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The Association does not accept the responsibility for the opinions of contributors. Offensive personalities must be avoided.

THE HUGHES-BACON BILLS.

THE bill to Promote the Efficiency of the Hospital Corps of the United States Army has been reintroduced in the 63rd congress by Representative Hughes and Senator Bacon, the only changes in the text being the retention of the title Hospital Corps, instead of the title Medical Corps proposed by the original bill, the limiting of the number of sergeants major to 30, and of sergeants first-class to 300, and the dropping of the grade of privates first class.

The text of the present bill reads as follows:

"That the Hospital Corps of the United States Army shall constitute the enlisted personnel of the Hospital Corps now authorized by law and shall consist of thirty sergeants major, at \$75 per month; three hundred sergeants, first class, at \$65 per month; sergeants, at \$36 per month; corporals, at \$24 per month; cooks, at \$30 per month; privates, first class, at \$21 per month, and privates at \$16 per month, with such increase for length of service and other allowances as are or may hereafter be established by law."

Though brief in its terms, the bill is believed by those who have studied the subject to provide the means necessary to bring about the changes in status and pay that have been so long desired, and that seem to be absolutely necessary to bring the personnel of the Hospital Corps to a grade of efficiency commensurate with the grade of service which its members are expected to render.

The manner in which the surgeon-general of the army views the proposed reform is expressed in his annual report for 1912, in which he says:

"This office last year in a memorandum to the Chief of Staff dated July 27, 1911, referring to the report of the Chief of Staff to the Secretary of War,

pointed out that the pay of the Hospital Corps in the pay bill of 1908 was not increased proportionately to that of other enlisted men, so that an injustice was done the Hospital Corps which has made it difficult to obtain a good class of men and retain the services of non-commissioned officers. When the Hospital Corps was organized in 1887, it was recognized that its members would be required to do work that was not attractive to enlisted men and which would require special qualifications. To secure suitable men to perform these unattractive duties, non-commissioned officers of the Hospital Corps were given pay considerably in excess of most non-commissioned officers of the line and at a later date the pay of the privates was likewise proportionately increased. This principle was lost sight of in the legislation of 1898 and its recognition in future legislation is considered necessary to secure the efficiency of the service.

"The following grades and rates of pay are recommended: Sergeants major (new grade) thirty at \$75 per month, with the increased pay for service as now authorized for sergeants first class. Sergeants' pay to be increased from \$30 to \$36 per month. Corporals, \$24 per month (no increase). Privates, first class, pay to be increased from \$18 to \$21 per month. Privates, \$16 per month (no increase)."

That the claims of the members of the Hospital Corps are not unreasonable, but eminently just, is apparent from the fact that the farrier who cares for sick mules under the direction of the veterinary surgeon receives a higher wage than the private first class of the Hospital Corps who cares for the soldiers and officers when in hospital. Evidently, on the score of attention when ill, the mule has several points the better of the officer or private.

While the Sergeants of the Hospital Corps actually receive less pay than the non-commissioned officers of the same grade in any other branch of the service, they are also deprived of the opportunity of qualifying for the so-called special ratings in gunnery, marksmanship, etc., through which the sergeants in all other branches may obtain added pay ranging from \$2 to \$9 per month.

Owing to these and other inequalities of pay and opportunity, the Hospital Corps is now recruited mainly from men who realize their inability to make good in other branches of the service where the pay and opportunities for advancement are so much greater. It is a matter of official record that the morale and quality of the Hospital Corps are progressively declining quantities.

Then consider the qualifications which are *expected* from the Sergeant of the Hospital Corps:

"To obtain the position of sergeant in the Hospital Corps, the soldier is required to qualify in a written examination, in pharmacy, materia medica, care of sick, elementary hygiene, arithmetic, minor surgery and hygiene, and is, in addition, examined orally in army regulations, nursing, practical pharmacy, clerical work, drill, minor surgery, including extraction of teeth."

