

tive acidity and is simply an equilibrium condition between the chyme and the alkaline juices poured into the duodenum. Any reaction near neutrality may obtain."

- (6) "Textbook of Physiology," 11th Edition, page 829.
 (7) *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*, May 12, 1930, from Howell, 11th Edition, page 829.
 (8) Hepburn, J. S., Eberhard, H. M., Ricketts, R., Rieger, C. L. W., "Temperature of the Gastrointestinal Tract," *Arch. Int. Med.*, 52, 603 (1933).
 (9) Ryle, J. A., "Gastric Function in Health and Disease," 23 (1926).
 (10) *Ibid.*, page 19.
 (11) Bukey, F. S., Brew, M., "A Study of the Emptying Time of the Stomach with Reference to Pills and Tablets," *Jour. A. Ph. A.*, 23, 1217 (1934).
 (12) Wruble, M., "Enteric Coatings," *Am. J. Pharm.*, 102, 318 (1930).

(To be continued.)

AN UNUSUAL MORTAR AND PESTLE.*

BY JOHN E. KRAMER.¹

In one of the museum cases of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science there is an unusual mortar and pestle attracting the attention of even the most casual passer-by. The mortar is made of bronze, 6½ inches high, 5 inches in diameter at the bottom and 6 inches across the top. Two handles, one projecting from either side, about half way up from the bottom, are the first things to catch the eye. Further inspection reveals a band across the mortar bearing the inscription "NAPOLEON-EMPEREUR." Immediately the investigating spirit is aroused, and close scrutiny reveals a smaller band running around the top with the



A Monarch's Mortar.

words "A Besancon Biellemand-Pharmacien-Drogiste" cast in the band. Between these bands can be seen wreaths and eagles, alternating, and in the space between the lower band and the bottom of the piece, emblems of two figures facing each other and more wreaths alternate.

The pestle is also of bronze and is 9½ inches long. Through the center it is 1½ inches in diameter but at the ends the diameter reaches ¾ inches. There appear two imperial shields and eagles and the inscription "Anno 1802." These pieces were presented to the College by Dr. David Costelo of New York.

It was just one year after the date on this pestle that the Pharmaceutical Society was founded in Paris. And it was in 1804 that Napoleon, at the beginning of his greatest bid for fame, secured a popular vote changing France to an empire, and secured for himself the title of Emperor of France. Evidently, with the acquisition of this new title, Napoleon had all his belongings stamped accordingly, hence the band around the middle of the mortar.

The royal courts of those days had, by appointment, doctors, druggists and others to satisfy the various needs of the emperors and their retinues. Biellemand was the favored pharmacist at this time and used this mortar in which to mix the potions and pill masses for the great Corsican and his court. The position was no

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sinecure, for, where the master went a-warring, his appointed servitors followed in his wake, the physician and the pharmacist no doubt being among the most valuable in the party.

The years 1802 to 1805 were peaceful years for Napoleon. The Treaty of Amiens, in 1802, had put France at peace with the world for the first time in ten years. But Napoleon's interference with the affairs of other countries brought an early end to this tranquility in international relationships and to the comparative ease of Biellemand's appointment.

War broke out again in 1805, resulting in the defeat of the Austrians and the Russians by Napoleon at Austerlitz on December 2nd. On October 14, 1806, he defeated the Prussians at Jena and on June 14, 1807, he defeated the Russians at Friedland.

This was an eventful period in the life of France and Napoleon, and, co-incidentally, in the life of Biellemand. Many were the campaigns of the Emperor and long and hard were the voyages. Sometime in the midst of these campaigns, about 1808, records show that Napoleon appointed Charles Louis Cadet de Gassicourt his personal pharmacist, and we have, then, but six years in which to give this mortar and pestle credit for active life in His Majesty's service. Just how many places they went, and how many medicines they helped mix can be told only by the pieces themselves. Silently they stand now, ever to be a source of wonder and much conjecture.

THE SIR HENRY S. WELLCOME MEDAL AND PRIZE.

COMPETITION FOR 1935.

The competition is open to all medical department officers, former such officers, Acting Assistant and Contract Surgeons of the Army, Navy, Public Health Service, Organized Militia, U. S. Veterans' Administration, U. S. Volunteers and the Reserves of the United States, commissioned medical officers of foreign military services, and all members of the Association, except that no person shall be awarded a prize more than once in the prize competitions of the Association. All competitors who are not already members of the Association are eligible to membership, and the Executive Council of the Association hopes that they will exercise their privilege and join.

The Executive Council has decided that the Wellcome Prize for 1935 be awarded for the research work most valuable for the military service performed in any branch of medicine, surgery or sanitation, report of which is submitted in competition for the prize and has not previously been submitted for publication.

A Gold Medal (including cash prize of \$500.00) will be awarded for the report of research work submitted in accordance with the above conditions which is decided by the Board of Award to be the most meritorious.

Each competitor must furnish five copies of his competitive report. The reports must not be signed with the true name of the writer, but are to be identified by a *nom de plume* or distinctive device. The reports must be forwarded to the Secretary of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, Army Medical Museum, Washington, D. C., so as to arrive at a date not later than August 15, 1935, and be accompanied by a sealed envelope marked on the outside with the fictitious name or device assumed by the writer and enclosing his true name, title and address. The length of the report should not exceed a maximum of 10,000 words, it being understood that tabular statements are not counted. The winning report becomes the property of the Association and will be published in the *Military Surgeon*. Should the Executive Council see fit to designate any paper for "first honorable mention" the writer will be awarded life membership in the Association of Military Surgeons, and his report will also become the property of the Association.—*The Military Surgeon*.