

have become convinced that certain tests are well suited for judging such products. These tests, selected by the insecticide control office of the Food and Drug Administration, are described in circular No. 198-C, "United States Food and Drug Administration Methods of Testing Antiseptics and Disinfectants," just published by the Department of Agriculture.

The authors of this bulletin, G. L. A. Ruehle, senior bacteriologist, and C. M. Brewer, associate bacteriologist of the administration, write:

This possibility of misunderstanding would be obviated if the same methods were employed by all, and many manufacturers, recognizing this, have requested information as to the methods employed by the Food and Drug Administration.

The circular describes several tests, including the Food and Drug Administration (F. D. A.) phenol-coefficient method, and the wet and dry filter-paper, the agar-plate, the serum agar-plate, and the agar cup-plate methods. It is illustrated and includes citations of the literature. A copy of circular 198-C will be sent free at request by the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington.

#### BRIEF NEWS ITEMS FROM MEXICO.

BY DR. G. G. COLIN.

##### PHARMACISTS SEEK SUPPORT FROM MANUFACTURERS.

A small group of pharmacists in the city of Mexico organized an association seeking a compensation for their work in merchandizing patent medicines. This group addressed manufacturers in a circular, stating that pharmacists have been cooperating with manufacturers for many years in the sale of their products. In many instances the profit is so small that the pharmacist is at a loss buying certain preparations. They claim that manufacturers should offer a small subsidy, amounting to some \$50.00 a year, in order to stimulate the sale of their products through the drug trade. Certain manufacturers commented on this request as being absurd since they furnish the necessary means to stimulate the sales of their products, thus helping the pharmacist.

##### PHYSICIANS ORGANIZE TO MANUFACTURE PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS.

A group of prominent physicians has organized to form the "Unión Médica Mexicana,"

a cooperative society, to manufacture medicinal preparations, thus becoming independent from foreign products. These products are manufactured at the "Terapia Laboratorios," managed and controlled by the Unión Médica Mexicana in the city of Mexico. The number of stock holders in this society is rapidly increasing. The demand for "Terapia" products is good and rapidly increasing in sales volume.

##### SURGICAL COTTON.

In spite of the fact that the supply of cotton is abundant, no effort had been made to manufacture a product for surgical use until recently.

One factory has been operating for some time successfully and the product is being consumed in preference to imported material.

A prominent physician has organized another company with a capital of about \$300,000.00. It is claimed that the product manufactured is superior to any imported cotton for surgical use. The production of this new factory is all sold to the government, for use in its various hospitals and other health institutions.

##### NATIONALISTIC CAMPAIGN.

In view of the severe depression in business now being felt in this country, Congress has organized a well-conducted campaign to stimulate the consumption of home-made products in preference to imported similars.

The results for this campaign have been very satisfactory. Manufacturers of patent medicines and pharmacists state that both the public and physicians are giving preference to products made in Mexico.

#### PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

Dean Jacob Diner, of the Fordham College of Pharmacy and former president of the New York Pharmaceutical Conference, was guest of honor at a testimonial dinner given under the auspices of the Fordham Alumni Association at the Hotel Biltmore, February 3rd. The dinner marked the twentieth anniversary of the Fordham College of Pharmacy. J. J. Hammer was *chairman* of the Committee on Arrangements.

Delegations from every New York pharmaceutical association attended the affair.

Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service, Department of the Treasury, on January 26th was reappointed to his office by President

Hoover. His nomination was confirmed by the Senate.

The following have become "life members" of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION: **Wilhelm Bodemann**, Chicago; **Theodore J. Bradley**, Boston; **Edward A. Hay**, Portland, Me.; **H. K. Mulford**, Philadelphia; **Miers Busch**, Philadelphia; **George D. Rosengarten**, Philadelphia; **Freeman P. Stroup**, Philadelphia, Pa.

**William Mair**, F. C. S., *Honorary Member* of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. This distinguished body has lately completed the hundredth year of its existence in London.

First Vice-President **Louis Charles Brenner**, of Texas Pharmaceutical Association, was honored by San Antonio Retail Druggists' Association at its annual dinner. Chairman George Keene presided. Among the speakers were President Walter D. Adams, A. Ph. A.; officers and members of Texas Pharmaceutical Association, Board of Pharmacy, Dean W. F. Gidley and others.

**Charles G. Merrell** wears a forty-five year William S. Merrell service pin and **Lee Wiltsee** carries one with 37 years' record, representing nearly a third of the years of the establishment's history. It is worthy of mention that sixty-four employees have served the Merrell Company five years or more; thirty employees ten years or more; thirteen employees fifteen years or more; five employees twenty years or more; four employees twenty-five years or more; and seven employees thirty years or more.

New Yorker Deutscher Apotheker-Verein, on February 4th, held a Dr. Hermann Thoms memorial meeting. President Dr. O. P. M. Canis presided and Emil Roller, Otto Raubenheimer, Curt P. Wimmer and A. R. L. Dohme took part in the program.

The medal of the American Institute of Chemists has been awarded to Dr. Charles H. Herty. This medal is awarded annually for "noteworthy and outstanding service to the science and profession of chemistry in America," and is given to Dr. Herty in recognition of his efforts over a long period of years on behalf of American chemists and the American chemical industry. Recently, Dr. Herty had aided the economic rehabilitation of the South by his researches on the paper pulp possibilities of the slash pine. This work is being perfected commercially in the new

laboratory built for the State of Georgia by the Chemical Foundation.

Professor J. Willard Hershey, of McPherson College, Kansas, reported that oxygen and nitrogen, chief constituents of the air, are not alone sufficient to keep life aglow. His experiments showed that animals die after living ten days to three weeks in air from which carbon dioxide and rare gases, helium, argon, krypton, etc., are removed. Professor Hershey predicted that helium atmosphere would be used in fighting diseases just as oxygen atmospheres are now utilized in treating pneumonia. Large factories and office buildings supplied with synthetic atmospheres in which oxygen is mixed with helium instead of nitrogen are also foreseen by Professor Hershey as a result of his tests.

Dr. Nicholas Butler, this year, celebrates the 70th anniversary of his birth, the 50th of his graduation and the 30th of his presidency of Columbia University.

#### JAPANESE PHONE PRESCRIPTION.

The case in question was as follows: Sadao Kobayashi, proprietor of a dispensary in Minami Shenju, Tokyo, received from a resident a request to prepare a medicine, the prescription of which was given by a physician by the telephone, and the pharmacist prepared the medicine in accordance with it. The lower courts declared the pharmacist guilty of violation of the law and imposed a nominal fine, but the Pharmaceutical Society decided to make a test case and carried the case to the Supreme Court, resulting in a favorable verdict.

*Sonntagsblatt Staats-Zeitung und Herold*, of February 7th contains an account of the Dr. Hermann Thoms memorial meeting under the auspices of the N. Y. Deutscher Apotheker-Verein; also a tribute of the Society. A copy of the latter was inscribed for the widow, and Emil Roller presented a portrait of the deceased to the New York College of Pharmacy. We are indebted to Editor Hugo Kantrowitz for a copy of the publication named.

#### PHILADELPHIA VETERANS.

The Philadelphia Veteran Druggists met on January 15th for dinner, current business and election of officers for 1932. The following were elected: *President*, Harry Swain; *Vice-President*, David J. Reese; *Treasurer*, George W. Fehr; *Recording Secretary*, Alex G. Keller; *Corresponding Secretary*, Charles T. Pickett.