

EDITORIAL NOTES

PHARMACISTS ALWAYS DO THEIR PART.

B U Y
CHRISTMAS
SEALS



H E L P
FIGHT
TUBERCULOSIS

The Christmas Seal this year commemorates the 50th anniversary of the beginning of modern sanatorium treatment in the United States by the late Dr. Edward Livingston Trudeau at Saranac Lake, New York, in February 1885. The one room cottage the seal depicts became the nucleus of the sanatorium movement in this country. To-day there are 659 sanatoria containing a total of 86,917 beds.

The cottage, called the "Little Red" because of its color, is preserved at the institution founded by Dr. Trudeau.

JOHN WESLEY'S KNOWLEDGE OF MEDICINE.

Repetition of the following article may be of interest to some of the members of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION at this time, because of the anniversary celebration of the founding of the Methodist Church. Reference is also made to an article in the May number of the JOURNAL for 1929, page 523. Through the kindness of Lawrence Williams, of Baltimore, the ASSOCIATION is in possession of a copy of "Wesley's Formulary," 26th edition.

A. Mortimer, writing in the "Special Issue" of the *Chemist and Druggist*, June 25, 1921, states that in all references to John Wesley and his life-work, he has read, the knowledge of medicine possessed by Wesley seems to have been ignored. Mr. Mortimer presents a number of abstracts from "Primitive Physic: or an easy and natural method of curing most diseases," by John Wesley. These books were advertised to be sold at the Rev. Mr. Wesley's *Preaching-Houses in Town and Country*. The preface to the first edition is dated June 11, 1747; a bibliographer has ascertained that the book treats of 243 ailments and contains 725 recipes. The history of medicine is briefly traced in the preface and the following is taken from the article referred

to: "In the early days physic," says Wesley, "as well as religion was chiefly traditional. Father handed down to son what he himself had in like manner received, concerning the manner of healing both outward hurts and the diseases incident to each climate, and the medicines which were of the greatest efficiency for the cure of each disorder. Then, when it was seen how the beasts would use certain natural remedies to cure their ills, they were tried for human beings with good results, and experience and physic grew up together. In addition to this knowledge, many accidental discoveries were made which led to the wider use of many hitherto unknown remedies. Hence rules for the application of these, and medical books were immensely multiplied, till at length physic became an abstruse science, quite out of the reach of ordinary men. Physicians, men who knew a little more about medicine than the average person, now were held in esteem, as persons who were something more than human. Profit attended their employ as well as honour; so they had now two weighty reasons for keeping the bulk of mankind at a distance, that they might not pry into the mysteries of the profession." Wesley then goes on to show that the medical men of the time of which he is speaking insisted that a knowledge of anatomy, natural philosophy, and even astronomy and astrology were necessary to the understanding of the art of healing. They introduced complex medicines consisting of so many ingredients that it was impossible to know which wrought the cure.

U. S. RADIUM IMPORTS.

The Belgium Congo has been the world's chief source of radium, although some has been produced in Czechoslovakia and, in 1930, radium ore was discovered in northern Canada.

According to C. C. Concannon, chief of the Commerce Department's Chemical Division, radium is by far the most valuable commodity ever produced. While the United States is the world's largest consumer it has imported less than one-third of one pound of the substance during the last decade and for this small amount has paid more than \$6,000,000.00. During this period imports have remained fairly steady at around 125 to 170 grains valued at from \$400,000.00 to \$575,000.00 per

annum, until 1930 when imports advanced to 260 grains valued at \$925,000.00, the largest amount ever imported during one year. In 1933, 179 grains valued at \$576,000.00 were imported, at an average invoice price of \$3217.00 per grain, and during the first seven months of the current year \$400,000.00 worth was purchased abroad, it was stated.

The bulk of radium imports comes from Belgium which controls the Congo output, while smaller consignments are received from Canada and elsewhere.

TETANUS TREATED WITH CURARE.

Curare has recently had its value assessed in the treatment of tetanus. Two cases are reported; in the first, a laborer (39), four doses of "gourd" curare, each 0.032 Gm. was given subcutaneously at six-hourly intervals on the eleventh day following the injury and four days after the onset of tetanus symptoms. Within two hours of beginning the treatment the spasms were less severe, the patient had less pain and was more comfortable. The improvement continued for forty-eight hours, later, by another injection, 0.032 Gm. was given. The patient ultimately recovered. In the second case, a boy aged 7, an initial dose of 0.0075 Gm. was given subcutaneously, followed in ten minutes by the same amount, after a further ten minutes by 0.015 Gm. and forty minutes after the first dose with another one of 0.015 Gm. By this time the rigidity had disappeared, but respiratory difficulty followed and the patient died. Both patients received, in addition, routine treatment with tetanus antitoxin.—(*Lancet* (1934), 5792, 475.)

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN CATALOGS ITS PLANT NAMES.

An important research project, which has already begun to prove its value, has been completed at the New York Botanical Garden through the assignment of unemployed persons by the Works Division of the Department of Public Welfare. This is the compilation of the *Index Kewensis*, a series of six loose-leaf volumes containing the generic and specific names of plants and all the sources of technical knowledge available. It represents one of the romances of scientific research, and is said to be the only one of its kind.

OVERDOSE OF PARALDEHYDE.

Evidence was given by a nurse of the hospital (Fettercairn Hospital, Hamilton, Aus-

tralia) that she had telephoned to a chemist for eight drachms of paraldehyde. This paraldehyde had been injected as a preanesthetic.

The apprentice of the chemist in evidence said he had taken the telephone message, which was an order for eight ounces of paraldehyde. The coroner found that death was caused by heart failure, due to paraldehyde poison, and accelerated by extensive pleural adhesions to both lungs, and a flat and flabby heart. He found that the quantity of paraldehyde administered was eight ounces, whereas the quantity prescribed was eight drachms, and that the excessive quantity given was due to a mistake made in the preparation and administration of the drug by a qualified, certificated nurse. He also found that when unfavorable symptoms manifested themselves every effort was made to restore animation.

FOR REAL PHARMACAL SERVICE.

"Every branch of the drug trade must recognize the importance, with respect to the general welfare, of the pharmacist in the retail drug store. If it were not for the confidence justly placed by the public in the local pharmacist, many of the opportunities and privileges of the drug trade would not exist. It cannot be questioned that as public confidence in the pharmacist may lessen, as the drug store may become less and less an institution of public health, the rights of manufacturers of drugs and medicinal preparations will be restricted by legislation enacted in the public interest.

"Certain consumer interests, largely mis-called and almost wholly self-appointed, have not been idle in recent months in the matter of stripping the drug industry of important privileges. One of the objectives is the supplanting of the existing pharmacally prepared official standards for drugs with government-made standards. It is, of course, the professional pharmacist who represents the professional work of the drug industry in the eyes of the public. It is imperative, therefore, that he should be truly representative of the highest ideals and purposes of his calling. It is equally necessary that these ideals and purposes be maintained on the highest possible plane."—From an editorial—*Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter*—September 3, 1934.

PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

Fred B. Kilmer has been active in compiling historical data and exhibits of Christ Church,