

## ALEXANDER NICOLAUS SCHERER.\*

BY EDWARD KREMERS.

Scherer may in a sense be referred to as the father of modern pharmacy in Russia. In 1822 he published the first and, so far, the only catalog of pharmacopœial literature. Yet most of our pharmaceutical historians do not seem to be aware that such a man existed. Thus the index to "Schelenz's Geschichte der Pharmazie," with its twenty-five thousand primes, contains but one page reference to the subject of this sketch. Upon looking it up we find that in "1818 weihte der in Deutschland gebildete Staatsrat Scherer in Petersburg die 'pharmazeutische Gesellschaft' ein. . ." (1) and gives as references *Repertor*, 8, 373; 21, 147. Although Frederking's "Fundamentals" is a much smaller treatise, we find at least a short paragraph devoted to the man under consideration (2). The explanation for this may, no doubt, be found in the fact that Frederking lived in Russia and was an honorary member of the pharmaceutical society of St. Petersburg founded by Scherer. Ludwig refers to him as the translator of an article by Parmentier and Deyeux (3) and as editor of three chemical publications (4). Given such scant treatment by German authors, one will not be surprised that pharmaceutical historians writing in English, such as Wootton and LaWall, do not even mention his name. As already stated, in 1822, he published a *Literatura pharmacopœarum collecta* which served as final volume to the *Codex medicamentarius Europæus*. True, his compilation is but a catalog and not a history of pharmacopœias. Yet, if we recall that even to-day we have no real history of pharmacopœial literature, the mere compilation of a catalog of the numerous editions of pharmacopœias and their commentaries seems to deserve more recognition than has been accorded its editor in modern treatises that call themselves histories of pharmacy. Even Schelenz makes no mention of this compilation which, in a way, is more valuable to the student of pharmacopœial literature than his numerous detached references on the subject arranged according to centuries. Poggendorff in his *Biographisch-Literarisches Handwörterbuch der Exacten Wissenschaften* accords Scherer more space and the *Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie* devotes two and one-half pages to him. We have here another illustration of the dire want of building stones to be hewn before the structure to be known as history of pharmacy can be reared.

Alexander Nicolaus (5) was born December 30, 1771 (old style) in St. Petersburg where his father, an Alsatian (6) and Doctor of Laws, was an official. His mother came from Riga (7). The father having deserted the family, the boy lived under strained circumstances until, at the age of twelve, a well-to-do brother of his mother took him into his home. At the age of eighteen, he left the "Domschule" in Riga to study theology in Jena (8). However, he soon turned to the natural sciences, particularly chemistry, in spite of the fact that the family support was withdrawn because of the change. He attracted the attention of Goettling (9) and Voigt (10). The latter recommended him to the Grandduke of Sachsen-Weimar (11) for support. In 1794 he attained the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. He took part in the organization of the Natural Science Society and decided to devote himself to an academic career. His lectures at Jena brought him into con-

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\* Section on Historical Pharmacy, Baltimore meeting, 1930.

flict with his former teachers and he was induced to leave. Supported by a liberal stipend from the Grandduke, he went to England and Scotland to study chemistry and chemical technology. In 1799 he returned to Weimar and was given the title of "Bergrath" (12). Here also he delivered lectures on experimental chemistry.

Having become well known through his publications, he was appointed Professor of Physics at the University at Halle in 1800. However, the academic life did not suit him and he accepted a position as chemical director of the fayence factory of Baron v. Eckartstein near Potsdam. But this also did not suit him for in 1803 he accepted a call to Dorpat (13), as successor to the late Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy (14). A year later he left again to accept a like position at the Medico-chirurgical Academy at St. Petersburg where he found a wide field for his activities. Soon he was made a member of the Academy of Science. He also occupied several administrative offices. He was given the title of nobility, hence von Scherer.

It was here that he rendered conspicuous services to Russian pharmacy. A pharmaceutical school having been organized in 1817, on December 24, 1818, the organization of the Pharmaceutical Society was officially celebrated (1). His personality, however, was such that he made many enemies. In consequence he suffered unpleasantness and set backs in his later years. He died in St. Petersburg October 16, 1824 (old style) (28th new style?) leaving a widow and three children.

