

## EDITORIAL NOTES

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### AN UNFORTUNATE LOSS.

On June 17th fire destroyed a valuable scientific film, "The Movements of Plants," on which two professors of the Brno University, Brno, Moravia, worked for five years, and which if completed would have proved, it is said, a world sensation.

Professor Dr. Ulehla and his two assistants, Dr. Calabek and O. Schuetz were about to adjust new parts of the film, when the fire began. Dr. Calabek threw the burning film into a tin box standing before the door of the laboratory. Not only the precious plant film but also other scientific films and scientific apparatus worth 500,000 crowns were destroyed.

### SANITATION OF AUTOMOBILE TOURISTS' CAMPS.

For safeguarding the health of automobile tourists, pharmacists have an opportunity of interesting them in the protection of the members of their families from infections which may result from indifference. Within the last few years much careful thought and diligent effort has been given by health authorities to make living conditions for campers as nearly suitable for them as possible, and in these efforts the pharmacist can have a large part and render a valuable service. Aside from furnishing medicinal supplies, disinfectants, etc., pharmacists can give information of value to the tourists.

### ANGLO-AMERICAN HISTORIANS MEET.

On July 13th the third quinquennial conference of Anglo-American historians opened at University College in London. Delegates numbering 500 attended, representing universi-

ties, colleges and societies in the United Kingdom, the Dominions and the United States. Important papers were read and visits and excursions were arranged to places of interest in London, Canterbury, Northampton, Hampton Court and Kingston.

### NATIONAL DRUG STORE SURVEY.

Good reports were made at various state association meetings of the National Drug Store Survey now in progress in St. Louis, and many interesting facts have been revealed. The drug stocks are being carefully studied as well as the arrangement of merchandise and fixtures, including the show windows, with a view of benefiting the druggists throughout the country. A detailed analysis of prescriptions filled by drug stores covered under the survey is soon to be undertaken with a transcript of prescription records in each store being made and analyzed, to determine the cost of materials entering into the prescriptions and the trend in prescribing with regard to the various constituents.

### U. S. RETAIL BUSINESS EXCEEDS FIFTY BILLION ANNUALLY.

A census of distribution figures show that annual sales to retail stores in the U. S., of all kinds, amount to approximately fifty billion dollars while total retail sales exceed fifty billion dollars, the three billion being accounted for by direct sales of manufacturers and other producers.

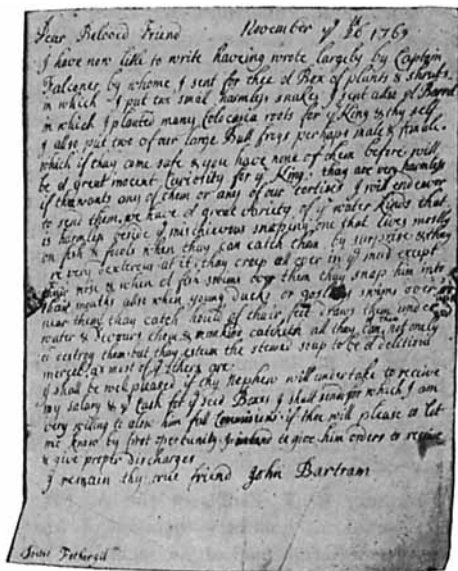
The census figures show that there are 1,549,000 retail stores in the United States and that the average store does an annual business of \$32,297.00. The average per capita pur-

chase at retail amounts to \$407.52. The figures show that the average number of stores per thousand inhabitants in the several states varies from a minimum of 8.1 in Alabama to a maximum of 15 or more for California or other states. The average sales per store range from \$19,827.00 in South Carolina to \$39,715.00 in Michigan. While this information is of a general nature and includes all stores, naturally, it has a relation to the retail drug stores of the country.

A report of a survey states that the retail drug stores of the U. S. sell more than a billion and a half of merchandise including about 50,000 different items. The same report states that the 6000 chain stores doing approximately 300 million annual business derive nearly one-third of this volume from soda fountain and lunch counter sales. The survey points out that the place of the wholesale drug house is still of major importance to the drug business.

Letter of John Bartram  
to Dr. Fothergill.

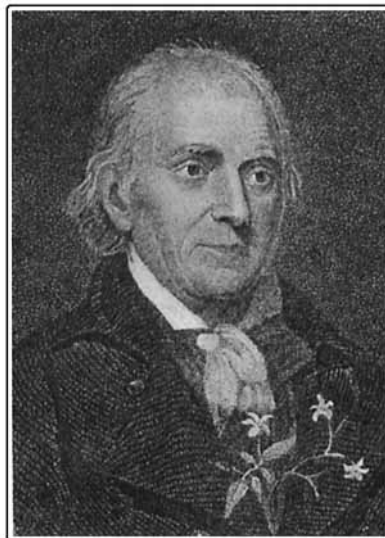
(See Editorial.)



WORLD PRESS CONGRESS.

