washington. Dr. Lyman F. Kebler, of Washington, is the Secretary-Elect of the Convention.

THE PHILIPPINE PHARMACEUTICAL JOURNAL.

We have before us No. 3, Volume I, of the *Journal of the Philippine Pharmaceutical Association.* The publication evidences the interest in pharmacy in the Philippine Islands. The editorials relate to manufacturing pharmacy in the Philippines and encouragement of professional pharmacy.

It is interesting to note that General A. Luna was a pharmacist. His birthday was celebrated by pharmacists and we quote from the sketch of the November number of the *Journal.* After preliminary education he pursued pharmaceutical studies at the University of St. Thomas. In 1885, he was awarded first prize on an essay entitled, "Two Important Chemical Compounds." After two years residence at his *Alma Mater* he went to Europe and continued his pharmaceutical studies at the University of Madrid. After graduation, he continued post-graduate pharmaceutical studies. He then went to Belgium and continued his studies in a school of chemical engineering at Ghent. Then he came to Paris where he worked as assistant to Dr. Laffon. In recognition of his attainments in bacteriology the Spanish government commissioned him, in May 1894, to undertake the bacteriological study of contagious diseases in the Philippines and at the end of the next year he was appointed chemist of the municipal laboratory of the City of Manila.

The sketch closes with the following paragraph:

"In commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the birthday of General Luna, it is hoped that the members of the pharmaceutical profession in the Philippines shall not fail to give the exemplary life of Antonio Luna as a General and as a Pharmacist, its true significance."

An article in the same issue is on "A Compound, $C_{15}H_{24}O$, from the Mother Liquid of Caryophylline Nitrosite." This investigation was carried on at the University of Wisconsin by Dr. Patrocinio Valenzuela of the School of Pharmacy of the University of Philippines.

Another article relates to a study of the pharmacology of Philippine medicinal plants, by Dr. Conrado Potenciano.

The abstracts of the *Journal* are well selected. In the same issue there is printed a bill presented to the Philippine Legislature amending the pharmacy law, which was approved by the Senate, but failed to pass the House of Representatives.

A Department of the *Journal* relates to pharmaceutical science in the Philippines and elsewhere and we are glad to note that the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION is considered in these reports and a reference is made to Dr. A. G. DuMez, President of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, who was the first director of the School of Pharmacy of the University of Philippines.

The *Journal* is coöperating with the Philippine Board of Pharmacy and reports the drug stores that have been opened under the sanction of the Board of Pharmacy.

The issue also contains the Constitution and By-Laws of the Philippine Pharmaceutical Association. A list of the officers of the Association appears in the roster of this issue.

Among the news items it is stated that Dr. Leon Ma. Guerrero, the oldest pharmacist and well-known botanist in the Philippines, was honored at the second annual banquet of the Alumni Association of the University of St. Thomas. Dr. Guerrero is the oldest living graduate of the School of Pharmacy.

Another item of news states that in the laboratory of Hizon and Rodriquez an efficient treatment for leprosy has been perfected and according to the statement twenty-five leper patients have been cured by this treatment. It is said not to contain oil of chaulmoogra.

Another item reports the death of the brother of Director M. V. del Rosario, Dr. Salvador V. del Rosario, former member of the faculty of the School of Pharmacy, on October 28th, at the age of 64 years.

At a scientific social meeting of the Manila College of Pharmacy the Dean, Antonio Llamas, presented a paper in which he compared the drug stores in the Philippines with those of the U. S.

NEW AND NONOFFICIAL REMEDIES.

The following additional articles have been accepted as conforming to the Rules of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association for admission to New and Nonofficial Remedies. A copy of the Rules on which the Council bases its action will be sent on application.

W. A. PUCKNER, *Secretary*.

SALYRGAN.—Mersalyl. Sodium {*o*-[hydroxymercuric-methoxy-propylcarbamyl] phenoxy}-acetate.–$NaOOC.CH_2.O.C_6H_4.CONH.C_3H_5(O.CH_3)(HgOH)$. Salyrgan is a complex synthetic mercurial, prepared by the action of mercury acetate and methyl alcohol on salicylallylamido-*o*-acetic acid and subsequent conversion to the sodium salt. Salyrgan when dried to constant weight contains 39.6 per cent of mercury in nonionizable form.