His name is associated with numerous publications. Among these his journalistic enterprises may receive special mention:

*Allgemeines Journal der Chemie*, 10 vols., 1798-1803 (Berlin).

*Archiv fuer d. theoret. Chemie*, 4 fascicles, 1800-1802 (Jena).

*Nordische Blaetter fuer d. Chemie*, 4 fascicles, 1817-1818 (Halle).

*Allgem. nordische Annal. d. Chemie u. s. w.*, 8 vols., St. Petersburg 1819-1822.

The introduction of Lavoisier's antiphlogistic theories in Germany and Russia, also the popularization of chemistry, which at that time was attracting special attention, afforded him abundant opportunities for his energy.

Though educated primarily as a chemist, pharmacy appears to have attracted his attention at an early date as evidenced by his contribution "Ueber die Maengel der Pharmacie" in the *Berlinisches Jahrbuch der Pharmacie* for 1797. On the other hand his interest in Russian pharmacy may have been due to the fact that he found more chemically minded apothecaries than professional chemists.

The reason why Kopp barely mentions Scherer in his four volume *Geschichte der Chemie* may find an explanation in the summary of his life-work as recorded by his biographer in the *Neuer Nekrolog der Deutschen* and quoted in the *Allgem. Deutsche Biographie*:

"Er hat viel erlernt, weniger ergruendet, weil es ihm an Staetigkeit und Beharrlichkeit fehlte; er hat das hoechste Ziel seiner Wissenschaft gekannt und vor Augen gehabt, aber sich ihm nie gaenzlich genaehert, weil ihn so vieles reizte und auf Abwege fuchrte, er hat viel gearbeitet, gekaempft, mit Stuermungen und Brandungen gerungen, ist aber eigentlich nie in den Hafen eingelaufen und erst mit seinem Tode zur Ruhe gekommen."

The biographical notes in Poggendorff are based on:

(1) J. F. v. Recke und K. E. Napiersky, *Allgemeines Schriftsteller und Gelehrten-Lexikon der Provinzen Liv-, Esth- u. Curland*, 1827-1832.

(2) B. F. Voigt, *Neuer Nekrolog d. Deutschen. Jahrg.*, 1823-1852. (Publ. 1825-1854.)

- (1) *Geschichte der Pharmazie*, page 652.
- (2) *Grundzuege der Geschichte der Pharmacie*, page 184.
- (3) Phillippe-Ludwig, *Geschichte der Apotheker*, page 756.
- (4) *Ibid.*, page 872.

(5) Presumably the given names are an expression of the loyalty on the part of the parents for the country of their adoption, for both are common in the czarist family of Russia.

(6) The author of his biography in the *Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie* refers to his father, neither as German nor French, but as Alsatian. His father was German, as his name clearly indicates, but Alsace was at the time a part of France.

(7) The biographies consulted do not give the mother's maiden name, but since there were many Germans in Riga and other cities of the Baltic provinces, she also may have been German though politically a Russian, Livland belonging to Russia at the time of Scherer's birth.

(8) That the mother's family was German in sentiment is revealed by the fact that her brother sent his nephew to a German university. The French inclinations of the Alsatian father are indicated by his appearance in Paris after having deserted wife and children. (*Allgem. Deutsch Biogr.*)

(9) J. F. A. Goettling, after an apprenticeship under Wiegleb in Langensalza, came to Bucholz in Weimar, where, through Goethe's influence, he was afforded the means by the Duke Karl August of Weimar, to study in Goettingen. Later, through the same influence, he was made professor at Jena. (Schelenz, *Geschichte*, page 600.)

(10) All that the histories of pharmacy tell us about J. H. Voigt is that he was connected with Jena (Phillippe-Ludwig, page 880) and that he edited the *Magazin fuer den neusten Zustand der Naturkunde* from 1797 to 1806 (*Ibid.*, page 871).

(11) Karl August (1758-1828) well known as the life-long friend of Goethe. It was through the latter's influence that Doebereiner, a pharmacist, was appointed Professor of Chemistry at Jena.

(12) Goethe had come to Weimar late in 1775. He became interested in the mines of Ilmenau and through his mineralogical activities in the sciences generally. Becoming more and more involved in the business of government of the small Thuringian state, he no doubt sought partial relief in turning over his duties, so far as the mines were concerned, to some one else.

