

23. LABORATORY STUDIES—the gross morphology and histology of leaves of medicinal and horticultural plants. Demonstration of the leaf drugs of the U. S. P. and N. F. as well as some unofficial ones. Leaf fibres as *Sansevieria*, etc.

A careful examination of the outlines presented here, the first of a general university academic course in botany, the second of a course in botany given in a pharmaceutical college or in a college of pharmacy of some universities where morphology is emphasized, will reveal the fact that in the former, plant physiology is emphasized with hardly sufficient plant morphology for the proper understanding of physiology, whereas in the latter, plant morphology receives the greater emphasis with sufficient plant physiology and ecology for their broadening value, for holding the interest of students during the presentation of the subject and for the needs of the average pharmaceutical career.

PHARMACY AND THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC SECURITY.

BY ROBERT P. FISCHELIS.*

IN THE near future President Roosevelt's Committee on Economic Security will present plans upon which the Congress will base legislation pertaining to unemployment insurance, old-age pensions and possibly sickness insurance and other social welfare projects.

Announcement has been made of the selection of a Medical Advisory Committee to coöperate with the Committee on Economic Security on problems involving the practice of medicine. Some concern has been expressed by pharmacists that no one representing pharmacy has a place on this Advisory Committee and that no Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee has been appointed.

So that the members of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and others interested may know that we have not been unmindful of the opportunity for coöperating with the Government in matters of public concern which may or may not affect the practice of pharmacy, we present the following information:

Early in October the writer was called into conference with members of the staff of the Committee on Economic Security to discuss pharmaceutical phases of health insurance. At that time the Committee on Economic Security was exploring the entire field of social insurance and information was sought from the various health professions with regard to problems that would affect them. We supplied the Committee with the information it asked for. It was pointed out to us that the Committee would seek further information if and when it became apparent that health insurance was to be a part of the administration's legislative program. A definite promise was made to the writer at that time that a representative group of pharmacists would be sought to advise the Committee on Economic Security with reference to the pharmaceutical phases of any program that may be developed. Further contact with the Committee indicates that the program has not reached a stage requiring our coöperation. Physicians are of course concerned with old-age pensions and other social legislation as well as health insurance. The Medical Advisory Committee was therefore appointed earlier.

With assurances that we shall be called upon to give advice when health in-

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insurance is definitely considered, it becomes necessary to collect and classify all available information on the subject so that we may be able to comment intelligently on the Government's proposals and offer constructive suggestions for improvement over the various systems in vogue in foreign countries.

Unfortunately we have not gone as far as the medical and dental professions in obtaining such information. The National Associations representing these professions have financed surveys of health insurance made right on the ground in various foreign countries where such systems are in vogue. Various County and State medical and dental societies have had committees at work studying such projects and the general field of social welfare legislation. In some States, pharmaceutical associations have done likewise.

The experiences of pharmaceutical associations in the various States with emergency relief and the information obtainable from pharmacists who have worked under health insurance systems in foreign countries should be collected at once and forwarded to the Washington Headquarters of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION for coördination. The coöperation of all State and Local Associations in this endeavor is earnestly solicited.

DRUG ADDICTION COMMITTEE, NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL.

The members of the Drug Addiction Committee, National Research Council are: Dr. William Charles White, National Institute of Health, U. S. Public Health Service, chairman; H. J. Anslinger, U. S. Commissioner of Narcotics; Prof. Charles W. Edmunds, University of Michigan; Dr. Ludvig Hektoen, Director, McCormick Institute for Infectious Diseases; Prof. C. S. Hudson, U. S. Public Health Service; Prof. Reid Hunt, Harvard University; Dr. Frederick B. LaForge, Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, U. S. Department of Agriculture; Prof. Torald Sollmann, Western Reserve University; Dr. Walter L. Treadway, U. S. Public Health Service; Prof. Carl Voegtlin, National Institute of Health, U. S. Public Health Service; and Prof. Francis G. Blake, Yale University, chairman of division of medical sciences, National Research Council.

At the University of Virginia a research laboratory was established under Dr. Small's direction for chemical analysis and synthesis of alkaloid substances related to or similar to morphine. Because few American chemists had worked on alkaloid chemistry in the past 25 years, it was necessary at the start of the work to import chemists from Europe for

Dr. Small's laboratory. Dr. Small himself spent two years in narcotic research in Europe. The "imported" chemists who have worked with him are Dr. Erich Mosetting and Dr. Alfred Burger.

At the University of Michigan another research laboratory was established under the direction of Prof. C. W. Edmunds and Dr. Nathan B. Eddy, for biological testing of the narcotics and their substitutes.

All clinical work is being done under the direction of Dr. Walter Treadway, chief of the division of mental hygiene, U. S. Public Health Service.

Funds for the work are being provided by the Rockefeller Foundation.—*Science News Letter*, December 15, 1934.

Dihydrodesoxymorphine-D was made by Dr. Lyndon F. Small, University of Virginia research chemist. It is ten times as effective as morphine in relieving pain. Given as a substitute for morphine to persons addicted to the latter drug, the new product satisfied the cravings of the addicts and relieved the painful abstinence symptoms that follow withdrawal of morphine. This indicated that it also might be habit-forming.

Wishing You Health and a Successful 1935