Actions and Uses.—Salyrgan has been demonstrated to exert a destructive action on the spirochæte of syphilis in rabbits, but is used chiefly as a diuretic. It induces diuresis only provided sufficient renal tissue is still intact and is therefore contraindicated in acute diseases of the kidney as well as in advanced nephritis. It is effective in ascites and edema of cardiac and cardiorenal origin; also in ascites resulting from cirrhosis of the liver. It has been tried in hydrothorax, pericardial effusion, and in the ascites of tuberculosis peritonitis, but without uniform results.

Dosage.—Salyrgan is supplied only in the form of a 10 per cent solution. As diuretic, an initial dose, intramuscularly or intravenously, of 0.5 cc. of the solution to test tolerance, increased to 1 cc. or to a maximum of 2 cc. if required; injections are made at intervals of from three to five days.

Manufactured by H. A. Metz Laboratories, Inc., New York. No U. S. patent. U. S. trademark 188,515.

Ampules Salyrgan Solution, 1 cc.—Each ampule contains 1 cc. of a 10 per cent solution of salyrgan.

Ampules Salyrgan Solution, 2 cc.—Each ampule contains 2 cc. of a 10 per cent solution of salyrgan.

Salyrgan occurs as a white, crystalline, odorless powder with a bitter taste; readily soluble in ethyl alcohol, about 1 in 3, methyl alcohol, about 1 in 2 and water, about 1 in 1, and insoluble in ether. An aqueous solution is alkaline to litmus paper.

Dissolve 0.5 Gm. in 5 cc. of water, add 5 cc. of formic acid (90 per cent), boil the mixture under a reflux condenser for fifteen munites: the precipitate formed dissolves, leaving a gray residue containing fine globules of metallic mercury. Filter the mixture through paper while hot; allow the filtrate to cool, collect the resultant salicylallylamido-*o*-acetic acid crystals on a filter paper, wash and dry over sulphuric acid in a partially exhausted desiccator: it melts at 120–121 C. Dissolve about 1 Gm. in 10 cc. of water, add 10 cc. of a solution of hydrochloric acid (1 part hydrochloric acid and 1 part hydrochloric acid and 1 part water), connect to a condenser, distill off about three-fourths the volume: the distillate responds to tests for methyl alcohol. Dissolve 0.5 Gm. in 5 cc. of water, add 0.5 cc. of diluted acetic acid and 0.3 of sodium sulphide solution: no coloration results (*heavy metals—especially mercuric ions*). Dissolve 0.1 Gm. in 5 cc. of water, add 1 cc. of nitric acid, filter through paper and divide the filtrate into two portions; to one portion add 1 cc. of silver nitrate solution: no opalescence results (*chlorides*); to the other portion add 1 cc. of barium nitrate solution: no turbidity results (*sulphates*). Dissolve 0.5 Gm. in 10 cc. of water, add 1-cc. diluted sulphuric acid, filter through paper and divide the filtrate into two portions;

to one portion add 0.1 cc. of tenth-normal potassium permanganate solution: no immediate decolorization results (*salicylallylamido acetic acid*); to the remaining portion add 0.1 cc. of diluted ferric chloride solution; no violet color develops (*salicyllylamide*). When tested for arsenic according to the U. S. Pharmacopœia X, the product meets the requirements for arsenic (p. 428, Arsenic Test).

Dry about 1 Gm., accurately weighed to constant weight over sulphuric acid in a partially exhausted desiccator: the loss in weight does not exceed 5.0 per cent. Transfer about 0.5 Gm., accurately weighed, to a 500-cc. Kjeldahl flask, and determine the nitrogen content according to the official method described in Official and Tentative Methods of Analysis of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, Second Edition, p. 8. The percentage of nitrogen corresponds to not less than 2.55 per cent, nor more than 3.0 per cent, when calculated to the dried substance. Weigh accurately about 0.5 Gm. in a tared platinum dish, add 10 cc. of sulphuric acid, gently heat while fumes of sulphur trioxide are evolved, repeat, using two portions of 2 cc. of sulphuric acid, respectively, ignite, cool and weigh as sodium sulphate. The percentage of sodium corresponds to not less than 4.3 per cent, nor more than 4.9 per cent, when calculated to the dried substance. Transfer about 0.5 Gm., accurately weighed, to an Erlenmeyer flask; add 100 cc. of water and agitate until the powder has dissolved; add 15-cc. hydrochloric acid, connect to a reflux condenser and boil for three hours. Add 1.75 cc. of hot water, and pass in hydrogen sulphide for fifteen minutes. (It is important that the temperature of the solution should be about 70 C. in order to keep in solution slightly soluble organic compounds formed during hydrolysis.) Filter while warm, through a Gooch crucible, wash with distilled water and finally three parts of cold alcohol and then one portion of carbon disulphide. Close the rubber tubing leading from the suction flask to the suction pump with a pinch clamp; add sufficient carbon disulphide to cover the precipitate, cover the crucible with a watch glass and allow to stand one-half hour. Then release the pinch clamp, drain off the solution and wash with several portions of carbon disulphide. Dry in an oven at 100 C., weigh the mercury sulphide and calculate to mercury. The percentage of mercury corresponds to not less than 38.0 per cent, nor more than 41.0 per cent, when calculated to the dried substance.