As a matter of fact, the sergeants first class are practically the house surgeons, pharmacists and chief nurses combined, of the military hospitals.

The term "expected" was used above advisedly, for the reason that under existing conditions it is absolutely necessary to accept the result of almost any kind of an examination as satisfactory in order to fill vacancies.

Some years ago the American Pharmaceutical Association took up the cause of the pharmacists in the Navy and U. S. Public Health Service, and in spite of repeated discouragements continued its propaganda in their behalf until a

fair degree of success has been obtained. Naval pharmacists who formerly ranked next to the negro cook, now receive commissions, with the rank and pay of ensign, which is about the equivalent of a second lieutenant on land, while under the revised regulations recently adopted for the Public Health Service, the pharmacists of that service have had their conditions materially improved by an increase of pay to \$1600, \$1400, and \$1200, for pharmacists of the first, second, and third classes, respectively, with a commutation amounting to \$25 per month.

The accomplishment of these reforms so long desired and striven for makes it still more necessary that the claims of the army pharmacists be recognized, and as many of the members of this Association as possible should at once write their senators and representatives in congress, requesting them to favor the Hughes and Bacon bills to improve the efficiency of the Hospital Corps. Do not let this matter go by default.

For the encouragement of those who may never have written their senators or representatives, it may be said that the latter are, as a rule, only too glad to hear from their constituents concerning the merits or demerits of proposed legislation, and consider themselves favored by being so advised.

J. H. BEAL.



THE FEDERAL NET WEIGHT LAW.

DURING the closing days of the 62d Congress, the so-called Gould Net Weight Bill was enacted and became a law by the signature of President Taft.

The bill amended Section 8 of the Federal Food and Drugs Act, which relates to misbranding, by striking out the words:

“Third. If in package form, and the contents are stated in terms of weight or measure, they are not plainly and correctly stated on the outside of the package,” and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“Third. If in package form, the quantity of the contents be not plainly and conspicuously marked on the outside of the package in terms of weight, measure, or numerical count: provided, however, that reasonable variations shall be permitted, and tolerances and also exemptions as to small packages shall be established by rules and regulations made in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of this Act.”

Section 2 of the Gould law reads as follows:

“Section 2. That this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage: provided, however, that no penalty of fine or imprisonment, or confiscation shall be enforced for any violation of its provisions as to domestic products prepared or foreign products imported prior to eighteen months after its passage.”

The object of the delay in enforcing the penalties of the act is, of course, to enable manufacturers and dealers to dispose of packages already in stock, and to afford them a reasonable time for necessary changes in containers and labels.

The question has been raised as to whether the amendment affects both foods

and drugs, or only the former, but since it is that portion of Section 3 of the act that is specifically stated to apply to the misbranding of foods that is amended, the inference would be that it does not apply to drugs.

It should be borne in mind, however, that, according to circumstances, certain articles may be considered either as foods or drugs, and that by food inspection decision No. 85, it has been declared by the Board of Food and Drug Inspection that the decision as to whether a given product be a food or a drug shall depend not only upon what claims are made for it, but also upon the uses to which it is put. By food inspection decision No. 48, it is also declared that products which are commonly added to foods in their preparation are properly classed as foods, which latter ruling would naturally apply to condimental, flavoring and analogous substances.

Probably these obscurities will be cleared up when the Secretaries of Agriculture, the Treasury and of Commerce shall have announced the rules and regulations for the administration of the new portion of the law.

J. H. BEAL.



THE COMPARATIVE DOSES OF HEROIN AND MORPHINE.

IN the May issue of the *Practical Druggist*, Editor Otto Raubenheimer discusses the comparative doses of Heroin and Morphine, and calls attention to the fact that benzoyl-acet-aconitine and heroin are remarkable exceptions to the general rule that the acetylation of an organic compound usually produces a less toxic product, and that diacetyl-morphine was given the name "heroin" on account of its heroic properties.