All Mexico is preparing to receive and to entertain in fitting manner its guests—news-  
paper men and women from all parts of the world—who will attend the regional meeting of the World Press Congress, to be held in the City of Mexico August 10th to 14th, inclusive.

Every facility of the federal and municipal government here, as well as the hearty assistance and coöperation of business organizations, is giving assurance of the success of the meeting and the attending entertainment.



WILLIAM BARTRAM.

(See Editorial, Bartram's Gardens.)

WINDOW CONTEST FOR PHARMACY WEEK.

Plans for a window contest of nation-wide scope have been made for the seventh annual observance of National Pharmacy Week, October 11 to 17, 1931. The Federal Wholesale Druggists' Association through its secretary, R. E. Lee Williamson of Baltimore, has offered to furnish each year a beautiful silver cup to be awarded by the National Executive Committee on Pharmacy Week for the best professional window display exhibited in any retail pharmacy in the United States during Pharmacy Week. This generous offer on the part of the Federal Wholesale Druggists' Association has been accepted by the National Executive Committee on Pharmacy Week and it is believed that a national window contest conducted each year will create additional interest in Pharmacy Week on the part of retail pharmacists, and the committee is confident that a greatly increased number of Pharmacy Week windows will be in evidence in October.

The mechanics of the contest, which have been decided upon after careful planning, are

quite simple. Every state pharmaceutical association is asked to conduct a state-wide Pharmacy Week window contest. The details of the state contests are left entirely in the hands of the state associations, the only stipulations set forth by the National Executive Committee being that the competing windows be non-commercial, that the photographs show the entire window and that the photograph of the winning window in each state be in the hands of the Chairman of the National Executive Committee on Pharmacy Week by December 1, 1931.

Any phase of professional pharmacy, pharmaceutical education, legislation, literature, etc., may be featured in windows competing for the National Pharmacy Week trophy. Photographs must be large enough so that the details of the window will be plainly shown and although no definite restrictions are made, it can hardly be expected that this could be accomplished in a photograph smaller than 5" × 7"; 8" × 10" being the ideal size.

It is expected that each state association will offer a state trophy for the winning window in each state. A silver cup offered by the state association would be most preferable, although many prizes furnished by manufacturers, wholesalers or individuals within the state would enhance the interest in the state contest. Retail pharmacists in each state can look forward to the detailed plans of their state contest which will be announced by the officers of the state associations.

When the winning photographs from each of the states and the District of Columbia have been received, at the National Pharmacy Week headquarters, 745 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., by December 1st, at which time the national contest will close, they will be sent to a committee of five judges. The judges' committee for the national contest will be selected each year by the chairman of the National Executive Committee on Pharmacy Week.

### PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

Our fellow member, **Elmer H. Wirth**, has earned his doctor's degree at the University of Leiden. The subject of his dissertation embodies pharmacognostical, phytochemical and pharmacological studies on *Lunasia Amara* (Blanco) var. *Costulata* (Hoch.).

Dr. Wirth has dedicated the dissertation, which covers more than one hundred and thirty pages, to his wife. He extends thanks

to Professor Van Itallie for his interest in the problem; his kindly advice and helpful suggestions and considers the opportunity of working in the laboratory of Professor Van Itallie as a rare privilege.

He thanks Professor Storm van Leeuwen for the privilege of working at the pharmacological board in his laboratory and also for his advice. He expresses his thanks for the help given by Dr. Steenhauer in the preparation of the phytochemical part of the investigation and Dr. Van Niekerk for his assistance in the pharmacological part and the experimental investigations; and Dr. Harmsma for assistance in the phytochemical investigation; and to Mr. Stol for his technical help; and to Dr. R. Wind, chief of the forestry experimental station at Buiten Zorg, who furnished the material for this investigation. The author also makes acknowledgment to the Netherlands and American Foundation of New York for the contribution in the way of a fellowship.

Dr. Wirth returns to this country July 15, 1931. Congratulations are extended to him on the completion of his successful work.

**Chairman E. Fullerton Cook**, U. S. P. Revision Committee, has been voted the Remington Honor Medal; it will be formally awarded at one of the early N. Y. A. Ph. A. Branch meetings.

**Dean Charles E. Mollett**, of the School of Pharmacy, University of Montana, was recently honored by the alumni and other pharmacists of Montana. The presentation was made at a banquet. The dean thanked his friends and took advantage of the opportunity to express his regrets that the measure providing for a new pharmacy building had not been passed by the legislature.

**Dean C. B. Jordan**, of Purdue University School of Pharmacy, was the principal speaker at the commencement exercises of Cincinnati College of Pharmacy. The subject was "Pharmacy Needs Leaders."

**Secretary E. F. Kelly**, of the A. Ph. A., was elected an honorary member of Massachusetts Pharmaceutical Association. The same honor was conferred by the Nebraska Association.

Asparagin has been produced by the U. Department of Agriculture. It is used in laboratory studies of tubercle bacilli and in research work on the control and eradication of tuberculosis.

Dr. N. Dorset and Dr. O. F. Black, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, started their in-