BROMIPIN 33 PER CENT.—Brominized Sesame Oil, 33 Per Cent-Merck.—A bromine addition product of sesame oil, containing from 31 to 35 per cent of bromine in organic combination.

Actions and Uses.—Bromipin, 33 per cent, acts like the inorganic bromides. The combination is not broken up in the stomach; but a portion of the bromine is split off as soon as the compound enters the intestine; the remaining compound is readily absorbed and, as in the case of other fats, is largely deposited in the tissues where it is slowly split up. It is said to be more lasting in its action than the bromides. Bromipin, 33 per cent, is used as a contrast medium for roentgen diagnosis of the tracheobronchial tree. It is stated to be applicable in cases of mild or medium tuberculosis in which the use of an iodized oil is contraindicated.

Dosage.—For therapeutic use, 1.3 cc. (20 minims) which may be increased in cases of epilepsy to from 3 to 10 cc. (40 to 160 minims); for use as a contrast medium in bronchography, the quantity required varies from about 10 cc. to about 30 cc. for each lung. Before injecting into the bronchial tree the oil should be warmed to 37 to 40 C. to reduce its viscosity.

Manufactured by Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, N. J., under license of the Federal Trade commission. U. S. patent 774,224 (Nov. 8, 1904; expired). U. S. trademark 32,002.

Bromipin, 33 per cent, is prepared by action of bromine chloride to produce the required brominization.

Bromipin 33 per cent is a yellow oily liquid, having an oleaginous taste.

To 1 cc. of bromipin 33 per cent add 1 cc. of chloroform and a few drops of phenolphthalein solution: the addition of 0.3 cc. of half-normal sodium hydroxide produces a red color (*limit of acidity*).

Saponify about 1 Gm. of bromipin 33 per cent, accurately weighed, by boiling with 25 cc. of alcohol and 5 Gm. of potassium hydroxide in a porcelain dish. Evaporate to dryness on a water-bath and incinerate the residue over a gentle flame. Dissolve in water to make exactly 200 cc. and filter. Acidulate 50 cc. of the filtrate in a separator with diluted sulphuric acid; add 20 cc. of carbon tetrachloride and 5 cc. of freshly prepared chlorine water. Shake thoroughly and allow to separate. Repeat this until further additions of chlorine water do not cause the aqueous layer to become yellow. Draw off the carbon tetrachloride solution. Add 10 cc. of carbon tetrachloride, agitate and draw off the solution, uniting it with the first carbon tetrachloride solution. Repeat the extraction with a further portion of 5 cc. of carbon tetrachloride. Pass the carbon tetrachloride solution through a dry filter into a flask and add potassium iodide solution. Shake thoroughly and titrate the free iodine with tenth-normal sodium thiosulphate: the amount of bromine found is not less than 31 per cent nor more than 35 per cent.

From *Jour. A. M. A.*, Dec. 22, 1928.

PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

Our fellow member, in the City of Mexico, Dr. G. G. Colin, has recently sent in two applications for membership in the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. Prof. Juan Manuel Noriega, one of our new members, is one of the best known pharmacists of Mexico; is a former president of the Mexican Pharmaceutical Association and of the Mexican Chemical Society; until recently he was director of the Faculty of Chemical Sciences of the National University of Mexico; he is a member of the National Academy of Medicine. Professor Noriega is the author of a well and favorably known text on "History of Drugs" (now out of print) and also of a textbook on "Practical Pharmacy;" his contributions to pharmaceutical literature on native botanical drugs are numerous. The other new associate is a young chemist of Mexico, Manuel Dondé, member of the Mexican Chemical Society and Assistant Editor of the *Revista Quimica* of the Society.

Another foreign member recently added to the A. PH. A. is from Esthonia—Prof. Nicolai Veiderpass of the University of Tartu, of which the late Dr. G. Dragendorff, an honorary member of the ASSOCIATION, was for many years head and member of the faculty. This, of course, evidences a universal interest in pharmacy, but there is satisfaction in that the relations have come through the medium of the JOURNAL.