(13) The present university was organized in 1801, though it traces its interrupted history back as far as the gymnasium established by Gustavus Adolphus in 1630. It was practically a German university until its russification began about the middle of the eighties of the past century. Here Draggendorff and Kobert taught. During the winter semester 1893 there were 1348 students of which number 198 were pharmacists. The former "Nordic Heidelberg" became Jurjew of the Russians, now of the Livlanders.

(14) A Dr. Arzt of Saxony, who died very shortly after having assumed his position as teacher.

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#### LIMITED DEMAND FOR SICILIAN WHITE SQUILL.

While the existence of a genuine red squill in the Palermo region of Sicily is reported, dealers assert that what is called red squill is actually only a second and discolored quality of white squill. Authorities in Palermo on Sicilian products deny this, however, saying that there are two distinct varieties, of which only the white has heretofore been gathered and used. Therefore, it is believed that it is this discoloration which has led some dealers to suppose that they are dealing in red squill, which acquires its color from the nature of the soil in which it grows. The supply is almost unlimited, but the demand limits the actual harvest to between 100 and 150 tons. It is believed that this is entirely white squill. The principal growing regions are Sutura, Campofranco and Naro, all in the Province of Agrigento; Villafrati and Bosco Godrano, in the Province of Palermo; and Palagonia, in the Province of Catania. All squill grows wild, usually on otherwise useless public lands, and the right to gather it is farmed out by municipalities concerned, for a small consideration. White squill and red are said to grow in the same regions. A list of dealers in white squill at Palermo is available upon application. (Vice-Consul Walton C. Ferris, Palermo.)

## MIAMI PREPARING FOR THE A. PH. A. CONVENTION.

BY H. C. CHRISTENSEN, PRESIDENT A. PH. A.

While on a southern trip the latter part of July and early in August, I decided to take advantage of the opportunity to find out just what Miami has to offer as a convention city. As everyone knows by this time, the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION will hold its seventy-ninth annual convention in Miami, Florida, the week of July 27, 1931—Columbus Hotel, headquarters. Some of the letters received from members express the fear that the weather is excessively hot there during the month of July. Because of this, I will discuss the weather first.

## THE WEATHER.

Upon my arrival in Miami, I found the weather cooler than in Chicago when I left there. The sun is hot in Miami as it is elsewhere, but cool ocean breezes usually prevail during the summer months, especially during the month of July. These have a moderating effect so that the heat is seldom excessive. The shady side of the street is always comfortable, as are also the hotel lobbies, even during mid-day. There is always more or less of a cool breeze during the night.



Columbus Hotel, Miami—Headquarters  
A. P. H. A. meeting.

In order to make certain that I had not struck a few days of "unusual" weather, I delved into the temperature statistics. I found the average number of days per year with a temperature of 90 degrees or over, compiled from Government weather reports, as follows: Miami 4; Boston 9; Chicago 11; Indianapolis 18; Des Moines 21; St. Louis 24. Thus it will be seen that Boston has more than twice as many very hot days as Miami, Chicago almost three times, Indianapolis more than four, Des Moines more than five and St. Louis exactly six times as many. The mean high and low temperatures for July 1929 in Miami were as follows: High 86; low 74. During the month of July, the weather conditions are more settled than in late August and in September, when the heat and humidity are greater. For that reason, the last week in July was chosen as the convention date. This particular time of the month also gives visitors an opportunity to see the tropical beauty

under a full moon. Also, there is ample time for a vacation trip before the college season opens.

I would remind those who are worrying about Miami weather of the St. Louis and Baltimore conventions. A number of our people remained away from the St. Louis meeting anticipating excessive heat. What actually happened was that the cold caused almost everyone to leave the outdoor municipal opera before the performance was half over, notwithstanding extra blankets and overcoats. Weather is often a matter of breaks. Baltimore in May was unusually hot this year. A southern city may be comparatively cool and a northern point hot. Therefore, let me urge members not to decide in advance how hot the weather will be. Bear in mind that no point in Florida is in excess of 80 miles from the Atlantic and Gulf shores, with prevailing breezes to maintain a delightful temperature. Statistics show that Miami has the lowest maximum temperature of any city in the United States.

