

EDITORIAL NOTES

ELEMENT 91—PROTOACTINIUM.

Element 91—named Protoactinium, was isolated by Dr. Aristid V. Grosse at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute, Berlin in 1927. The element was described in a paper, read by the discoverer, at the recent convention of the American Chemical Society in Cleveland. Dr. Grosse is now of the University of Chicago.

CLAIM TO DISCOVERY OF ELEMENT 93 WITHDRAWN.

There has been considerable interest in the announcement that Odolen Kobic, director of the National Uranium and Radium Plant in Joachimsthal, Czechoslovakia, had discovered a new element, No. 93, to which he proposed to give the name "bohemiium." The steps by which the new element can be isolated as a silver salt appeared entirely logical and the working hypotheses sound. Kobic presented his results in a clear, straightforward manner, with unusually complete data, even to an approximate atomic weight of 240.

However, spectroscopic analyses made by experts both at Prague and Berlin show that the scientist was in error in identifying the heavy, difficultly soluble, brilliant yellow product which he isolated as element 93. Following the spectrum and X-ray examination of the salt, it seems certain that it is silver tungstate and, agreeing with the interpretation of the analysis, Kobic has withdrawn his claim of discovery.

In view of the straightforward manner in which this whole incident has come before us, one cannot avoid hoping that Kobic will continue in his research, and if there is an element No. 93 to head the actinium series, that he may be the one definitely to discover it.—*News Edition, Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* (September 10, 1934, page 318).

PHARMACEUTICAL EXHIBIT AT THE CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION.

Sponsored jointly by the Revision Committees of the United States Pharmacopœia and National Formulary, an exhibit of official medicines of interest to the dentist was shown at the American Dental Association annual meeting held in St. Paul, Minnesota, August 6 to 10,

1934. More than 4000 dentists were registered. They carried home the idea of Professional Pharmacy and its desire to cooperate in the practice of Dentistry. The display consisted of a central section devoted to chemicals and galenicals official in the U. S. P. and N. F. The display was prepared and exhibited by Prof. R. E. Terry of the College of Pharmacy of the University of Illinois.

RECASTING THE NRA.

The NRA is undergoing a change and that is in the direction of having General Johnson cooperate with others and do away with one-man rule. It has been stated that the NRA will be patterned after the American government—executive, legislative and judicial divisions, with the limits and boundaries of each clearly defined; the cooperation of industry and labor, it is stated, will be given positive and consistent direction.

The NRA automatically expires June 16th, the President has announced that the basic ideas will be perpetuated, the problem is under consideration by him, but few details of the proposed revision have been given out.

Announcement has been made of the appointment of a General Code Authority to administer the basic code which covers the 252 industries that have no specific codes; the chairman of this body is Dr. Willard Hotchkiss, president of the Armour Institute of Technology.

THE LONDON PHARMACOPŒIA.

The first London Pharmacopœia was published in 1618. An apothecary was not allowed to dispense or sell drugs unless these had been exposed to public gaze for a number of specified days and any physician had the right to prevent the apothecary from selling drugs or medicines which were in his opinion corrupt or decayed. During the reign of James I a separate charter was granted and only practitioners in pharmacy were admitted to the apothecaries' guild.

Between the years 1618–1851 thirteen editions of the London Pharmacopœia were published, each edition improved on the preceding. There are several copies in the American Institute of Pharmacy, the earliest that of 1653