

macy as a science or profession be left to those who can afford to adopt it as an interesting pastime.

ABSTRACT OF DISCUSSION.

Charles T. Heller said that the time to start work on proposed legislation is to go to the candidates before they are elected and let them know of contemplated legislation, or of opposition to proposed legislation.

Robert P. Fischelis said that in New Jersey they had sent out letters prior to election, but not all of the candidates for the Legislature, supported by the pharmacists, were elected.

A. L. I. Winne said that in Virginia the Secretary spends most of his time at the capitol during legislative sessions. That he had worked with legislators so long that they have confidence in him and, as a result, there is a better chance for securing the desired results. He also stated that when important legislation is up, pharmacists are asked to share in the work by seeing their representatives on the subject under consideration.

FLUECKIGERIANA.*†

BY EDWARD KREMERS.

V. FLUECKIGER LETTERS TO POWER 1882-1890.

Under this caption the writer, in 1924, published several letters written by Professor F. A. Flueckiger to Dr. Frederick Hoffmann between the years of 1891 and 1894. The immediate object had been to glean additional information about the friendship existing between Professor Flueckiger and Dr. E. R. Squibb as a contribution to the life and work of the latter. Unfortunately, Flueckiger's letters to Squibb have been destroyed by fire and, whereas Squibb's letters to Flueckiger are said to have been deposited in the archives of the Pharmaceutical Institute at Strassburg, all efforts to locate them have failed thus far.¹

The letters to Hoffmann referred to culminate in information concerning Flueckiger's visit to this country as the guest of Squibb in 1894. Having retired from the Strassburg faculty, Flueckiger had returned to Bern to devote the remaining years of his life to the writing of a History of Drugs. No sooner had he settled down to this task when he realized the importance of additional knowledge about American medicinal plants. So, when Dr. Squibb renewed his invitation, Prof. Flueckiger accepted it. Recently, we were supplied with a bird's eye view of this trip by extracts from the diary of Miss Augusta Flueckiger, now the wife of Dr. Oesterle, who, in 1894, had accompanied her father to this country.² This sketchy account has been supplemented by letters written by Flueckiger himself, while in this country, to his friend and associate, Tschirch,³ in Bern; also by an

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† Previous contributions under this general caption have appeared in the following order:

I. Briefe Flueckigers and Hoffmann, *N. Y. Apt. Ztg.*, 45 (1924), 110 and 122.

II. Aus dem Tagebuch Augusta Flueckigers, *Ibid.*, 49 (1928), 57.

III. Flueckigers Amerika Briefe an Tschirch, *do.*, 142 and 155; 50 (1929), 1 and 15.

IV. Lloyd's conference with Flueckiger in New York, *Jour. A. Ph. A.*, 19 (1930), 151.

¹ See correspondence in Flueckiger folder with Dr. Paul Dorveaux, Dr. Henri Werner, Prof. Fernand Jadin, Prof. Wolfram, Frau Dr. Oesterle.

² See "Flueckigeriana," II.

³ *Ibidem*, III.

account supplied by J. U. Lloyd.¹ Unfortunately, the fruits of this journey were not permitted to mature for Professor Flueckiger died shortly after his return to Bern.

An additional link between Flueckiger and this country is supplied by the letters herewith given to the pharmaceutical public. While editing Flueckiger's letters to Hoffmann in 1924, the writer wrote to his teacher and friend, Dr. Frederick B. Power, then in Washington, D. C., asking for the loan of letters he had received from Flueckiger. These were promised, but were not readily available at the time because they had been stored in Hudson, N. Y., the former home of Dr. Power. When the National Academy of Science met in Madison in November 1926, Dr. Power came a week earlier than the date set for the meeting in order to visit with old time friends. Again the matter was talked over and again Dr. Power promised to send the letters when a visit to Hudson should enable him to go over papers stored away in his old home. A few months later Dr. Power passed away.

Inasmuch as the life long friend and P. C. P. classmate of Dr. Power, Mr. Henry S. Wellcome, decided to make a special exhibit of Power material in the Wellcome Medical Museum in London, Mrs. Heimké, daughter of Dr. Power, thought it best not to separate the Flueckiger letters from other correspondence of her father. Naturally, the writer gladly relinquished any claims that he had in order that the memory of his teacher and friend might best be preserved. Mrs. Heimké, however, consented to have the letters copied and, at her request, Mr. S. Nevin of the New York office of Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. was kind enough to have photostatic copies prepared for the writer.

