

EDITORIAL

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THE UNITED STATES PHARMACOPŒIA XI.

THE first two paragraphs of the U. S. Pharmacopœia I, read as follows: "It is the object of a Pharmacopœia to select from among substances which possess medicinal power, those, the utility of which is most fully established and best understood; and to form from them preparations and compositions, in which their powers may be exerted to the greatest advantage. It should likewise distinguish those articles by convenient and definite names, such as may prevent trouble or uncertainty in the intercourse of physicians and apothecaries.

"The value of a Pharmacopœia depends upon the fidelity with which it conforms to the best state of medical knowledge of the day. Its usefulness depends upon the sanction it receives from the medical community and the public, and the extent to which it governs the language and practice of those for whose use it is intended."

No pharmacists took active part in the preparation of the first edition of the Pharmacopœia and not until the convention of 1850 were pharmacists named as delegates—the organization of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION brought to the Pharmacopœia much-needed enthusiastic support.

Deductions may be made bearing on the revision of the Pharmacopœia with the assurance that the delegates to the Pharmacopœial Convention, meeting next May, realize their obligations and will lay the foundation for the next edition of the Pharmacopœia with the sole interest of service in mind. In order to do so each delegate should read the abstract of Proceedings of the United States Pharmacopœial Convention for 1920, or at least become familiar with the substance of the pages in U. S. P. X preceding the monographs on vegetable and animal drugs, chemicals and preparations.

It is assumed that the subject of pharmacopœial revision has received attention by every state and national association having representation in the Convention. The matter of deletions and inclusions is of no less importance than the selection of those who will comprise the membership of the Revision Committee. In the former connection parts of the recent address by Wilbur L. Scoville are worthy of careful consideration, and in the latter, that good judgment and common sense are qualities nearly as important as experience and knowledge; therapeutic usefulness and pharmaceutical necessity of the official materia medica doubtless will receive most careful thought in determining what represents the best medical and pharmaceutical service, so that a practical and useful modern scientific pharmacopœia may result.

THE CALL FOR THE ELEVENTH CONVENTION FOR THE REVISION OF THE UNITED STATES PHARMACOPŒIA.

THE official call for the United States Pharmacopœial Convention—to be held in Washington May 13, 1930—has been issued by President Reid Hunt and

Secretary Lyman F. Kebler, under date of May 25th. The text of the call follows:

In compliance with the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the United States Pharmacopœial Convention, the President of the Convention hereby invites the several bodies, entitled under the Constitution to representation therein, to appoint delegates to the Eleventh Decennial Convention to meet in Washington, D. C., on May 13, 1930, and the attention of all concerned is invited to the following extract from the Constitution and By-Laws:

CHAPTER I, ARTICLE VIII, of the By-Laws of the United States Pharmacopœial Convention provides that the President of the Convention:

"shall issue on or about the first of May of the year immediately preceding that of the decennial meeting, a notice inviting the several bodies, entitled under the Constitution to representation therein, to send delegates to the next meeting. He shall repeat the notification eight months later, and shall request the medical and pharmaceutical journals of the United States to publish the call for the said meeting."

ARTICLE II, Section 1, of the Constitution provides:

"The members of the United States Pharmacopœial Convention, in addition to the Incorporators and their associates, shall be delegates elected by the following organizations in the manner they shall respectively provide: Incorporated Medical Colleges, and Medical Schools connected with Incorporated Colleges and Universities; Incorporated Colleges of Pharmacy, and Pharmaceutical Schools connected with Incorporated Universities; Incorporated State Medical Associations; Incorporated State Pharmaceutical Associations; the American Medical Association, the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, The American Chemical Society, the National Association of Retail Druggists, and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy; *provided that no such organization shall be entitled to representation unless it shall have been incorporated within and shall have been in continuous operation in the United States for at least five years before the time fixed for the decennial meeting of this corporation.*"

SECTION 2 of the Constitution provides:

"Delegates appointed by the Surgeon-General of the United States Army, the Surgeon-General of the United States Navy and the Surgeon-General of the United States Public Health Service, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, the Association of American Dairy, Food and Drug Officials, the National Wholesale Druggists' Association, the National Dental Association, the American Drug Manufacturers' Association, the United States Division of Customs, and the University of Havana, and by the organizations not hereinbefore named which were admitted to representation in the Convention of 1900, shall also be members of the corporation. Each body and each branch of the United States Government above mentioned shall be entitled to send three delegates to the meetings of this corporation. But no such delegates as are provided for in this article shall be members until their credentials shall have been examined and acted upon as provided for by the By-Laws. Delegates admitted as members at any decennial meeting shall continue to be members of the United States Pharmacopœial Convention until their successors shall have been appointed and admitted as delegates to the ensuing Convention and no longer."