He also calls attention to the fact that heroin has come to be regarded as even more powerful than was at first supposed, and that there has been a continual disposition on the part of pharmacologists to reduce its average and maximum doses; and that authorities giving the average dose of morphine as 8 to 15 milligrams (1-8 to 1-4 gr.), give the average dose of heroin as from 1-6 to 1-3 this amount. For this reason he criticises the so-called Drug Trade Conference Bill, because it makes certain exemptions in regard to preparations which contain "one-fourth of a grain of morphine or one-third of a grain of heroin," etc., on the ground that in proportion to the amount of morphine permitted, the heroin should be very much less than 1-3 of a grain.

Editor Raubenheimer is undoubtedly correct in the statement that one-third of a grain of heroin, so far as dosage is concerned, is out of all proportion to one-fourth of a grain of morphine. It should be remembered, however, that the Conference Bill does not aim to establish any definite ratio of dosage, and that the exemption simply relieves those who dispense preparations which do not contain more than 2 gr. of opium, 1-4 of a gr. of morphine, 1-3 of a gr. of heroin, or 1 gr. of codeine in a fluid or avoirdupois ounce from the necessity of registering as dealers and the payment of the Federal tax. These exemptions apply only when such remedies or preparations are sold, distributed or dispensed as medicines, and not for the purpose of evading the provisions of the act, i. e., the avoidance of registration and payment of the government tax. If sold or

dispensed for any other than strictly medicinal purposes, the exemption would not apply.

It should be remembered also that the Conference Bill does not aim to control the distribution of narcotics to consumers, since this is a function that rests exclusively with the states, and the general government cannot have any control or supervision over the traffic farther than is necessary to collect the Federal tax.

Notwithstanding these facts, the writer is inclined to side with Editor Raubheimer, in the view that the proportion of heroin in the exempted preparations should be reduced in amount.

J. H. BEAL.



CLASS OBLIGATION AND RESPONSIBILITY.

CONCERNING the punishment of the "dope seller" in particular and the responsibility of pharmacists in general for the moral and civil delinquencies of their fellows, the editor of the *New Idea* discourses in this fashion:

"Here in the moral city of Detroit a couple of shadow men from the Pinkerton force recently entered a drug store disguised as longshoremen. They sought a place to buy cocaine and they got it. Inside of fifteen minutes, a proprietor and clerk were safely behind bolted bars. The strong hand of the law moves slowly but steadily. There must be a reaction to this cocaine and morphine traffic and it's beginning to act.

"The new standard of drug store ethics eliminates traffic in habit-forming drugs. The druggist who stoops to this underhand business must eventually meet the minion of the law. The authorities intend making an object lesson of one 'dope seller' in each community and thus put an end to this illegal traffic for all time. * * * If the drug trade is to raise its standard, it must first discard the lower element of pharmacists. If right shall survive—wrong must perish. Do your part to eliminate undesirable druggists who are undermining the foundation wall of the profession."

Herein our attention is called to the existence of an important social fact, namely, that every man must, to a certain extent, suffer for the sins of the class to which he belongs, and conversely, that every class must suffer for the shortcomings of its individual members.

If two or three percent of the men engaged in a particular calling are convicted of wrongdoing, all are liable to be suspected to be guilty of similar offenses, or in other words, the evil acts of the two or three percent of evil doers in any given vocation are more potent in determining the standing of the vocation in public esteem than the ninety-seven or ninety-eight percent who pursue an upright and blameless business or professional career.

Out of these facts grow the responsibility of a class for its members, and the obligation of members to their class, and just in proportion as these reciprocal relations are held in esteem or disregarded, so the class flourishes or retrogrades.

Possibly in no other calling are these qualities of greater importance than in pharmacy, and possibly in no other calling have they been more persistently neglected.

One dishonest or incapable pharmacist can poison the minds of a whole com-

munity against pharmacists as a class. One detected substitutor, or one who prostitutes his calling by the reckless selling of alcoholic liquors or narcotic drugs, leaves in the public mind the suspicion that there are many others of the same kind.