For a better understanding, it should be stated that, after having graduated from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 1874, Frederick B. Power, in 1876, went to Strassburg where he studied four years at the newly established "Reichs-universitaet." During the last year he acted as Flueckiger's assistant and, having received his doctor's degree in 1880, he returned to this country. For several years he was a member of the faculty of the P. C. P. and in 1883 was elected to the Professorship of Pharmacy and Materia Medica at the University of Wisconsin to take charge of the newly established Department of Pharmacy.²

The first communication is dated Strassburg July 8, 1882, and was addressed to Philadelphia, as was also the second. The remaining eleven communications were addressed to Madison. Everyone acquainted with Flueckiger and Hanbury's "Pharmacographia" must have realized that the Strassburg professor was well acquainted with the English language. That he should use it in his private correspondence with a former student perfectly familiar with German will, no doubt, come as a surprise to not a few. No attempt has, therefore, been made to correct any orthographic or grammatical errors.

It has already been pointed out that in these letters we have another link that connected Professor Flueckiger with this country. Possibly few of the younger

¹ *Ibidem.*, IV.

² A biographical sketch of Frederick B. Power may be consulted in J. W. England—"The first century of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, 1821-1921," page 410. An appreciation of Dr. Power's work as an investigator by Ivor Griffith will be found in the *Am. J. Pharm.*, 96 (1924), 601.

generation of American pharmacists are acquainted with Flueckiger's "China Rinden" and Flueckiger and Tschirch's "Grundzuege der Pharmacognosie," both of which were translated by Power, and both of which are referred to repeatedly in the letters now to be published. No doubt, these letters will prove welcome reading to many a young pharmaceutical scientist who, not content with facts and generalizations, desires to have his science humanized.

This, the first communication, a post-card, is undated by the writer. It bears the postmark Strassburg, Jan. 10, 1883.

"I have been much pleased with your good news and proceeded immediately to Prof. Groth,¹ who is always very obliging as you know. Yet, unfortunately, he says that he has more work at hand than time to perform it. He has carefully preserved, but not yet measured your crystals of *hydrastine*.² I fear, the answer will be the same all the year round. Perhaps a few words from yourself would be more successful.

"I see I would not be able to do your work,³ certainly there will not be any possibility for original investigation, but I think your task as it is quite satisfactory enough. Mind what poor fellows we are in Germany in the so-called Pharmaceutisches Institute!⁴—I am occupied with a little monograph: 'Chinarinden,'⁵ a pamphlet of about 60 pages with 4 or 5 plates. It will be printed in a few weeks. Perhaps it would be not so bad to cause it to be translated into English. My intention is to part with the old views and to show how the matter is to-day.—Being not sure whether I have returned my thanks to Prof. Maisch⁶ for his *extremely nice* 'Mat. medica,'⁶ I should be much obliged, if you will kindly tell him how much I am pleased with it.

"With kindest regards.

Yours very truly,

F. A. FLUECKIGER."

This, the second post-card, is likewise undated by the writer, but bears the postmark Strassburg, July 8, 1883 (?), also that of Philadelphia, July 22nd.

¹ Paul Groth. When after the Franco-Prussian war, the old German university at Strassburg was reorganized as an imperial university, Groth was appointed Professor of Mineralogy, about the same time that Flueckiger was appointed Professor of Pharmacy. He had previously become well known as the author of "Physikalische Krystallographie." Apparently, Power had attended his lectures while at Strassburg and now had expressed a desire to have crystallographic measurements made of the handsome crystals of hydrastine prepared by him.

² The following papers on hydrastine were published by Power: On Hydrastine, *Proc. A. Ph. A.*, 32 (1884), 448; also *Pharm. Rundschau*, 2 (1884), 212. On a third alkaloid of Hydrastis root, *Pharm. Rundschau*, 9 (1891), 262.

³ What Flueckiger evidently means to say is that he would not be content to devote so much of his time to routine teaching and other non-productive duties. If Power had few facilities for research, Flueckiger reminds him of the material poverty of the Strassburg Pharmaceutical Institute in which Power had found such great spiritual wealth.

⁴ An account of the history of the Pharmaceutical Institute in Strassburg was published in 1906 by Ed. Schaer. See "Festschrift zur Einweihung des neuen pharmazeutischen Institutes der Universitaet Strassburg." However, Flueckiger did not live to see the institute. Power, then Director of the Wellcome Chemical Research Laboratory in London, attended the dedication of the new Institute.

