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VIRGIL COBLENTZ.

Virgil Coblentz was born and raised in the drug business; his father, J. P. Coblentz, of Pennsylvania German extraction, was born in Hagerstown, Md.; he moved to Cincinnati in the 40's and served an apprenticeship as apothecary. He had five sons, all of whom were brought up as druggists; the father moved to Springfield, Ohio, where he opened a pharmacy in 1862 and this was operated continuously by one brother after another until 1929.

The subject of this brief sketch was born in Springfield in 1862. After graduating from Wittenberg College Academy in 1878, he was engaged in his father's pharmacy for several years and then entered Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, graduating in 1882 and winning the Procter Prize, Alumni medals with Chemistry and Materia Medica prizes. He joined the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION in the year of his graduation and has now reached the fiftieth anniversary of both of these events.

After the death of his father Virgil returned to Springfield to take charge of the Coblentz Pharmacy. He was elected to membership in the Ohio State Pharmaceutical Association, and honored with the presidency in 1884 and, in the same year, successor to Professor Judge as professor of Materia Medica and Toxicology at the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy.

In the summer of 1887, Professor Coblentz left for Germany where he studied the natural sciences in the Universities of Goettingen, Strassburg and Berlin, where he earned the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

In 1891 he returned to the United States and was elected by the Board of Trustees of the New York College of Pharmacy as professor of Pharmacy to succeed Prof. P. W. Bedford. In 1902 he was named director of the Pharmaceutical Laboratory.

During later years Dr. Coblentz spent several summer semesters studying bacteriology and pathology in Wuerzburg and Munich. In 1896 he succeeded Professor Elliott in the chair of Chemistry of the New York College which was merged as Department of Pharmacy in Columbia University.



VIRGIL COBLENTZ.

In 1911, Dr. Coblenz resigned his professorship and laboratory connection to accept the position of chief chemist to E. R. Squibb & Sons, where he remained until 1917. He was elected *Professor Emeritus* of Chemistry of Columbia University and is now engaged in laboratory work, chiefly in analytical and research chemistry and also in pathological, bacteriological and clinical examinations.

Dr. Coblenz was *secretary* of the Scientific Section of the A. P. H. A., 1896 to 1897, and its *chairman* in 1907 and 1908. He won the Ebert Prize in 1898 for his paper on "Gelsemic Acid," published in the PROCEEDINGS for 1897, pages 225 to 231. In this work he undertook the task of determining its ultimate composition.

Dr. Coblenz was associated with Dr. Charles Rice on the 7th Revision of the United States Pharmacopœia and he also served as *sub-chairman* of the Committee on Inorganic Reagents and Volumetric Solutions in the 8th and the 9th Revisions of the Pharmacopœia. He was joint author of "Sadler & Coblenz Medical and Pharmaceutical Chemistry;" author of "Handbook of Pharmacy," five editions of "Newer Remedies" and three editions of "Volumetric Analysis." Many of his contributions to chemistry and pharmacy were published in the PROCEEDINGS of the A. P. H. A. and *Journal of the Society of Chemical Industry*, *Zeitschrift fuer angewandte chemie* and *American Journal of Pharmacy*.

For a time Dr. Coblenz was contributor to "Thorpe's Dictionary of Applied Chemistry." He is a former chairman of the New York Section of the British Society of Chemical Industry and for a time chairman of the American Section of the Verein Deutscher Chemiker of Leipzig. He is *Emeritus Professor of Chemistry* of the College of Pharmacy of the City of New York.

Professor Coblenz was married in Strassburg, Alsace, in 1889. The family is graced by two sons.

FRENCH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY.

La Société d'Historie de la Pharmacie held its chief meeting of the year on Sunday, March 6, 1932, at the Faculté de Pharmacie de Paris, social residence of the Society, under the presidency of M. le Doyen honoraire Radais, and in the presence of M. le Doyen Guerin.

The present committee is composed of Messrs. Radais, *president*, L. G. Toraude and M. Bouvet, *vice-presidents*; Dr. Dorveaux, *permanent secretary*, E. H. Guitard, *general secretary*, and A. Royer, *treasurer*.

An account of the financial situation was given by Mr. Royer. Then Mr. Guitard's plans for various publications to be issued by the Society received the approval of the meeting, concerning the creation of a supplementary review, to be published monthly, and to be called *Dionysos*. This will be a supplement for the literary and industrial chemist; in it the names of the contributors of the society will be published. In spite of these improvements, the general meeting decided, after discussion, to hold the subscription price to 15 frs. for France and 30 frs. for foreign countries.¹

Communications of Messrs. Bondois, Dagen and Dr. Weitz were heard; Messrs. Beytout and Guitard are named to represent the Society at the Congress of the History of Medical Sciences, to be held at Bucarest in September of this year.

¹ Subscriptions are received at the Faculté de Pharmacie 4, avenue de l'Observatoire, Paris 6^e.