

EDITORIAL

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BI-CENTENARY OF BARTRAM'S GARDENS.

VARIOUS botanical, scientific societies, historical and other organizations celebrated the two hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Botanical Gardens by John Bartram at Kingsessing, now a part of Philadelphia, June 5 and 6, 1931. Our records, however, show that this garden was started in 1728, and in the August issue of the *JOURNAL A. PH. A.*, for 1917, a sketch was prepared of John Bartram and, included therewith, a picture of the Bartram residence and of the famous Bartram cypress tree; the front cover of a Bartram herbarium folder and a sheet of the page showing ginseng; also a letter from John Bartram to Dr. John Fothergill, which is reproduced in this number.

John Bartram was highly regarded in England both by scientists and by the royalty. He was appointed by the King botanist and naturalist for the American colonies, and it was in pursuance of these duties that he explored Florida. It was here that he found the stripling cypress which grew into a tree shown in the number of the *JOURNAL* referred to. He was a correspondent of Dr. John Fothergill, Peter Collinson and Hans Sloane.

It was at the advanced age of 70 years that John Bartram made a tour into east Florida. Arriving at St. Augustine he embarked on board of a boat at Picolota on the St. Johns River, which he navigated with three oars and a sail, with a hunter to provide fresh meats. From Picolota he proceeded up the east bank of the St. Johns and also explored the west coast of Florida.

We have no picture of John Bartram; a description of him reads as follows:

"His stature was rather above the middle size, erect and slender; visage long; countenance cheerful and gay, regulated with a due degree of solemnity; his manners were modest and gentle; his disposition active and of the greatest good nature. He was industrious and active, indulging in repose only when nature required it, observing that he could never find more time than he could with pleasure employ, either intelligently or in some useful exercise and was astounded when people complained that they were tired of time, not knowing how to employ it or what they should do."

He was a member of the Society of Friends, a member of the "Free Quakers," an organization to which the Marshalls also belonged.

A son of John Bartram (William), born at the Botanic Gardens, in 1739, was also an eminent botanist. He resided for a time in North Carolina and also on the River St. Johns in Florida. In 1773, at the request of Dr. Fothergill, he studied the resources of the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida.

Reposing in a grove, in Florida, of oranges, palms and magnolias, in the midst of beautiful flowers and singing birds, he cried out: "Ye vigilant and most faithful servants of the Most High; ye who worship the Creator morning, noon and eve, in simplicity of heart! I haste to join the universal anthem. My heart and voice unite with yours in sincere homage to the great Creator, the universal Sovereign." Thus we find that a century and a half ago the attractions of Florida were known to those who love Nature and were appreciated by our antecedents.

In 1782, he was elected professor of Botany by the University of Pennsylvania, but on account of his health declined the appointment. He was a co-author of a number of books and published "Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia and West Florida and the Cherokee Country." He died July 22, 1823, aged eighty-five years.

Moses Bartram, another son of John Bartram, was born August 16, 1732. For a time he followed the sea and then entered into partnership with his brother Isaac in the drug business in which he continued until his death. He was a member of the American Society which was afterward consolidated with the American Philosophical Society. Like his father, he adhered to the cause of the colonies and served as chairman of the Committee to look after the families of soldiers in the Second Battalion, in 1776.

He was one of the organizers of the Society of "Free Quakers," above mentioned, and one of their leaders for a number of years. He died December 25, 1809.

THE PHARMACIST'S PART IN PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

DR. HUGH S. CUMMING, Surgeon-General, U. S. Public Health Service has said that "the usually strategic position and the familiar association of the pharmacy with medical matters in the popular mind places pharmacists in a position to render a material service to the community in connection with public health activities. It is the privilege, as well as the duty, of a pharmacist to cooperate with public health agencies in the dissemination of reliable information concerning the public health, and to assist the constituted public health authorities especially as relates to communicable diseases and the protection of biologic products. It is, therefore, evident that a pharmacist should possess information of wider scope on matters pertaining to the public health than is possessed by the average layman.

"Health officers generally have recognized that health education is an important means for promoting public and personal health. Broadly speaking, public health in a given community depends upon the personal health of each individual. To give information on any subject to everyone in a community is a tremendous task, and one that can never be finished. It has no end because new facts are being constantly developed through research and new people are being added to each community through new arrivals and the growth of children to the teachable age. Those who are trying to promote health education for the public have, therefore, the task of imparting an ever-increasing mass of information to an ever-changing population.

"The magnitude of such a task, instead of being a cause for pessimism, should be a challenge to persons interested in the public health to develop a plan whereby each community may feel a sense of responsibility for the important task of health education. Members of the profession of pharmacy can play an important part in the matter of health education.

"The facts for health education are developed by the laboratory workers, those engaged in scientific research of all kinds, the field workers in epidemiology, the vital statisticians, who keep the record of progress, and those clinicians who are close observers of their patients.

"Every person should have a working knowledge of what he should expect in the way of health education from his physician, dentist, pharmacist and nurse, and from the local health organization. In addition to this, he should know what an intelligent and well-organized state department of health may do for the promotion of the health of the citizens of the state, and what may be expected from the Federal Government in the way of health conservation. In order that the pharmacist may measure up to his responsibilities in the matter of the demands for health information, he must, of course, be properly informed with regard to such matters."