⁵ As we shall see later, this book was translated into English by Power.

⁶ Maisch was at that time Dean of the P. C. P. and Professor of Botany and Materia Medica whereas Power was Professor of Analytical Chemistry. Maisch's "Materia Medica" appeared in 1882, the second edition in 1885. Hence it must have been the first edition to which Flueckiger refers. His comment on the book "extremely nice" is rather significant. Compared with Flueckiger's "Pharmacognosie des Pflanzenreiches," the second edition of which had appeared in 1881, Maisch's "Materia Medica" was a rather elementary text. One may suspect that, by conveying his thanks indirectly, Flueckiger deliberately avoided writing his American colleague.

"Many thanks for your kind note of Dec. 29th, which just reached me, Jan. 10th. I can only confirm what I wrote, by post-card, a few days ago, to Prof. Maisch,¹ that is, that I shall be pleased with a translation of 'Die Chinارينden'² brought out by your care. As to the conditions of the publication you may do as you think proper and also with regard to Dr. Rice.³ I have also informed the latter of your intention and directed him to agree with you. It would scarcely be prudent to publish the paper before hand in *New Remedies*⁴ and it will now *not* be done *without* your permission.—I am very zealously engaged in the last Part of my new *Pharmakognosie*,⁵ *i. e.*, the new edition, a very tiring task.

"All my family unites in kindest regards to you.—My second son (the 'fighting' lad⁶ of 3 years ago!) is now an accomplished physician giving me much satisfaction.

Yours very truly,

F. A. FLUECKIGER."

I shall be able to add a few notes of recent information immediately before you go to press.⁷

¹ It would seem that Professor Maisch had suggested Dr. Power as translator.

² "Die Chinارينden. In *Pharmakognostischer Hinsicht dargestellt...*" 1883. A review of this treatise appeared in the *Am. J. Pharm.*, 55, p. 56.

³ Dr. Chas. Rice was not only Pharmacist at the Bellevue Hospital, but also Editor of *New Remedies*. Apparently some one had suggested that the translation appear upon the instalment plan in *New Remedies* before being issued in book form.

⁴ *New Remedies* were first published as quarterly by Wm. Wood & Co., New York, in 1872 and edited by Horatio C. Wood of Philadelphia. In 1873 Fred A. Castle of New York became editor. From 1876 on it was published monthly with Fred. A. Castle and Chas. Rice as editors. *Pharm. Rundschau*, 12, p. 133.

⁵ The first edition of Flueckiger's "Pharmacognosie" had appeared in 1867, the second in 1883 and the third in 1891.

⁶ When Dr. Power paid his last visit to Madison in November 1926, he related the incident to which Professor Flueckiger here refers. As a Swiss, Professor Flueckiger was opposed to the German student "Mensur," commonly referred to as duel in this country. (In Germany the duel is a serious affair, whereas the "Mensur" is more a matter of "sport," comparable, with reference to danger, to our football.) One day his son came to him announcing that he was going on a "tour" for a few days. When he returned his face was bandaged revealing that he had been in a "Mensur." The father felt hurt, not so much that his son had taken part in a "Mensur" but rather at the little deception practiced by the son. Apparently, he realized at the time of writing that his son had little choice in the matter and that even the deception practiced was due to filial regard for the father, rather than to any desire to tell an untruth.

⁷ The footnote apparently refers to Power's translation of the "Chinarinden" for the English edition of which Flueckiger wanted to supply a few corrections or additions, or both.

(To be continued)

THE BRITISH PHARMACOPŒIA.

"We learn from more than one source that the Pharmacopœia Commission is directing the work of preparing the New Edition of the British Pharmacopœia with commendable energy, and that the various sub-committees are doing their job thoroughly and expeditiously—so much so that the Pharmacopœia is practically certain to be issued in 1931. It is likely, one understands, to shock the orthodox physician and pharmacist both by its omissions and its inclusions, but it is expected to be a more workmanlike and practical volume than its predecessors." The *Journal and Pharmacist* says that "in view of the long and eventually successful fight to secure adequate recognition of the pharmacist as an essential partner in the production of the British Pharmacopœia, it is interesting to read the animated discussion concerning the directing personnel of the Revision Committee of the United States Pharmacopœia which took place at the recent Convention."