LIBRARY SERVICE.

HERBERT Putnam, Librarian of Congress, was honored by co-workers and friends before sailing for Europe, where he attended (in Rome and Venice) the first "World's Library and Bibliographical Congress." The occasion was made more interesting because the thirtieth anniversary of Dr. Putnam's leadership in the Library of Congress was celebrated. Among the speakers were

Senator Fess and Congressman Luce, and a memorial volume was presented to Dr. Putnam in which many tributes and essays were included. In speaking of the Library Senator Fess said: "In thirty years its collections of books have increased from a rather inconsequential number, as libraries go, to a rank surpassed only by two such institutions in the Old World, and will very soon pass both of these and take first rank in all the world in number of volumes now found on the 101 miles of book shelves." "Its influence does not only permeate the Capital, but is felt throughout our own land and in many ways reaches other distant countries."

Congressman Luce expressed the thought in this way: "In this work the man we would honor to-day is the leader. He is making this the fountain spring from which knowledge shall go in divers channels to countless smaller fountains, not merely throughout our own land but throughout the world."

In replying, Dr. Putnam enlarged on the phases of the activities of the Library. Before leaving port he addressed a message to the Six Hundred directly engaged in the work of the Library, from which the closing lines are quoted: "In sharing with you the commendations of these days, and the new zests which they inspire, let me ask you to give still freer exercise to those qualities in you without which, in spite of building, books and apparatus, the Library will never express or fulfill its proper nature.

"And I ask it of you, not as subordinates, serving under me, but as associates, serving abreast of me."

The sessions of the World's Library and Bibliographical Congress were held during the latter half of June (13th-30th).

Dr. Putnam's chief topic before the Congress related to regional libraries; the thought may be applied to the possibilities of coöperative work of the A. PH. A. Headquarters Library. He stressed the library as a medium for thought instead of an index of titles, or museum, and urged that use of a book by the present generation is more important than its preservation for posterity. The Headquarters has use for both museum and present-day volumes in its service and thought is being given to the equipment of its several divisions.

The attention of publishers and authors has been called to a coöperative service by inscribing copies of their publications for the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and in this way widening the circle of acquaintance and develop the library service. Donations increase the number of volumes in local libraries and among them always will be found some that are seldom, if ever, consulted, but would serve a larger number if placed in the library of the Headquarters. Doubtless individuals, rather than realize that their libraries will be of little value after their passing, prefer to donate part of their collections to the Headquarters; others have duplicates or historic volumes which they would like to leave to posterity. These references will serve as suggestions.

Another reason for the introductory of this comment is the purpose of Dr. Putnam to extend the coöperative plans of the Library of Congress which, it is reasonable to assume, will be extended to the Headquarters Library; the same applies to the libraries of the Smithsonian Institution and of the Surgeon-General. It also speaks for the opportunity of service to retail pharmacists, and every other division of pharmacy, the Colleges and the Boards.

Very few of the State and National Associations have made provisions for

taking care of books, apparatus and historical material and will be glad to have a repository for them in the Headquarters. This will speak for the collection of such items in all of the states and contribute to the upbuilding of the Headquarters library and museum, and serves as a suggestion to these organizations—that they have a part in these projects, that their contributions represent an active participation in the institution which they have made possible—reflecting credit to themselves and American pharmacy.

“RULE OF THREE” GUARDS AGAINST POISON IVY.

“LEAFLETS three, let it be,” is good advice for avoiding the misery caused by poison ivy. It may lead to avoidance of some innocent plants, but it expresses a simple rule of safety and bears the indorsement of botanists in the United States Department of Agriculture. In autumn, poison ivy may be recognized by its white, bony, berry-like fruits, in connection with its three leaflets.

Botanists know several kinds of poison-ivy plants and a wide variety of local names such as poison oak, three-leaved ivy, poison creeper, oakleaf poison ivy, climbing sumac, markweed, picry and mercury. The poison oak of the Western States is also called poison ivy. These plants, and their close relative, poison sumac, are similar in their poisonous properties.

