

# EDITORIAL

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## THE NEW YEAR.

LIFE is kaleidoscopic, it is ever changing—that is true under all conditions and situations and more so when affairs have been shaped so that some radical changes and directions seem necessary. The call is for master minds, seriously directed, not only to correct but watchful that the direction may be toward a betterment of a greater number. One of the evidences of life is that man is not ready to apply the Golden Rule in civic, social, financial, commercial and industrial problems; he seems to prefer business depressions and fosters social and ethical complexities. There is a willingness on the part of some to have others follow the right course or remain inactive and quiet until there is ponderous evidence of misdirection or until their own activities are affected. This is true not only in financial and commercial affairs, but in professional life; thereby the public suffers. We cannot hope for perfection, nor can we expect that there will be decided improvement unless fear and selfishness which retard progress will be overcome to a greater extent and make it possible to adjust matters.

We invariably enter a new year with hopes as well as uncertainties, realizing that efforts rightfully applied will make for progress, but that disappointments will be encountered. It is necessary that we have confidence in our fellow men and co-workers and it is with the determination to do our part that we venture upon new experiences. The best way to do business and advance professional service is to join with others in well-directed efforts.

## SIGNS OF PROGRESS IN PHARMACY.

ASIDE from the papers of the Scientific Section, every other division of the program of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION has shown a purpose to improve the practice of pharmacy. Reference is made to the researches relative to drug extraction, how and why there is variation in dosage of prescriptions. It has emphasized that the individual needs not only experience but a knowledge which enables him to understand what he sees and does. Series of articles dealing with the subjects have appeared in the JOURNAL and will, no doubt, stimulate the studies and result in a better understanding and realization of the importance of prescription practice, which in turn enables physicians to comprehend why the results of their prescribing may lack the uniformity which they expect, and gives them greater assurance that by closer coöperation, studies and conferences their practice will be improved; thereby better service is rendered the public. It should impress the fact that medicine, including dentistry and pharmacy, has other problems which concern members of these professions and it is gratifying to note that this spirit of coöperation is being strengthened.

There are promotions which apply especially to pharmacy in which the other divisions of medicine should take an active part and pharmacists should be helpful

in activities that enable the related professions to improve their service. Reference is here made to legislation, regulation of practice, revision of the standards, and changes that may come about through plans of President Roosevelt's Committee on Economic Security. In all of these the professions have an interest and to make them more effective and serve their purposes mutual studies by the professions are essential and helpful factors.

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#### A NEW U. S. P. X INTERIM REVISION OF THE ERGOT ASSAY.

E. FULLERTON COOK, CHAIRMAN, U. S. P. COMMITTEE OF REVISION.

THE first interim Revision of the Tenth Revision of the Pharmacopœia became official on January 1, 1934, and made certain changes in the assay of ergot and its fluidextract, also a modification of the manufacturing method for the fluidextract of ergot. In the first revision, the standard for ergot remained as in the original text, namely, a fluid preparation of ergot.

Since then, however, as a result of further investigation, it has been found desirable to adopt the alkaloidal salt, ergotoxine ethanesulfonate, as the official ergot standard.

For the purpose of insuring uniformity in the ergotoxine ethanesulfonate to be used as the official ergot standard, the U. S. P. Board of Trustees has arranged for the packaging in ampuls, under nitrogen, of a carefully standardized lot of this alkaloidal salt. This ergot standard may be obtained through the office of the Chairman of the U. S. P. Committee of Revision, 43rd Street and Woodland Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa.

By this new revision (No. 3) ergot will be required to possess a potency, per gram, equivalent to not less than that of 0.5 mg. of the official standard and the fluidextract must be adjusted to possess a potency, per cubic centimeter, equivalent to that of not less than 0.4 mg. and not more than 0.65 mg. of the standard ergotoxine ethanesulfonate.

The new monographs for ergot and fluidextract of ergot released in Interim Revision No. 3 on January 1, 1935, will become official and enforceable on May 1, 1935. Anyone desiring a copy of the "Interim Revision Announcement No. 3" may obtain it by addressing the Chairman, E. Fullerton Cook, 43rd Street and Woodland Avenue, Philadelphia, accompanying their request with *ten cents in stamps* to cover printing and distribution.

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#### TERCENTENARY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES.

The year 1935 will mark the three hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the chemical industries in America. This anniversary will be celebrated by the American Chemical Society at its annual spring meeting during the last week of April of that year. Elaborate plans of the Society's New York Section, now well under way, indicate that this celebration will be a memorable one in the annals of American industry. Leaders in industry, finance and government will unite with the 17,000 members of the American Chemical Society to celebrate three hundred years of achievement of the American chemical industries.—*Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*.