## THE LOCAL COMMITTEE.

Both the committee as a whole and its individual members have proven themselves to be fast workers. This show of activity a full year in advance of the date fixed for the convention

is proof positive to me that those who attend the convention, as well as guests, may look forward to a very busy and interesting time.

The morning of my arrival in Miami, Chairman Clemmer called a meeting of the committee for ten o'clock and every member was present at the appointed hour. Preliminary plans for the convention period were gone over. Dr. J. H. Beal, now a resident of Florida, had previously met with the committee and rendered valuable aid in outlining a preliminary plan of program and giving helpful suggestions for approaching problems confronting the committee. Through his influence, the state association was induced to change plans previously made for its convention, so that the same will be held in Miami concurrent with the A. Ph. A. meetings. Incidentally, the Local Committee arranged for me to address Florida pharmacists over the radio one of the evenings while there, urging them to lend their support and coöperation to making the 1931 meeting a success.

The committee held several meetings while I was there. Between sessions, I was taken on tours of inspection by automobile and shown the "Magic City," its ocean drives and boulevards, Coral Gables, the beaches and the many facilities for entertaining guests.

Even at this early date, the entertainment features of the program are well advanced, except for the working out of final details. There will be special entertainment for the ladies; surf and pool bathing with a program of water sports by experts at Miami Beach; an entire evening of entertainment and dancing at the wonderful new pier just being completed there. Also, street dancing by moonlight under the palms; trips in glass bottom boats out to the Coral Reefs and Marine Gardens with gorgeous under water views; another trip up the Miami River to the Everglades, and a visit to the Seminole Indian villages, seeing the alligator farms and tropical wild life en route. The Royal Palm State Park, wildly beautiful, containing natural growth of Royal Palms and tropical flora growing nowhere else on the continent. Also a trip to Dr. Petersen's "Bonita Grove" where he has over 7000 tropical fruit bearing and other plants, imported from all over the world—the largest variety and assortment of rare plants, shrubs and trees in the United States, which should prove interesting to our botanists. But I have forgotten to mention the many automobile drives and sightseeing trips to Coral Gables, Miami Beach, and the surrounding country—also banquets, etc.

The business sessions of the convention will be the outstanding feature, but it is too early now to make any announcements with regard to the business program. Every pharmacist who attends will find himself well repaid. In this age of corporations and mergers, individuals must unite as a group if their efforts are to be successful.

#### A VACATION IN FLORIDA AND CUBA.

For those who are planning a vacation either before or after the convention, there are many suggestions. To the golfer, Miami offers many splendid courses, easily accessible. Tennis, swimming, pool and surf bathing, fishing, cruises to the Island Kingdom—all these will assure a good time. For motor enthusiasts, there are splendid roads through ever-changing tropical scenery (Chairman Clemmer drove me from Daytona to Miami—I speak from personal experience).

Arrangements are being made by the Committee for a trip to Havana, Cuba, leaving Miami by train on the Saturday morning, after the close of the convention at 7:15 A.M., and arriving in Key West *via* the Over Seas Railroad about four hours later, thence by ship to Havana, arriving in the late afternoon. The Cuban Pharmaceutical Association will greet the members of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and is planning a banquet and entertainment in its honor.

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday will be devoted to sightseeing, including Moro Castle, Cabana Fortress, Tropical Gardens and old Havana, where foreign atmosphere and antiquity predominate.

The entire cost of the trip, Miami to Havana and return, including railroad fare, steamship fare, and meals en route, and hotel expense will be about \$75.00. Very considerably, the meals while in Cuba have not been included as the committee anticipates that the visitors will only have to buy their breakfasts as special invitations and banquets will provide for the rest.

The party will return to Florida on Wednesday. A special program will be planned by the committee for those who remain in Florida and do not take the Cuban trip.

## TRANSPORTATION.

The opportunities of making a delightful vacation out of the journey to Miami, either going or returning, are also many.

For those living in the Middle West and the East, a long rail trip can be avoided by making connection with coastwise steamers at either New York or Baltimore. Special parties will be organized.