The toxicodendrol-bearing plants, with the exception of poison sumac, are three leaved, and all have white fruits. *Farmers' Bulletin* 1166-F—from which the foregoing and part of the following is quoted—gives detailed description of the several kinds of poison-ivy plants, means of eradication of the plants, etc. The U. S. Department of Agriculture will mail a copy of the *Bulletin* (free) to those who apply.

Poison ivy grows both as a vine and as a trailing shrub, and it is found on both high and low ground. There is a variety in the South and the Southwest, the oakleaf poison ivy, with leaves having three leaflets which resemble oak leaves. Poison-ivy vines are sometimes confused with Virginia creeper. The “three-leaf” test distinguishes them, for the Virginia creeper is five-leaved. Moreover, it has blue berries, while those of poison ivy are white.

The symptoms of poison ivy are produced when the irritant poison penetrates the outer surface of the skin, and they may appear within a few hours or may be delayed until five days or longer after exposure. It should be remembered that at first the poison is on the surface of the skin and can be removed by thorough washing and rinsing, repeated several times. Careless washing, however, may serve to spread the poison. Ordinary kitchen or laundry soap which has an excess of alkali is best for the purpose, and hot water should be used. The soap should be applied freely, so as to produce an abundant heavy lather on the exposed surfaces, and then rinsed off completely. The operation should be repeated not less than three or four times. Running water is preferable or, if a basin is used, the water should be changed frequently. The hands, especially the finger nails, should receive particular attention.

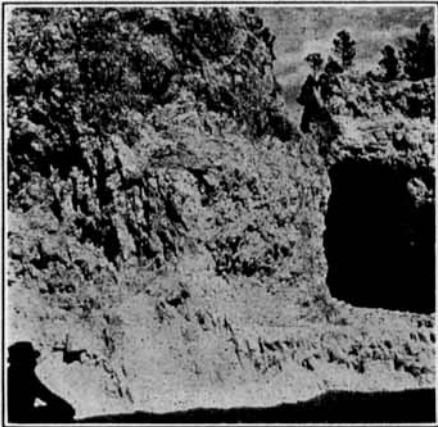
The *U. S. Department Bulletin*, of June 17th, states that a 5 per cent solution of potassium permanganate applied locally is a good remedy. (Our experience

is with a weaker solution.—EDITOR.) The stain will gradually wash off, but its removal may be hastened with lemon juice. Local applications of solutions of cooking soda or Epsom Salt, one or two teaspoonfuls to a cup of water, are ordinarily as helpful as any. Fluidextract of grindelia, diluted with 4 to 8 parts of water, is often used. These solutions may be applied with light bandages or clean cloths which should be kept moist and changed often to avoid infection. During the night, or when moist applications cannot be used, the poisoned surfaces should be carefully cleaned and dried and left exposed to the air. Do not bandage them tight. Immersing the poisoned parts for several minutes in water as hot as can be borne increases the discomfort for the moment, but a period of great relief follows.

In the early stages do not use oily ointments. The oils tend to dissolve and spread the poison. After the poison has exhausted itself a mild dressing, such as ointment of zinc oxide, is healing.

Treatment for sumac poisoning is similar. The plant is much different and is the exception to the "three-leaved rule." It is a shrub, and often grows in clumps, and only in swamps or wet ground. A general statement is made in the *Bulletin* that sumacs on high and dry ground are harmless.

MacNair's Lotion ("The Pharmaceutical Recipe Book") is used as a prophylactic and also as a remedial agent. A formula states the composition to be 25 Gm. each of ferric chloride and of sodium chloride dissolved in 250 Gm. of glycerin and enough water to make 1000 cc. of solution. Other formulas may be found in the "Pharmaceutical Recipe Book."



The Etta Mine near Keystone, So. Dakota.

THE ETTA MINE—A SPODUMENE MINE.

The Etta Mine in the Black Hills, three miles west of Keystone, South Dakota, produces between 70 and 80 per cent of the world's consumption of lithia taken from spodumene, an ore containing about 6 per cent of lithia. This mine is shipping annually about 1000 tons or more to the chemical reduction works at Maywood, New Jersey.

For years the Etta Mine has been the Mecca for geologists and students. It was primarily opened as a tin mine about 30 years ago.

The Etta is an open cut mine. The ore or spodumene is glory holed to a shaft or tunnel below. In the tunnel is a large loading and sorting room electric lighted, where work goes on regardless of weather conditions.

See your Railroad Agent for attractive rates and routes to Rapid City, South Dakota, the A. P. H. A. Convention City—Week of August 26th.