

EDITORIAL

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INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MILITARY MEDICINE AND PHARMACY.

IN former years no funds were available for delegates to the International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy. Funds are to be provided this year by the adoption of a resolution submitted by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, providing for an appropriation of \$8000.00 or so much thereof as may be necessary for expenses of participation by the United States in the 8th International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy to convene at Brussels in June 1935.

Comment on prior meetings was made in the April JOURNAL. Secretary Cordell Hull believes that no less than 10 delegates should be sent from the United States and, certainly, pharmacy should be represented.

The Congress of Pharmacy convenes in Brussels on July 30th, and a very interesting program has been prepared, which was published in the *Journal de Pharmacie de Belgique*. There is more or less of a relationship between the two organizations and presents the opportunity for representation at both conventions. A wide range of papers has been listed for the Congress of Pharmacy, some of which may find application in the International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy, thus, a paper by A. J. J. Van der Velde on "Research on the Sterilization and Biochemical Control of Pharmaceutical Products," "The Toxicity of Certain Insecticides," ably presented by Dr. Hampshire and Professor Schoofs, and quite a number of subjects were discussed by pharmacists at earlier Congresses; among the latter, the preparation of tablets, ampuls, methods of sterilization were shown, and a motor pharmacy demonstrated. European pharmacy was heretofore represented, but the writer's records do not show participation by American pharmacists.

THE PHARMACIST IN LITERATURE AND THE MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHARMACY.

THE *Bulletin de la Société d'Histoire de la Pharmacie* (France) for March presents a statement from the pharmacy of J. B. Caventou for "La Dame aux Camelias" from the collection of P. Lemay. The bill-head carries the inscription and face of the medal of award by the Royal Institute of France of the grand prize for the discovery of quinine sulphate by Pelletier and Caventou. There is further interest attached because only two of the novels of Dumas, the younger, survived, one of these "La Dame aux Camelias," from which book came the immortal drama by the same title.

In the *Sunday Times Herald* (Dallas, Tex.), April 21st, William D. Hornaday writes of an unfinished O. Henry story in a counter blotter of the drug store of J. J. Tobin, Austin, Texas, recently discovered. The story bears no title and is written in long hand by the author and reproduced in the *Times Herald*, but not reproduced in the JOURNAL at this time, because no reference is made of drugs. In Austin there abounds a wealth of O. Henryana; one of our fellow-members, the late H. L. Carleton, was manager of the Tobin drug store for a time; he informed the writer that years passed and O. Henry had left Texas before he knew William

Sydney Porter and O. Henry was the same person. It may be of interest to note that this master of the American short story selected as his *nom de plume* a name from the U. S. Dispensatory under Diluted Hydrocyanic Acid, that of O. Henry, referred to in connection with a proposed test; perhaps Porter was looking up data on poisons to be used in his writings.

Through a grant from the Carnegie Corporation and with the coöperation of the School Art League, the Folk Arts Museum at Riverdale is open to the public; Mrs. Eli Nadelman is the director. Walter Rendell Storey contributed an illustrated article to the *New York Times Magazine* for April 28th on the museum, in which are ensembles of furnishings, including an early American Pharmacy, with shelves, counters, bottles, jars, some still full of old herbs and drugs. Other types of displays are described.

These comments are made to enlist the interest of possible contributors to the museum of the American Institute of Pharmacy, where the history of American pharmacy should be arranged and displayed.

FEDERAL DRUG LEGISLATION MUST NOT BE PERMITTED TO DIE.

BY ROBERT P. FISCHELIS.*

AS usually happens about this time of the year in matters of controversial Federal legislation, the situation with reference to Food and Drug legislation has reached a point where proponents, opponents and those who favor revision in part, must either effect compromises on disputed points or demonstrate that one or another group has marshaled sufficient support to be able to win when the matter comes to a vote in the Senate and House of Representatives. The only other alternative is to allow this proposed legislation to die and perhaps revive it at a later session of the Congress.

It appears to impartial observers that neither the proponents of the present Copeland bill nor its opponents nor those favoring partial revision can get all they want. Certain amendments introduced by Senator Bailey of North Carolina and others proposed by Senator Clark of Missouri have met opposition by Senator Copeland. It is somewhat difficult to decide on what basis and in whose behalf some of the proposed amendments have been offered because there has been much "under cover" activity in connection with this legislation.

All of this must seem rather confusing to consumers of foods and drugs and to those producers and distributors who have no particular axe to grind and who can meet practically any standard which the Government might set with respect to quality, labeling, advertising or distribution of their product.

It is difficult to understand why minority groups, whose chief interest in food and drug legislation is to block efforts to compel truthful labeling and advertising of foods and drugs and to ease the path of fakers in the food and drug industries, should be in a position to thwart the efforts of earnest legislators and respectable citizens in providing proper control of the manufacture and distribution of drug products.

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The answer is to be found in the peculiar partnerships which spring up between respectable members of industries and their predatory competitors when they either believe or are stampeded into believing that they are menaced by a common enemy. For example, one can hardly conceive of certain manufacturers of prescription products lining up with patent medicine manufacturers against the Government in matters of drug legislation when it is remembered how strongly the first-named group endeavors to emphasize to the medical and pharmaceutical professions and to the public its highly ethical conception of the function of drug manufacturers in the field of medical care. Again, it is difficult to understand why patent medicine manufacturers, after proclaiming the establishment of a self-imposed censorship of their advertising and engaging supposedly competent medical and technical advisers to keep themselves out of trouble, should oppose legislative confirmation of this admittedly necessary activity which would extend its benefits to all members of the industry and to all consumers of drugs and medicines.

What is there in the record of Food and Drug law enforcement by the Federal Government for the past thirty years that justifies any lack of confidence or the withholding of sufficient power to protect the public against the vicious and unethical practices which the proposed food and drug law prohibits?

American pharmacy and the drug industry simply cannot afford to allow the proposed legislation to die. The onus of failure to pass adequate legislation at this session must not be laid at our doorstep. It is not only fair play for the public and fair play for honest manufacturers and distributors of drugs and medicines but also extremely expedient for the drug industry to advocate "action and action now" on the bill without interposing further impossible conditions of compromise. Let it not be said that American consumers of foods and drugs have been deprived of proper protection against charlatans and betrayers of the confidence of the readers of our popular magazines and listeners to radio-broadcasts because the drug industry of the United States gave aid and comfort to its moral outlaws by objecting to regulations which are in the public interest.

THIRD NOTICE FROM THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION.

T. J. BRADLEY, CHAIRMAN.

Several tours to Alaska will be available at the close of the Portland meeting of the ASSOCIATION. These include 9-day tours from Seattle to Skagway at eighty-five dollars for fare, meals and berth, and there will be no additional railroad fare to Seattle for those who are returning by way of that city, and several more extensive tours are available at proportional rates. Inquiries about these tours should be addressed to Local Secretary A. O. Mickelsen, N. E. 6th Ave., at Oregon, Portland, Oregon.

Several suggested routes, to and from Portland, were given in the April number of the JOURNAL, and the rates for the round trip, going by way of these or other routes and returning by another route are very low. It is not likely that we shall ever have a more favorable opportunity to visit the far west, and it should not be missed. Certificates will not be needed this year, to secure the low excursion rates, and any tourist agents will be able to give the members exact rates from their home cities, with other particulars.