The Pacific Coast members have the opportunity of making the entire trip by water, going through the Panama Canal. Here too arrangements can be made in advance for a group.

The busy people who must leave at the latest possible moment and arrive in the shortest time will, of course, in the majority of cases travel by rail. Fast through trains and through car service from the North and the West connecting with and operated over the Florida East Coast Railway direct to Miami provide the shortest and most direct route. Skirting as it does the scenic shores of East Florida between Jacksonville and Miami, it passes through many points of interest—historic St. Augustine, Ormond, Daytona Beach, along the beautiful Indian River, and through the magnificent Palm Beaches.

Round trip tickets to Miami routed *via* Seaboard Air Line Railway will also be made available and will be optional *via* Tampa or St. Petersburg or both without additional charge. This



Bay Front Hotels in Miami, where the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION Meets, 1931.

will give opportunity to take a post-convention or pre-convention tour *via* regular daily trains to the West Coast, and if desired, stopping off at West Lake Wales to visit Bok's famous tower without extra charge. These tickets are also honored on bus between West Lake Wales and St. Petersburg affording the opportunity of a three and one-half hour sightseeing trip through a most beautiful section of Florida.

Motorists will find hundreds of miles of well-paved roads in Florida through tropical jungles and along the shores of the ocean and banks of the rivers to make the trip interesting.

Detailed information will be given later with regard to reduced railroad fares, and other final convention information.

## HOTELS.

The headquarters hotel—the Columbus—is modern in every respect, built to provide every comfort for its guests and those attending the business sessions. A spacious lobby on the second floor of the building with a comfortable veranda will be an ideal place for congregating. An open air meeting room is also available.

The Columbus is surrounded by three other good hotels, within a block or two; within not more than three blocks are six hotels. There is no doubt, therefore, that the hotel facilities are more than ample. This is one of the most beautiful sections of Miami with its Bay Front

boulevard and Bay Front park skirting the shores of Bay Biscayne. The business section is several blocks distant, an easy walk, far enough away to be out of city noises and distractions.

The McAllister Hotel adjoins the Columbus, separated only by an arcade. The Leamington Hotel opposite the Columbus and the Watson a short block away provide possibly less luxurious but very comfortable and modern accommodations at a lower price. Arrangements are being made for special rates at all of these hotels, which will be announced later.

#### DEEP SEA FISHING.

To accomplish the full purpose of this article, I must pass along the glad tidings to those of the pharmaceutical tribe who, like myself, enjoy piscatorial sport, that here off the shores of Miami is a fisherman's paradise. The Local Committee will see to it that anyone's desires in that direction are gratified. I speak from personal experience.

On the last day of my stay in Miami, the Committee gave me a happy surprise by inviting me to accompany four of its members on a deep-sea fishing trip. Our party consisted of Chairman John K. Clemmer; Local Secretary, G. H. Grommet; A. Finstead; Wm. Fossett; Captain Joe, a general utility man; and yours truly. Mr. Finstead, with the natural intuition, instinct or whatever it is, of his Norse forbears, selected a boat from the Miami Charter fishing fleet—Inwood, the Second. The Miami Charter fishing fleet, by the way, is reputed to be the largest in the U. S.

We spent the day surface-fishing in the Gulf Stream, most of the time ten or fifteen miles from shore. We intended to come in closer to shore toward evening for bottom fishing but a storm—a typical, tropical squall of comparatively short duration—caused us to change our plans.

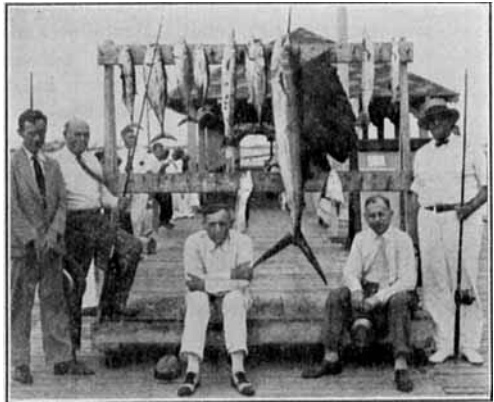
There were thrills aplenty. Our catch consisted of one sailfish, fully six feet in length, caught by Secretary Grommet, and a goodly number of barracuda and bonita ranging in weight from 10 to 30 lbs.

