

## BRITISH PHARMACOPŒIAS.\*

Much of the material for the pioneer pharmacopœias was derived from collections of approved or favorite prescriptions, or from manuals or recipes compiled expressly for apothecaries. The first London Pharmacopœia (1618) did not differ materially from the worst Continental models, which it had almost servilely copied. The first Edinburgh Pharmacopœia (1699) enumerated 900 simples, and included many monstrosities, of which it was gradually purged, so that in its final issue the number of efficacious drugs was reduced to 300.

The first Dublin Pharmacopœia did not appear until 1807, and in pursuance of the Medical Act of 1858 the first British Pharmacopœia, which superseded the three National Pharmacopœias, was published in 1864. Licentiates of the Society of Apothecaries had some share in the production of each National Pharmacopœia and of the first British Pharmacopœia, but chemists and druggists or the Pharmaceutical Society, if consulted at all, were referred to only to help the medical compilers out of difficulties or as an act of condescension. Nevertheless, there were already present the seminal elements of recent developments in which pharmacy has received more adequate and equitable recognition and treatment in the work of Pharmacopœial revision.

## PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

Editor James P. Gilmour has retired from the editorship of the *Pharmaceutical Journal and Pharmacist*, London, the official organ of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, in his 72nd year. During a long and active career, fruitful of achievement for the advancement of his calling, Mr. Gilmour has maintained an unceasing flow of papers, lectures and reviews, no fewer than 64 standing to his credit in the last thirty years. This quite apart from his editorial work, which he has maintained at a high standard for eighteen years and not including numerous contributions on political, economic, sociological, literary and scientific subjects to various periodicals and organs of advanced thought. During those years of service and sacrifice, first in his career as a hospital dispenser—1895 to 1903—and subsequently in a

pharmacy of his own in Glasgow, Mr. Gilmour maintained an active connection with his local associations, ultimately becoming chairman of the Pharmaceutical Society's executive at Edinburgh and finally a member of the Council of the Society in London, prior to his appointment as editor. The inception and putting into operation of the National Health Insurance Act of 1912 involved a vast amount of work in the interests of those chemists who undertook the work of filling prescriptions under the State.

We have enjoyed a large measure of reciprocity with the *Journal and Pharmacist*; in his issue of February 18th, Editor Gilmour



J. P. GILMOUR.

published a full account of The American Institute of Pharmacy, written by Secretary E. F. Kelly. Mr. Gilmour carries with him into his well-earned retirement, happily in the best of health, the good wishes of many friends and admirers, known and unknown. Apart from his hobby of foreign travel he has many interests, among others the historiography of British pharmacy: he has advocated that a historical section should be instituted at the British Pharmaceutical Conference (which meets this year in London) corresponding to that which has been so long maintained by the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.—*Courtesy of William Mair.*

On February 3rd, Columbia University awarded medals to a group of distinguished

\* From "The Origins of British Pharmacy," by J. P. Gilmour.

alumni who have rendered "conspicuous service in university and alumni affairs." Included in the number was **Dr. A. Richard Bliss, Jr.**, chief of the division of pharmacology, college of medicine, University of Tennessee, whose citation was as follows: "Distinguished educator, scientist and citizen of Memphis who has opened a new and now important sphere of Columbia influence as president of the local alumni club in his city."

**Honorary President, Dean Charles F. Heebner**, of Toronto, is recovering from a serious operation. We have word from him that he is making a good recovery and will soon be at his work again. Best wishes are expressed.

**Prof. James H. Breasted**, of the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, sailed from New York on February 4th, for an inspection of field work in Persia.

A gift has been made by E. R. Squibb & Sons, New York, through the National Research Council Committee on Drug Addiction, of a fellowship of \$700.00 for work in pharmacology to be carried on under the direction of **Prof. C. W. Edmunds**, in the Medical School of the University of Michigan.

Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science celebrated Founders Day on February 23rd, at which time the honorary degree of Master of Pharmacy was conferred on **Dr. George D. Beal**, of Pittsburgh. The subject of his address was "Advances in Pharmacy or Other Scientific Research." The evening at the college was featured by a testimonial banquet to **Prof. Frank X. Moerk** who is completing his fiftieth year as a member of the teaching staff at the college. He is head of the Department of Analytical Chemistry. A unique feature was the graphic problem of undergraduates in the Dramatic Society of outstanding events in Professor Moerk's career in a presentation arranged by the Registrar, John Kramer. A portrait of Professor Moerk, painted by Mrs. Mary Sturmer Jones, was presented to the college.

**Prof. I. V. Stanley Stanislaus** was the principal speaker before the Lackawanna County Pharmaceutical Association at Scranton, Pa., February 16th. The attendants included the presidents of the state medical, the state dental, the local medical and the local dental associations.

Professor Stanislaus spoke on the costs of medicine and showed druggists that many items they sold do not pay their proportionate share of the expenses of doing business.

**Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Sultan** announce the marriage of their daughter Isabelle to Mr. Lewis Andrew Bolin, March 4, 1933, at St. Louis, Mo.

At the annual meeting of the board of directors of the Abbott Laboratories, Inc., **S. DeWitt Clough** was elected president and general manager, succeeding the late Dr. Alfred S. Burdick.

**Secretary E. F. Kelly** and **President-Elect Robert L. Swain** attended the meeting and were guest-speakers at the Iowa Pharmaceutical Association. They also visited the Chicago World's Fair site and conferred with Chairman H. C. Christensen relative to the Pharmacy Exhibit, and visited Madison where Secretary Kelly discussed the coming meeting.

**President John A. Goode**, of the N. A. R. D., is actively at work in an effort to eliminate the sales of drugs and medicines in grocery stores.

**Denny Brann** delivered a Pharmacy Week Address in Des Moines, making the public better acquainted with the important duties of a pharmacist.

**L. E. Warren** addressed the Student Branch of Western Reserve University on Egyptian Pharmacy.

Secretary J. Lester Hayman's *Monthly Bulletin* is always interesting; that for March was largely given over to "First Aid."

**Samuel S. Dworkin** has mailed out a letter to manufacturers in which the position of the retail drug trade to-day is indicated and the increasing potency of the private brand method of restriction against manufacturers who do not control prices. The purpose of the communication is to create a common meeting ground on which legislation can be worked out.

The Hudson County Retail Druggists' Association is cooperating with the Hudson County Medical Society in bringing about a larger use of preparations of the U. S. P. and of the N. F. Each month official preparations are brought to the attention of physicians.

#### AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON HOSPITAL SERVICE.

Delegates William Gray and I. Becker attended the American Conference on Hospital Service, in Chicago. Secretary E. F. Kelly and President-Elect R. L. Swain attended one of the sessions on their way to Madison. The delegates rendered a report to President Philip, giving an account of the transactions. An interesting session was devoted to "Hospital Economics and the Costs of Medical Care."