Consequently, when a pharmacist has been detected in some violation of the law or in some gross offense against ethics we cannot afford to wrap ourselves in the cloak of our own self-righteousness and leave the matter to the public prosecutor. We should be the first to invoke the law and to see to his punishment, and unless we do this, we have no right to complain if we are regarded as *particeps criminis*.

Pharmacists should be as jealous of their professional good name as the government is of its coinage, and should pursue those who debase it just as relentlessly and as fearlessly.

Class credit is as important as personal credit, and far-sighted business prudence will protect both.

J. H. BEAL.



SUGGESTED PROGRAM FOR THE SIXTY-FIRST ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

Nashville, Tenn., August 18-23, 1913.

MONDAY, AUGUST 18.

- 9:00 a. m. *Meeting of the Council.*
- 10:30 a. m. *National Association of Boards of Pharmacy.*
- 3.00 p. m. *First General Session of the Association.*
- 7:30 p. m. *First Session of the House of Delegates.*
- 9:30 p. m. *President's Reception.*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19.

- 9:00 a. m. *Meeting of the Council.*
- 10:30 a. m. *Second General Session of the Association.*
- 2:30 p. m. *Women's Section.*
Section on Scientific Papers.
Section on Commercial Interests.
National Association Boards of Pharmacy. (2d session.)
- 7:30 p. m. *Second Session of the House of Delegates.*
Section on Pharmacopocias and Formularies.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20.

- 9:00 a. m. *Meeting of the Council.*
- 10:30 a. m. *Section on Education and Legislation.*
- 12:30 p. m. *Reunions of College Alumni.*
- 2:30 p. m. *Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing.*
Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties.
- 6:30 p. m. *Reunions of College Alumni.*
- 8:00 p. m. *Section on Education and Legislation. (2d session.)*
Section on Commercial Interests. (2d session.)
Women's Section. (2d session.)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21.

- 9:00 a. m. *Meeting of the Council.*
 10:30 a. m. *Joint Session of the Section on Education and Legislation.
 Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties, and National Association
 of Boards of Pharmacy.*
 2:30 p. m. *Women's Section. (3d session.)
 Section on Scientific Papers. (2d session.)
 Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing. (2d session.)*
 4:30 p. m. *Trolley Ride over the City of Nashville.*
 8:00 p. m. *Garden Party and Park Concert.*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22.

- 9:00 a. m. *Meeting of the Council. (Organization Meeting.)*
 10:30 a. m. *Section on Historical Pharmacy.
 Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties.*
 2:30 p. m. *Excursion to the Hermitage.*
 8:00 p. m. *Section on Historical Pharmacy. (2d session.)
 Third Session of the House of Delegates.
 Section on Pharmacopoeias and Formularies. (2d session.)*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23.

- 9:00 a. m. *Meeting of the Council.*
 10:30 a. m. *Final General Session of the Association.*

In constructing the above Provisional Program, it has been sought to provide at least two sessions for each Section. If more time is necessary to dispose of the business of a Section, it will be left to the wisdom of that Section to select a time for a third session that will occasion as little interference as possible with other sessions.

One of the functions of the House of Delegates is to relieve the General Sessions, as far as possible, from the consideration of matters that are not in shape for immediate action; as a consequence, the General Sessions should require less time than heretofore.

The hours assigned to the Women's Section are those which, at previous meetings, have commonly been devoted to shopping expeditions and similar diversions, so that these sessions can hardly be considered as adding to the extent of the usual program.

In criticising the suggested program, it should be borne in mind that there must of necessity be more or less interference, and that it would not be possible to arrange the various sessions consecutively without devoting a period of at least ten days to the work of the Convention.

Suggestions for the amendment of the program should be sent at as early a date as possible to the Secretary of the Council, Mr. J. W. England, 415 N. 33d St., Philadelphia, Pa.