A lack of space and the insufficiency of words prevent my giving a description of the almost constant thrills and excitement of such a day of sport. I do, however, want to relate one unique experience. I hooked a bonita which, judging from the fight he put up under severe handicap, must have weighed thirty or forty pounds.

After a hard and thrilling half hour of manuevering, I succeeded in bringing him to within twenty-five or thirty yards of the boat. However, at that point, Mr. Fish again took command, and in spite of anything I could do, made a run straight out for about 150 yards. Then, all of a sudden, there was a slackened line. I started to reel in, feeling certain that I had lost my fish. Imagine my surprise, when I reeled up close, at finding that only the head of the fish remained on the hook. Evidently when the fish made his last desperate attempt at freedom, he was being pursued by a shark that overtook him and left only the head.

While this is a true fish story, I am not unmindful of the hesitancy with which it may be received. I can't prove it by "Bill Jones" but I can prove it by the three members of the committee who were with me, and whose reputation for veracity is unquestionable. Also, a picture of not only the fishermen but the head of the fish.

There are many other varieties of fish besides those we caught in these waters. The experts and even the novices can try their luck with a good measure of success. These include the marlin tarpon, dolphin, amber jack, etc. However, I want to state now and here that the pursuit and landing of some of the individuals of the finny tribes here named can hardly be called "the gentle art of Izaak Walton."



Left to right—W. E. Fossett, President H. C. Christensen, A. Finstad, Local Secretary G. H. Grommet, John Clemmer. Above, on the right of the Local Secretary is the head of a fish as evidence that President Christensen caught it, but a shark left him only the head.

## PHARMACY WEEK REPORT.

BY ROBERT J. RUTH, NATIONAL CHAIRMAN.

Remarkable in scope and attention-compelling interest and entirely devoid of any tinge of commercialism to detract from its effectiveness, the sixth annual observance of National Pharmacy Week will go down in pharmaceutical history as a mighty accomplishment, the consummation of which is a tribute to organized effort—in this instance to the pharmacists of the nation who united with all qualifying allied agencies to carry the story of professional pharmacy and pharmaceutical service to an appreciative public which is each year becoming better acquainted with and interested in the pharmacist, his problems and status.

A message from President Hoover to the pharmacists of the nation gave fitting official recognition to the Pharmacy Week observance which is and always must be directly in the interest of the public health. President Hoover's message is as follows:

"On the development of drugs and their uses depend to a considerable degree the health and the welfare of the people of the world. Daily our laboratories are engaged in the pursuit of newer knowledge which will make constantly more effective the unending combat against illness and disease. The pharmacists of our country are indispensable allies of the physicians. It is fitting, therefore, that each year we should formally acknowledge our indebtedness to them. I am glad to extend to the pharmacists of the nation the good wishes of all our people."

Arthur W. Hyde, Secretary of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and Julius Klein, Assistant Secretary of the U. S. Department of Commerce contributed to the governmental recognition given the importance of Pharmacy Week by their special messages for the occasion. Such coöperation is very cheering to pharmacists and those connected with or interested in Pharmacy.

The radio program broadcast from more than a hundred stations and reaching 80,000,000 people in the United States and Canada, the many thousands of noteworthy professional window displays in pharmacies, the hundreds of public addresses made by pharmacists in every part of the country and the flood of newspaper spreads, news stories and editorials which occupied hundreds of thousands of priceless inches of "white space" in the press of the nation and which gave Pharmacy Week a truly Coast-to-Coast coverage, were an indication of the extraordinary interest which the movement commands and its astounding growth since the first observance only five years ago, in 1925.

Just as impressive was the Canadian observance of Pharmacy Week, which is so closely linked with that of the United States because of the constant contact which the National Executive Committee on Pharmacy Week enjoys with the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association and through this great representative pharmaceutical body in the Dominion this contact is carried to our brother pharmacists who comprise the membership of the various provincial associations in our friendly sister nation.

