

CORRESPONDENCE

PHARMACY DEVELOPMENT IN WEST CHINA.

BY E. N. MEUSER.*

"The writer, as a pharmacist missionary in West China since 1909, has just recently returned to the work here after an extended furlough of approximately seven years in the United States and Canada.

For several years prior to my leaving China for furlough in 1925, I was engaged in developing professional pharmacy in this country along two particular lines, *viz.*, the training of Chinese students in pharmacy, and research in Chinese crude drugs. Both the school of pharmacy and the research department gave promise of considerable encouragement to me.

Owing to disturbed political conditions in the country, and my long absence from the work here, the school has been discontinued and little or no constructive work in drug research has been carried on for some years. However, since my return, and with greatly improved political conditions throughout West China, a general reorganization of pharmacy has taken place. A Department of Pharmacy has been established in connection with the College of Science of the West China Union University, for the purpose of training Chinese pharmacists. Research in Chinese crude drugs is also being undertaken on a much more extensive scale than was previously possible.

There is a very marked interest shown by the Chinese in both of these projects, and, on the whole, the future prospects for the development of pharmacy in China are more encouraging now than they have ever been before.

The population of West China is about 100,000,000, and this is the only organized Course in pharmacy instruction given in West and Central China. Moreover, I am of the opinion that it is the only University Course in pharmacy in all China with its vast population of over 400,000,000. The possibilities and opportunities are, therefore, both tremendous and unique.

It is estimated that seventy-five per cent of all the native drugs used in China are produced in Western China. Large numbers of students are interested in the study of pharmacy, partly because of the latest possibilities in these crude drugs and, in general, because of the attractive opportunities open to qualified pharmacists throughout the country.

In establishing a department of pharmacy here, it is my desire to have as thorough a course of instruction given as possible in pharmacy and its allied subjects. I find myself rather seriously handicapped in some directions, however, for lack of equipment, finances, etc., and for this reason I am writing to solicit the coöperation and assistance of our Western friends, such as manufacturing, wholesale and retail pharmacists, schools and colleges of pharmacy, pharmaceutical associations, and business and professional people generally. I am of the opinion that there are many friends of pharmacy in the United States, Canada, England, etc., who might be willing and glad to coöperate with us here if they knew our needs. I am, therefore, suggesting the following items as the more important of our needs in connection with the development of pharmacy in West China:

1. Pharmacal Laboratory: General equipment of apparatus and chemicals for teaching purposes.
2. Pharmacy Library: (a) Reference books, etc., on pharmacy and allied subjects; (b) sample copies, at least, of each and every pharmaceutical journal published in the United States, Canada and England, and, if possible, other countries also; (c) Regular monthly copies of pharmaceutical journals.
3. Sample apparatus and machinery for the manufacture of pharmaceuticals.
4. Scholarships and awards for pharmacy students in a University Course of four years, leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy.
5. Sample sets of pharmaceutical, biological and other products of individual manufacturing and distributing firms, for general display and for exhibition in teaching. For a Course in "Pharmacal Sundries" we will be able to demonstrate a considerable variety of such articles.

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In all cases, due mention will be made in the Annual Catalog of all those coöperating in any way, unless this is specifically not desired.

I might just add here also, that China is a splendid open market for western pharmaceutical products, and, in my opinion, any advertising done now through any of the above suggested means will be a valuable asset to the advertiser for possible future business, of mutual benefit to all concerned. Anything done in the nature of coöperation, even apart from the thought of advertising, will tend very materially toward welding a much-desired spirit of international good-will and friendship.

I would suggest that, so far as possible in case of goods being sent to us, parcels be sent by mail as *registered parcel post* direct to me, as the quickest method for even larger parcels. Otherwise, that goods be sent by freight addressed to—E. N. Meuser, W. C. U. U., Chengtu, W. China, c/o Can. Miss. Bus. Agency, Chungking, Szechuan, West China."

MISUSE OF WORD "DRUG."*

News writers and headline writers often refer to "drug addicts," "drug fiends" and "drug raids," when they mean "narcotic (or dope) addicts," "narcotic fiends" and "narcotic raids."

Some "dope fiend" runs amuck, the police raid an opium den or arrest an opium peddler, some one gets into trouble by selling opium or other narcotics, and the event is likely chronicled as the misadventure of a "drug peddler," when "dope peddler" or "narcotic peddler" is meant.

A drug is defined in the National Food and Drugs Act, as an article used for the purpose of curing, mitigating or preventing disease in man or other animal. Drugs are handled by over 60,000 retail druggists, who play a most important part in the health and economy of the people; by over 500 wholesale druggists; by several hundred manufacturing druggists—all of whom are by inference harmed when the word "drug" is used to designate that particular class of drugs known as "narcotics" or "dope."

No objection could possibly be had to the publication of the misdeeds or misadventures of "dope peddlers" or "dope addicts" but to describe them as "drug peddlers" or "drug addicts" does an injury.

Can't you—and won't you—try to right this inadvertent wrong by asking men who write news or headlines to differentiate between "drug" and "narcotic" or "dope?"

Dr. C. W. Ballard has been appointed professor of *Materia Medica* in the College of Pharmacy, Columbia University, following the resignation of Dr. H. H. Rusby as *Professor Emeritus*. Dr. Rusby will continue certain of his teaching duties in the College but this action accords with his desire for a greater amount of time to be devoted to research and literary pursuits. Dr. Ballard has been associated with Dr. Rusby for the past twenty-five years, serving the College as instructor and associate professor. He has received degrees Ph.Ch. and Phar.D. in the College of Pharmacy, M.A. and Ph.D. from the Faculty of Applied Science of the University, and has pursued medical studies at College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University and School of Medicine, Fordham University. For several years he has been microanalyst to the Bureau of Foods and Drugs, Health Department, New York City.

Texas pharmacists prepared a unique and beautiful "Adams Scrap Book" commemorating "Adams Day," at which time friends expressed

their esteem and appreciation of their friend and co-worker.

SCIENCE CONGRESS.

The 21st meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science will be held in Sydney during the week commencing August 17, 1932. Mr. H. Finmore has been nominated as President of Section 0 (Pharmaceutical Science), and Mr. L. J. Thompson has consented to carry out the secretarial duties. Now that the date of the Science Congress meeting has been fixed an early commencement will be made regarding the meeting of the Australasian Pharmaceutical Conference, which is held annually during the week prior to the Science Association meeting. It is hoped that there will be a large and representative attendance at the 1932 meeting. Pharmacists who are contemplating a visit to Sydney about the time mentioned and are desirous of attending these meetings can obtain further particulars on application to the Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society in their state.

* Approved by Executive of National Drug Trade Conference.