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DR. FRANKLIN BACHE, CHAIRMAN OF U. S. P. REVISION
COMMITTEE,* 1860.

BY CHARLES H. LAWALL.

Dr. Franklin Bache was a native of Philadelphia and a great grandson of Benjamin Franklin. His father was Benjamin Franklin Bache, editor of the *Aurora*, a Philadelphia newspaper, famed for its opposition to Washington and Adams and the Federalists. He was born in 1792. His early education was



DR. FRANKLIN BACHE.

obtained in the private school of Dr. Wylie, after the completion of which he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, first as a Bachelor of Arts, in 1810, and later, in 1814, as Doctor of Medicine. In this same year he became a Master Mason in Franklin Lodge 134 of Philadelphia, which had been named for his illustrious ancestor.

His first experience in medicine was obtained as surgeon's mate in the Army in which service he spent three years and had attained the full rank of surgeon at the time of his discharge.

He occupied several minor positions as physician to several Philadelphia prisons during the early years of his private practice. He became particularly interested in science in general and in chemistry particularly and, in 1819, he published a "System of Chemistry for the Use of Students

of Medicine."

Along with Dr. Samuel Jackson, another celebrated young Philadelphia physician, he organized a Philadelphia branch of a medical association of national scope called the *Kappa Lambda Society*, founded in Louisville, Ky., in 1822 by Dr. Samuel Brown. This society had a great influence in promoting harmonious relations between physicians and raising ethical standards in the profession of medicine.

Dr. Bache became the first lecturer in chemistry, in 1826, in the Franklin Institute, which had just been founded two years previously, and which was then functioning as a teaching institution in the Arts and Sciences. He had previously

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had some lecturing experience in chemistry in the private medical school of Dr. Thomas T. Hewson, who had so many private pupils that he was compelled to adopt systematic teaching methods for them.

It was through his friendship with Hewson that Bache met Dr. Wood, the second lecturer on Chemistry in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, who had succeeded Dr. Gerard Troost in that chair a year after its founding in 1821, and these two young men became actively identified with the revision of the United States Pharmacopœia during the first decade of its existence, and at a time when there must have been considerable professional jealousy of a sectional character, for in 1830 there were two rival editions of the U. S. P. published, one in New York and the other in Philadelphia.

In 1831 Dr. Wood was transferred from the chair of Chemistry in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy to the chair of Materia Medica and Pharmacy, and Dr. Bache succeeded Dr. Wood in the same institution as professor of chemistry, which chair he held for ten years, when he resigned to accept a similar professorship in Jefferson Medical College.

In 1833 Dr. Bache had associated himself with Dr. Wood in the publication of a *commentary* on the United States Pharmacopœia which was christened the "United States Dispensatory." This work, which had an immediate success, is now in its 21st Edition.

Dr. Bache continued his interest in and affiliation with the work of revising the United States Pharmacopœia and was an active participant in the conventions of three successive decades 1840-1850 and 1860.

In 1860 he became chairman of the Committee on Revision of the United States Pharmacopœia and during the active period of revision had assembled an active group of workers about him, who held meetings at his home at least once a week for more than a year, at which every detail of the text of the proposed new Pharmacopœia was given most careful consideration.

Dr. Bache received many honors at the hands of his fellow-scientists and professional men. He was president of the American Philosophical Society, honorary member of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and vice-president of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

As a man he was somewhat reserved in his deportment but was constant in his friendships and esteemed by all who knew him.

Dr. Bache died in 1864 full of days and honors. The finest thing that could be said about him is taken from the *dedicatory* paragraph of a book which his fellow-worker, Dr. Wood, had dedicated to him some years before his death:

"Whom in the course of an intimate acquaintance of thirty years, I have never known to do an unjust act or cherish an unjust thought; the accurate man of science, the skilful teacher; the upright and honorable man, and in all points the gentleman."

VENEZUELA IMPORTS OF MEDICINALS FROM U. S.

Venezuela is the third leading market in South America for American medicinal preparations. Sales were maintained well in 1930, total exports of medicinal and pharmaceutical products from the United States to Venezuela amounting to about \$600,000. While this figure is lower than the value of exports in 1928 and 1929, which amounted to \$654,000 and \$796,000, respectively, the decline was proportionately less than that suffered by certain other South American countries.