This laudable Pharmacy Week movement which has spread around the world, first from the United States and Canada to England, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania—all of the English-speaking countries and now to several lands where the English tongue is not spoken—has accomplished something of importance for which purpose it was not originally launched. Pharmacy Week has rekindled the love of professional pharmacy in the hearts of thousands of pharmacists who were, perhaps, not aware that their pharmacies were rapidly losing professional appearance, prestige and practice. Pharmacy Week is helping to bring the colored show bottles—ancient symbols of the profession—back to the pharmacies of the nation.

In his splendid Pharmacy Week proclamation, President H. C. Christensen, of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION said: "The professional side of Pharmacy is the one and only part of the business responsible for the legal recognition given the pharmacist under state pharmacy laws; it is the only excuse for his existence." That the pharmacists of this country realize the truth and wisdom of these words is evidenced by their active and whole-hearted support of the sixth annual observance of Pharmacy Week.

It cannot be doubted that the public has been impressed by the importance of the practice of pharmacy and by the fact that the services of the pharmacist are indispensable in any commu-



nity. Pharmacy Week has set up a new standard for the pharmacist in the public mind which the public will expect him to live up to. This will be a helpful influence and the pharmacist will not violate this public confidence but will strive as never before to deserve the public trust.

To President Hoover, U. S. Senator Royal S. Copeland, Secretary Hyde and Assistant-Secretary Klein, to the officers and members of the national, state and local pharmaceutical associations, retail pharmacists, wholesalers and manufacturers, the publishers, editors and members of the staffs of all journals of pharmacy, the many newspapers and radio stations, the officers, deans and faculty members of the colleges of pharmacy and all others who contributed so generously to the success of Pharmacy Week, the members of the National Executive Committee on Pharmacy Week extend their deepest appreciation and take this opportunity to ask for continued cooperation and support of the seventh annual observance of Pharmacy Week, October 11-17, 1931.

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#### NATIONAL DRUG TRADE CONFERENCE.

The Executive Committee of the National Drug Trade Conference met on November 5th, in Baltimore. A program of discussions for the meeting of the Conference was prepared. The annual meeting will be held in Washington, December 10th.

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#### NEWS BULLETINS OF THE DRUG TRADE BUREAU OF PUBLIC INFORMATION.

Director Robert P. Fischelis, has issued further bulletins of the Drug Trade Bureau of Public Information.

Bulletin No. 38 refers to the use of *Daphnia* for experimental purposes in the standardization and study of drugs, by Dr. Arnold Viehoveer; No. 39 relates to the Leadbeater pharmacy in Alexandria, Va., carried on by a grandson of the founder, two great, great, grandsons; a great, great, great, grandson; and a great, great, great, grand-daughter. In the list of those of the family who in successive generations were interested in this pharmacy is the late Richard H. Stabler, a former president of the A. Ph. A. A brief article relating to this pharmacy will be found elsewhere in this issue of the JOURNAL; No. 40 relates to an address before the N. W. D. A. by Prof H. F. Ostlund, of the University of Minnesota, on wholesale drug distribution, in which he presented facts and figures refuting the charge that wholesale drug distribution is a wasteful enterprise. In the address he detailed a systematic business conduct; No. 41 discusses the article by E. A. Ruddiman, published in the JOURNAL A. Ph. A. for September, page 957; No. 42 deals with the report of the Committee on Proprietary Goods made at the meeting of the National Wholesale Druggists Association on free goods deals; No. 43 brings out points of the interesting address by Dr. James H. Beal before the Wisconsin Pharmaceutical Association; No. 45 relates to "Studies on Strychnine" by Ward and Munch, published in the September and October numbers of the JOURNAL A. Ph. A.; No. 46 relates to the Medicinal Plant Garden, of the University of Florida, and a paper on "Licorice Fern" published in the JOURNAL A. Ph. A., by Fischer and Goodrich, beginning on page 1063.

Interesting matter sent along with the *bulletins* are papers by Dr. Robert P. Fischelis read before the N. A. R. D. Convention explaining the work and success of the Drug Trade Bureau of Public Information; the report of the Committee on the Cost of Medical Care was referred to in the *bulletins* of the Drug Trade Bureau, in the October JOURNAL; radio talks by Robert P. Fischelis, *secretary* and *chief chemist* of the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy, on "Guarding the Purity of Your Drugs;" and another by Dr. H. V. Army, dean of the College of Pharmacy, Columbia University, on "Pharmacy's Contribution to Your Health." The latter talks were part of the program of Pharmacy Week.

