

Secretary Herbert C. Kassner has contributed an informative message to the *American Druggist* for February, in which he writes of the activities of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. This coöperation is of a worth-while type, because it is informative and should make pharmacists think of their opportunities to bring pharmacy to its proper place among the professions. *The American Druggist* is sharing largely in these coöperative efforts.

ADDITIONAL NEWS ITEMS.

Dean Charles F. Heebner, of the Ontario College of Pharmacy, has been elected Second Vice-Principal of the Principals' Association of Toronto.

Dr. I. M. Kolthoff has been on a lecture trip this month, speaking on "The Theory of Coprecipitation." He spoke at Oberlin College, Yale University, Princeton University, and American Chemical Society Sections at Cleveland, State College, Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh Section.

Dean C. E. Mollett, who is attending the University of Florida, met with a painful accident, the result of a fall.

We are in receipt of two reprints of articles by Alfredo C. Santos, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, School of Pharmacy, University of the Philippines: "Alkaloids of Phaeanthers Ebractolcitus (Presl.) Merrill." "On Phaeanthine (First Communication); Chemical and Pharmacological Studies of Plumierid."

Vice-President Elect Rowland Jones has called our attention to an error in a statement "that he holds a degree from the College of Pharmacy of the University of Wisconsin." He attended three years at the University in the course in Letters and Science. Mr. Jones is not only Vice-President Elect of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, but he also is *chairman* of the Section on Commercial Interests.

Dean John R. Minehart, wife and daughter are spending some time in Porto Rico. Dr. Minehart has made the trip hoping that he will regain his health. The dean has a number of friends among pharmacists in Porto Rico and a visit with them will add to his enjoyment.

Dr. James C. Munch was recently called by a train-plane to Fresno, Calif., to aid in the treatment of about forty Mexicans who were taken ill from eating thallium-poisoned tortillas. Dr. Munch is an authority on thallium-

poisoning and consulting pharmacologist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture; also, director of the Pharmacological Laboratories for Sharp & Dohme.

Secretary J. Lester Hayman issues very interesting bulletins to the members of West Virginia Pharmaceutical Association. The last bulletin was artistic and timely, as it related to the George Washington Bicentennial celebration.

Veteran E. B. Heimstreet was a speaker at the last meeting of the Milwaukee Veteran Druggists Association.

Official and Tentative Methods of Analysis of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists.—Third edition, compiled by the Committee on Editing Methods of Analysis, W. W. Skinner, chairman. This edition has been revised to include the editions, deletions and other changes made since 1925. About 100 pages of new material and tables have been added and new chapters on caustic poisons, naval stores, paints, radio activity, etc., have been added.

An index includes the new definitions for fertilizers that have been finally approved by the Association. All the methods included in this book are accredited by the Secretary of Agriculture in law enforcement work and are also accepted by the states in regulatory activities.

The volume has nearly six hundred pages, including the index, and may be purchased from the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, Postoffice Box 290, Pennsylvania Avenue Station, Washington, D. C. The book is divided into 42 chapters and contains 38 illustrations.

Drug Contact Committee Recommends Tolerances and Analytical Methods.—Recommendations for tolerances and analytical methods for a number of tablets and ampuls appear in the ninth report of the Combined Contact Committee of the American Drug Manufacturers Association and the American Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, recently submitted to the Federal Food and Drug Administration. The report also contains recommendations relating to the quantity of contents of ampuls.

Free copies may be obtained by writing the Food and Drug Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Town and Country Life, of London, depicts Dean Frederick J. Wulling as an outstanding pharmacologist.—The biographical sketch is accompanied by a portrait.

Ergot and Ergotism (1931): A Monograph Based on the Dohme Lectures Delivered in Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. By GEORGE BARGER, F.R.S., Professor of Chemistry in Relation to Medicine in the University of Edinburgh.—Publishers: Gurney and Jackson, London: 33 Paternoster Row, E. C. Edinburgh: Tweeddale Court.

Professor Barger has very successfully devoted much of his time during over a quarter of a century to intensive researches on Ergot. To this distinguished scientist we are indebted for much of our present knowledge of this drug, particularly with respect to the chemical constituents, both active and inactive. These successful chemical researches made possible very fruitful and significant pharmacological researches, in which Professor Barger worked in collaboration with the renowned pharmacologist, Dr. H. H. Dale, furnishing the basis of the great amount of work of others which followed. It is highly improbable, therefore, that a monograph of Ergot could have come from a more competent authority, because of his intimate studies on Ergot from the time of the infection of the host plant by the fungus, to the actual clinical observations on the activity of constituents and pharmaceutical preparations of the drug.

This book covers the entire subject of Ergot more thoroughly and more accurately than any that has appeared to date. A total of 279 pages includes 41 illustrations, a most complete and accurate bibliography of 44 pages, and a subject and author index.

The subject matter is divided into six chapters, as follows: I. Ergot—Historical; II. Ergotism; III. Botanical; IV. Chemical; V. Pharmacological and Clinical; VI. Pharmaceutical and Forensic. In treating on the subject, all important phases are dealt with as thoroughly as present knowledge permits, in a thoroughly scientific, though clear and readable, manner. It is an exceptionally valuable and timely contribution to sciences of Pharmacy and Medicine.

Professor Barger has appropriately dedicated this book to the memory of Dr. Charles Tanret (1847–1917), the first to isolate an alkaloid from Ergot in a pure, crystalline condition.—MARVIN R. THOMPSON.¹

Chemical Reference Works in Indianapolis.—A committee appointed by the Indiana Section of the American Chemical Society has com-

pleted and published in a 35-page booklet data concerning the most important chemical literature available in Indianapolis libraries. Eight libraries coöperated with the committee in compiling lists and granting members of the section the privilege of using works of reference in the libraries. The booklet devotes 22 pages to listing chemical journals, indicating abbreviations by capital letters as in *Chemical Abstracts*, and by means of key letters the number and date of the first and last available volumes and the library in which each is made available. Then follow 9 pages listing chemical books, including A. C. S. monographs, government publications, pharmacopœias of various nations and experiment station bulletins.

DRUG-CHEMICAL DINNER.

Plans are being formulated for the Drug-Chemical Dinner to be held at the Hotel Commodore in New York City on March 15th. Chairman Percy C. Magnus expressed himself as much encouraged relative to the dinner. The reservations up to this time are largely in excess of those of last year, and representatives will be in attendance from Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Indianapolis, Baltimore, Atlanta and other commercial centers. It is said that the dinner will be of great importance and deserves national recognition, being a leading event in the allied industries.

OUABAIN IN HEART DISEASE.

In *The Prescriber* (Edinburgh), September 1931, Dr. E. Podolsky, of Brooklyn, N. Y., summarizes the therapeutic value of ouabain in heart disease. Ouabain is chemically and physically identical with the crystalline principle obtained from the *Strophanthus glab.*

Ouabain is particularly valuable and preferable to digitalis whenever cardiac insufficiency is associated with the loss of myocardial tone; digitalis has very little influence on myocardial tonus.

Ouabain does not and cannot take the place of digitalis. The two drugs have essentially different actions. Digitalis, by its moderating action on the excitability and conductivity of the heart, regulates cardiac rhythm; whereas ouabain improves myocardial tonus. From this point of view, ouabain supplements the action of digitalis, the two substances constituting, by their judicious successive employment, a particularly valuable therapeutic complex. Some clinicians assert that they can very well be administered at the same time.—From—*Current Medical Literature.*

¹ Emerson Professor of Pharmacology, School of Pharmacy, University of Maryland.