

EDITORIAL NOTES

Because of Association Reports, which required many pages, publication of a number of papers and items in this Section had to be deferred.

A CORRECTION.

Mrs. Rebecca R. Reese, a grand-niece of Dr. Richard H. Stabler, a former president of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, has called attention to two errors in the Historian's Report, on page 1192 of the November JOURNAL, 5th paragraph. Richard H. Stabler, referred to, was *not* a partner, in the Stabler pharmacy but was owner of the store on the corner of King and Washington Sts., still maintained as a drug store by J. E. W. Timberman, Alexandria. The William Stabler referred to was Dr. Richard Stabler's half-brother; the former was a son of Edward Stabler by his first wife, Mary Pleasants; Richard H. was the son of Edward Stabler and his second wife, Mary Hartshorne Stabler.

Mrs. Reese is chairman of the Executive Committee of the Association for the Preservation of Alexandria Antiquities, a purpose of the organization is to raise funds for purchasing the building in which the pharmacy of Edward Stabler, afterward Leadbeater pharmacy, was established and preserve the old apothecary shop as a museum.

UNITED STATES CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS.

The United States Civil Service Commission announces the following-named open competitive examinations for

TOXICOLOGIST POSITIONS.

Applications for toxicologist positions of various grades must be on file with the U. S. Civil Service Commission at Washington, D. C., not later than January 11, 1934. At present there is a vacancy in the position of assistant toxicologist in the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, Department of Agriculture, with headquarters in San Francisco, Calif. The entrance salary for assistant toxicologist ranges from \$2600 to \$3200 a year. Entrance salaries for all grades covered by the examination range from \$2600 to \$5400 a year, less a deduction of not to exceed 15 per cent as a measure of economy and a retirement deduction of 3½ per cent.

Competitors will not be required to report for a written examination, but will be rated on

their education and experience. Certain specified education and experience are required.

Full information may be obtained from the Secretary of the United States Civil Service Board of Examiners at the post office or customhouse in any city, or from the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C.

COMMENT IN NATIONAL RECOVERY ADMINISTRATION, RETAIL BULLETIN NO. 1.

The terms "registered pharmacist," "assistant pharmacist" and "apprentice pharmacist," as used herein (Code) shall have the meaning given to them under the laws of the respective states of the United States and of Alaska.

A worker to be classified in this group must comply with the state law requirements for his position. The separate classification of pharmacists and professional persons is not intended to reflect in any way upon the recognized standing of pharmacists.

THE CENTENARY OF THE DISCOVERY OF DIASTASE.

The present year represents the centenary of the discovery of diastase, an incident of great importance for the biologic sciences and not without considerable significance for medicine. In 1830, Dubrunfaut prepared an extract of malt that converted starch into sugar just as since early in the nineteenth century strong acids were known to do. His paper was really the first account of the action of an enzyme in solution. Three years later, in 1833, Payen and Persoz precipitated by alcohol from such extracts a substance that could be dried and preserved and that had a powerful action on starch. This they called "diastase." The term has continued in use in France almost to the present time as synonymous for the substances more commonly designated to-day as enzymes. Of course, the production of sugar in the process of malting was known before 1833; but the modern scientific history of enzymes and their action really commences with the researches of Payen and Persoz on diastase.

To-day, at a time when enzymes seem to be recognized to a greater extent than ever be-

fore as possible potent agents in the biologic process of disease as well as of health, it may seem worth while to recall a few of the steps that have led to the current interest in those unusual specific biochemical catalysts that are termed enzymes. In the early period, as the number of recognized diastase-like products grew, they were designated in general as "ferments" on account of similarities in their activities to those of alcoholic fermentation. Presently substances of the diastase type were distinguished as "soluble" or "unorganized" ferments in contradistinction to living organisms, like yeast, to which the name "organized ferments" was then applied. The inevitable confusion led the Heidelberg physiologist, Kühne, in 1878 to suggest a new name. The publication in which this first occurred is so rare, and so few students have actually read it, that we venture to repeat the interesting passage, in translation:

"The latter designation (*i. e.*, formed and unformed ferments) has not gained general acceptance, in that on the one hand it was objected that chemical bodies such as ptyalin and pepsin could not be called ferments, since the name was already given to yeast cells and other organisms (Brücke); while on the other hand it was said that yeast cells could not be called ferments, because then all organisms, including man, would have to be so designated (Hoppe-Seyler). Without stopping to inquire further why the name excited so much opposition, I have taken the opportunity to suggest a new one, and I give the name enzymes to some of the better known substances, called by many 'unformed ferments.' This is not intended to imply any particular hypothesis, but it merely states that (in yeast) something occurs that exerts this or that activity, which is considered to belong to the class called fermentative. The name is not, however, intended to be limited to the invertin of yeast, but it is intended to imply that more complex organisms, from which the enzymes, pepsin, trypsin, etc., can be obtained, are not so fundamentally different from the unicellular organisms as some people would have us believe."—*Journal A. M. A.*, November 11, 1933.