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#### AMERICAN REGISTERED PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION.

We are indebted to Mr. Henry Colle for the data relative to the functions of the above named organization, which is now thirty years old. It is an association of employee pharmacists.

Mr. Colle states that "the fundamental responsibility of any organization of pharmacists is the consciousness of the group for the welfare of the public health and safety, and the American

Registered Pharmacists is an organization which has long recognized these principles. Its directors know that if the organization is to expand it is only by the constant education of the public to the value of the services of the trained employee professional pharmacists, as well as the trained employer professional pharmacist. The inculcation in its membership that the chief hope by which it can attain its objective is the giving of service of the highest type.

"Another objective correlated with the former is the recognition of the pharmacist as a trained professional man in the same class and on the same plane as the qualified and experienced physician and dentist. A second objective is the securing of adequate compensation for service rendered, and working conditions commensurate with the dignity of a professional man.

"The American Registered Pharmacists Association has its offices in San Francisco; headed by Fred A. Lion, an able executive director; it is governed by a National Board of Governors who are selected from the membership to formulate its policies and guidance of the Association. It has units of membership operating as local chapters in San Francisco, Oakland, Sacramento, Stockton, San Jose, Fresno, Bakersfield and a division with headquarters in Los Angeles, known as the Southern Division of the Association. In addition locals are under way in Minnesota and Washington State so that the organization is now national in scope. For thirty years the organization has labored to improve the condition affecting employee pharmacists, particularly in California. The Association credits itself with the framing of the California prerequisite bill, a law since 1928; the nine-hour law—a law on the California statute books since 1920, and other laws affecting the status of employee pharmacists. The Association is an acknowledged force to be reckoned with in the enforcement of the California pharmacy law.

"In addition to the qualification of being either a registered pharmacist, or a registered assistant pharmacist there is a rigid requirement regarding the fitness and the character of the applicant for admission. The application is passed on by the Board of Governors, and his credentials must be sponsored by responsible parties. Employers are admitted as associate members. Their dues are five dollars per year, including a subscription to the *Journal*, which the Association publishes monthly, but does not confer on them the right to vote. Regular members of the Association pay ten dollars per year if the dues are paid in advance, or a dollar per month if the dues are paid monthly.

"The Association has as its slogan, 'not solely by legislation, but also by education.' A slogan which is lived up to in that at all branch meetings a speaker, or a subject of educational interest to pharmacists is the main feature. The stand of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy in demanding a four-year course of student pharmacists-to-be, is in line with the times and we are confident that our association will sponsor it.

"Our *Journal* constantly urges its membership to continue their studies as pharmacists. It urges coöperation in all association affairs, whether it be in our Association or other organizations. *The American Registered Pharmacist* advocates a wage scale of \$200.00 per month for Registered Licentiate Pharmacists and \$165.00 per month for Registered Assistant Pharmacists. Investigations have shown that the greater number of our membership are receiving that amount and many are paid more. There is a constant emphasis to the employee pharmacist that he is a professional man, and that he conduct himself as such. The term 'drug clerk' is abhorrent to us; it smacks of subserviency. We want our membership to be anything but that. A reader may ask, 'How do employers react to the policies of the association?'—'Very favorably.'

"Speaking at the banquet of the California Pharmaceutical Association in convention at Pasadena last June, Mr. Dickinson, a former president of the California State Board of Pharmacy paid a fine tribute to the work of the American Registered Pharmacists Association. Each year the Association conducts its own convention; members and delegates attend from all parts of the State for discussion of problems that affect the employee pharmacist. At the Stockton meeting Mr. John M. Culley, now a member of the American Registered Pharmacists Association, was the speaker at the banquet which closed the convention.

"It is the belief of Association advocates that the employee pharmacist has interests distinct from those of his employer and that those interests are best served through an organization representing their aims. Not all pharmacists can become the proprietors of pharmacies, following graduation from college; the greater number cannot do so for a good many years. It is to serve this class of pharmacists who after all constitute the majority in the practice of pharmacy, that the American Registered Pharmacists Association functions, and will continue to serve."