In some states the legislators have recognized the importance of pharmacy as a public health service in the provisions which place a pharmacist on the Public Health Board; recently, the example has been followed by several states. It behooves pharmacists to take a deep interest in these matters by seeing that the laws provide for qualified pharmacists in the position, so that the importance of pharmacy may be realized, and as a public health service. In the Colorado appointment physicians were as intensely interested in the appointment of the pharmacist as pharmacists themselves, and so it should be; they understand the importance of the service and the greater possibilities when all branches of the medical and chemical activities are represented on the Board. In Maryland the pharmacists have gained in recognition, because of the service rendered by the officials; it requires a deep interest and knowledge of the problems of this very important service. Quoting Dr. Cumming again:

"The public, generally, is rapidly awakening to the possibilities of preventive medicine due to the tremendous volume of publicity on health matters that has developed within the past few years. It will be well, however, to remember that the circulation of misinformation by individuals and unrecognized organizations must be avoided. With the development of general interest in public health matters there has sprung up, in certain quarters, an effort on the part of individuals and organizations, for selfish reasons, to disseminate quasi-scientific information that is incorrect, misleading and harmful."

Public health matters are subjects deserving of study by pharmacists and, incidentally, enables them to utilize the information for service and gaining for themselves the good will of patrons and physicians. The public health broadcasts and bulletins issued by the Bureau of U. S. Public Health Service and State Departments point out ways for being helpful. Public Health Broadcast, entitled "Sanitation of Automobile Tourist Camps" was given to the public, on July 1st, under the direction of the Surgeon-General; we quote a paragraph.

"As early as 1925 it was estimated that in thirty-five States there were more than 3000 camps attended by over 2,000,000 campers. In 1928, it was estimated that, in California alone, there were 1400 automobile camps. In other States, particularly those with well advertised scenic areas, there were probably several thousand others. Investment in camps of all kinds in the State of Maine has been estimated to exceed \$5,000,000. Much has been done within recent years to improve tourist camps, but there is yet much more to do. For example, in one State in 1926, there were 233 camps inspected, and only 104 of these could be approved."

Pharmacists should keep public health bulletins on file for giving information to the public in coöperation with the departments concerned with public health

matters; their service can be made of great value and, if this is the outstanding purpose, no one will deny them the right of reasonable remuneration therefrom.

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

HAVING spoken at length in the foregoing of the Bureau, U. S. Public Health Service, a few words will be added in this comment on the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The bulletins issued by the Department relating to medicinals are frequently quoted in the JOURNAL and are sources of valuable information. The officials and consuls are constantly seeking helpful information; citing as an example, the bulletin of June 15th relating to chemicals and allied products—brief reports are included on “Opportunity for American Chemicals in Jugoslavia;” imports and exports of chemicals of Shanghai, Canada, France; “Medicinal Trade in Canada;” “Pharmaceuticals, Production, Soviet Russia;” “Toiletries, Consumption, Panama;” “Essential Oils, Consumption, Germany,” and many related reports which pharmacists can use to advantage.

Reference has heretofore been made to the National Drug Survey in St. Louis, now being conducted. At a number of State pharmaceutical associations interesting reports were made of its progress. The Government also had officials at State meetings to explain the methods of handling industrial alcohol, showing that the intention is to be helpful. On page 623 of this issue further evidence will be found of the Government's desire to be helpful to professional, industrial and merchandising activities; this purpose is developing more than ever and coördinated coöperation will be productive of better conditions and place all of the activities on a better footing and establish right relations.

THE LIMITATION OF THE MANUFACTURE OF NARCOTICS.

THE Franco-Japanese “open market plan” as the basis of the limitation system was adopted by the Geneva Conference on June 19th; the quota system on which the draft convention has been based was defeated.

The United States voted for the Franco-Japanese plan as “embodying the principles” of the American rotating stock proposals as far as it went. The chances of the main American idea of the limitation of raw material supplied to factories being added to it as an amendment are considered much better now.

Those voting for the Franco-Japanese proposal were Argentina, Germany, Canada, Spain, the United States, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Japan, Persia, Poland, Switzerland and Turkey. The abstainers were Egypt, India, Netherlands, Siam, Portugal and Yugoslavia.

In both the quota and open market plans each country would estimate annually its medicinal needs and manufacturers would be limited to the world total. The principal difference between them is that the former sought to divide them in quotas among the manufacturing countries, giving them power which the consuming countries and the producers of raw material feared.

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MILITARY MEDICINE
AND PHARMACY.

THE sixth International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy was held at The Hague, under the auspices of the Ministry of National Defense, from June 15th to 20th. Delegates attended from over twenty countries. The subjects for discussion included the recruitment and training of medical and pharmaceutical officers; war neuro-psychoses; the keeping properties of prepared medicines in tubes and their use in military medicine; first aid on the battle-field, with special reference to hemorrhage.

Numerous social events were arranged, among them being a banquet given by the Netherland Government, a reception by the Mayor and Corporation of The Hague and a reception by the Dutch Red Cross. The president of the Conference was Dr. J. C. Diehl, the Director-General of the Army Medical Services.

Major E. Saville Peck was the representative of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain; the United States had no pharmacist as representative.



AN AMERICAN PHARMACY.

In previous issues several foreign pharmacies have been shown. The pharmacy herewith, that of Hynson, Westcott & Dunning, Baltimore, Md., is at the corner of Chase and Charles Streets. The prescription department can be located back of the partitions by one of the cases showing through the opening in the partition. A number of pharmacists work independently of each other, being supplied with work desk, stock and needed apparatus.