



M. ALBERT GORIS.

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION

VOL. XIX

JUNE, 1930

No. 6

M. ALBERT GORIS.

Our recently elected member, of France, M. Albert Goris—Doctor of Natural Sciences, Pharmacien-Chef des Hôpitaux, Directeur de la Pharmacie Centrale des Hôpitaux et Hospices civils de Paris, Laureate of the Institute of the Academy of Medicine, Chevalier of the Legion of Honor—is a member of the Codex Commission; also, professor of Galenical Pharmacy.

M. Goris was born in 1874; he carried on all his pharmaceutical studies in the Faculty of Pharmacy of Paris, where he became successively assistant professor, and chief of the Micrographical Department; other advancements will be noted later.

Early in his professional career his research activities were devoted to botanical and histological studies, and in this connection the work on the structure of aconite roots is outstanding, for it contributed knowledge relating to the identification and sources of different species of aconite. The practical application of Professor Goris' research is noteworthy, not only in the subjects mentioned but also in pharmacy and chemistry. We find him engaged in Government work for the standardization of drugs, their identification and purity, and in the laboratories of Prof. Emile Perrot in coöperative research.

His investigations of glucosides and alkaloids are included in various text and reference books. The line of inquiry and thought of his researches are directed to find the place and purpose of these principles in plant economy, what their origin, their destination and fate. He framed an hypothesis which regards them as products of catabolism from cellular activity in some such way as glycuronic acid is related to the phenol excretion in animals.¹ His researches on Kola explained the reason of differences in activity between the undried and the dried nut. He isolated kolatine and kolateine, which in the former state are combined with water, forming a dissociable compound like other caffeine combinations. In the

¹ A. Goris, "Localisation et rôle des alkaloides et des glucosides chez les vegetaux." Preface de M. le Prof. Guignard, Paris, Le Chevalier, 1914.

presence of cardiac muscle this compound possesses a peculiar property in that the two compounds act antagonistically from the point of view of muscle contraction and behave synergistically from the point of view of muscle toxicity. In the dry nut, the kolatine is oxidized and the effect of the drug is that of caffeine alone (*Pharmaceutical Journal and Pharmacist*, 1906 and 1908). He isolated the glucosides of primrose and discovered a new biose, primiverose and established its chemical composition. He showed that the odor (anise-like, later that of methyl salicylate) can be obtained by the splitting of the glucosides by a specific ferment.—See PROCEEDINGS, A. PH. A., 1910, page 176.

In the course of his researches on mushrooms he was among the first to demonstrate the presence of urea in the plant world. He contributed to our knowledge of the fatty matter which envelopes the tubercle bacilli; he isolated certain waxes and fatty bodies, mykole, hyalinol, etc.

In recent years, the work of Dr. Goris has been in association with Dr. Emile Perrot on the standardization of galenical preparations. On comparing the activity of certain galenicals with their content of active principles, chemically determined, he has studied the interaction and relation of chemical constituents; thus, the presence of anthonine with aconitine (see YEAR BOOK A. PH. A., for 1925, page 184), brucine with strychnine, etc.

Our honorary member has made the Pharmacie Centrale de Hôpitaux et Hospices Civils an institution of great public service to pharmacy and to the City of Paris. We welcome him as an honorary member of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and invite him to share in our work for the advancement of pharmacy.

BILL TO ESTABLISH NARCOTIC BUREAU.

AMENDMENTS OF SENATE AND HOUSE AGREED UPON IN MEASURE FOR NEW UNIT IN TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

Senate and House action sent to President Hoover for signing, June 6th, legislation (H. R. 11143) to create a narcotic bureau in the Treasury Department.

The measure passed the Senate unanimously June 5th, with amendments and returned to the House where it originated. The House in turn, amended the bill in a minor detail, which the Senate then approved.

One of the Senate amendments related to the importation of coca leaves. The other provided that the Secretary of the Treasury cooperate with the several states in suppression of the abuse of narcotic drugs in their respective jurisdictions.

Representative W. C. Hawley, of Salem, Ore., Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, on June 6th asked unanimous consent that the House agree to the Senate amendments which he said were only of a minor corrective nature. The House agreed.

Explanation of the amendment relating to coca leaves is given in a letter addressed to Senator Reed Smoot, of Utah, Chairman of the Finance Committee by the Acting Secretary of State, J. P. Cotton, April 24, 1930. The letter states that the Department feels the adoption of the bill without amendment in this connection would operate to increase the excess supply of cocaine available for illicit traffic.