THE NATIONAL DRUG TRADE CONFERENCE.

In an editorial of this issue of the *JOURNAL* the part of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL

ASSOCIATION in food and drug legislation is discussed.

The National Drug Trade Conference met in annual session in Washington, December 5th, at which time a special committee was appointed on the revision of the Food and Drugs Act consisting of J. H. Beal, chairman, R. L. Swain, W. Bruce Philip, H. W. Bigelow, H. B. Thompson, J. G. Beard, W. L. Crouse, R. E. L. Williamson, Harry Noonan, representing the constituent associations of the Conference.

Chairman J. H. Beal later presented an analysis of the Copeland Bill (S. 1944) A draft of suggested amendments—to amend the Food and Drugs Act, June 30, 1906, as amended August 23, 1912, March 3, 1913, July 24, 1919, January 18, 1927, and July 8, 1930—was offered in connection with the statements of Chairman Beal before the Sub-Committee of the Senate Committee on Commerce, December 7, 1933. (At this hearing Walter G. Campbell, Chief of the Food and Drug Administration explained the Copeland Bill. The hearing is being printed and copies may be had by addressing your Congressman or Senator.)

Complete reports of the sessions of the Drug Trade Conference—containing the statements of Chairman Beal, suggested amendments, with discussions at the hearing—have been given to the press by the National Drug Trade Conference. It should be stated that the discussions and actions on this important matter, participated in by the members, representing the phases of pharmacy and the drug trade, were outstanding subjects of the meeting. The effect of the foregoing at the hearing is expressed by statements of Senator Copeland that the bill will be revised in many particulars. As stated, the bill under discussion was S. 1944, introduced by the latter and popularly known as the "Tugwell Bill." The progress of this important legislation will be reported in succeeding issues of the *JOURNAL*.

James H. Beal reported that revisions are in preparation of the table of potent and toxic drugs. Reprints of the table are available, having been reprinted by the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

President R. L. Swain reported for the committee on the general status of pharmacy and the drug trade. He recognized that the present offered an outstanding opportunity for cooperation and advised readjustment in keeping with NRA purposes. He also reported on the study of prescription tolerances.

Progress was reported in simplification of glass containers, enactment of state narcotic laws; greater efforts in securing endowments for pharmaceutical research was urged.

"The conference reaffirmed its approval of the principle of the bills designed to legalize price-maintenance contracts. The position of the Conference with respect to improvement in the status of pharmacists in the army was also reaffirmed. H. C. Christensen presented a detailed report of the pharmacal exhibit at the Chicago 'Century of Progress' exposition. The Conference thanked Mr. Christensen and gave approval to his suggestion that an effort be made to have a similar exhibit at the repeated fair next year. The value of the exhibit in respect to public relations was attested by several members."

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President, Carson P. Frailey, Washington, American Drug Manufacturers' Association.

Vice-President, A. C. Taylor, Washington,

National Association of Boards of Pharmacy.

Secretary-Treasurer, E. F. Kelly, Washington, AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

Councilor in the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, S. L. Hilton, Washington.

Members of the Executive Committee: W. B. Philip, National Association of Retail Druggists; W. L. Crouse, National Wholesale Druggists' Association; Harry Noonan, American Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association; J. G. Beard, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy; P. I. Heuisler, Proprietary Association; R. E. Lee Williamson, Federal Wholesale Druggists' Association.

E. L. Newcomb says—"there never was a time when there was a greater need for pharmacists to emphasize their professional service. If they do not do this effectively, they are sure to be engulfed in the commercial maelstrom which has completely disrupted every normal activity in this country. Pharmacy has got to fight for its preservation."

OBITUARY.

JOSEPH W. ENGLAND.

Joseph Winters England, member of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION since



JOSEPH W. ENGLAND.

1893, died in Atlantic City, December 2nd, aged 72 years. He was born in Philadelphia,

a son of Robert and Louisa R. England. His paternal forebears were of Swedish descent, settling at Swedesboro, N. J., in 1682; his mother's ancestors were Huguenots from Alsace, France, who settled among the Pennsylvania Germans in Lancaster County, in 1728. His father was a well and favorably known pharmacist of Philadelphia.

Joseph W. England was educated in the Philadelphia public schools and learned the retail drug business in his father's pharmacy. He graduated from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 1883, winning the Henry C. Lea prize for the most meritorious thesis (on *Myrtus Cheken*) of his class. He studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and, in 1886, was elected Chief Druggist of the Philadelphia Hospital (Department of Charities and Correction).

In 1900, he became head of the pharmaceutical department of H. K. Mulford Company; in 1902, he resigned to accept the position as consulting pharmacist to Smith, Kline and French Company, and served as director of its Research Laboratory until his demise.

He was widely known for his researches, which covered a broad field in pharmacy and contributed many original articles to pharmaceutical organizations and publications; he was editor of the historical volume of 728 pages.