

## EDITORIAL NOTES

### A CORRECTION.

It is regretted that an inadvertent error on page 1049, December JOURNAL, was permitted to pass. Please correct—"January 1, 1920" to read "January 1, 1820."

### PHARMACISTS IN PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ADVANCED.

The following Assistant Pharmacists in the Public Health Service have been advanced to the rank of Passed Assistant Pharmacist to take effect as such from September 5, 1935: Raymond D. Kinsey, Walter H. Keen, Clarence H. Bierman and Thomas C. Armstrong.

### HARTMAN'S SOLUTION.

Thymol, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  parts, by weight  
Ethyl alcohol, 1 part, by weight  
Sulphuric ether, 2 parts, by weight.

Keep tightly corked in a brown glass bottle. Use cork or tin-lined stoppers only. The application is made on a pellet of cotton, directly to the dentin or caries. Use rubber dam.

The formula of this desensitizer was given first-page notice in the *New York Times* of January 22nd, and the discovery is credited to Dr. LeRoy L. Hartman, professor of Dentistry in the Columbia School of Dentistry and Oral Surgery. The formula was given out at a special joint meeting of the First and Second District Dental Society of New York following a dinner in Dr. Hartman's honor, who, in responding, said that this is his humble contribution to humanity as he hopes it will be the means of relieving much unnecessary suffering.

It was stated by a dentist to rank with the discovery of the anesthetic properties of nitrous oxide in 1844 by Dr. Horace Wells. A basic patent was obtained by Columbia University but it was decided by Dr. Hartman and the Columbia University authorities not to take the patent up but give it free to the world. It seems that the value of the formula is not only in the constituents but also in the method of compounding the solvent. Dr. Hartman cautioned that its use by the public as a self-remedy against toothache may result in more harm than good. The preparation must be applied directly to the dentin as it does not penetrate the enamel. It is stated to be effective for

twenty minutes to an hour during which time virtually any cavity may be prepared for filling.

Since the foregoing announcement Dr. Paul Jesserich of the University of Michigan has questioned the outstanding value of the discovery.

### CASCARA SAGRADA: AN UNUSUAL ADULTERANT.

BY H. W. BLAIR, M.P.S.

This note refers to an incident occurring in ordinary experience. The adulterant has neither medical properties nor any faint resemblance to cascara sagrada. The purchase of a drug like cascara is done by sample, quotation and specification, and the consignment in question was guaranteed to be a very fine specimen of five-year-old bark. The sampling and examination of the bulk brought to light a very curious, stupid and obvious adulteration. Intermixed with the bales were found large, smooth stones, and inside each package a bag containing chips of a species of wood entirely foreign to cascara. The wood proved to consist wholly of portions of the wood of *Pseudotsuga Douglasii*, the false Douglas fir, which is one of the native conifers of the Pacific coast of America, from which region cascara comes. The brokers, a firm of high reputation, on being communicated with, replied that it was obviously a case of deliberate adulteration, all the more curious because deliveries had been made to several purchasers from the same shipment, and none of these had made any complaint. Correspondence with the shippers, who had the entire confidence of the brokers led to the conclusion that the adulteration was the work of some native worker desirous of making up his daily tally, and it was added that everything possible would be done to prevent "tecklers" adulterating the bark in this way in future. The adulteration formed about 2 to 5 per cent of the entire bulk of the consignment, but, of course, in various packages the percentage was considerably higher.

(A communication to the Edinburgh Evening Meeting in the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, December 21st.)

### PROTAMINE INSULINATE.

"Protamine insulin (insulin retard) opens the door for fresh studies in the treatment of diabetes. With it the blood sugar can be kept

more nearly normal and any advantages that can occur from this fact ought to show within a few years. Already it is known that the diabetic patient who is carefully treated is the one who lives longest and is most free from complications. Can the diabetic patient with blood sugar controlled throughout the twenty-four hours do better still? The new insulin in its present form demands more intelligence in its use, it works too slowly for coma and too slowly to overcome the hyperglycemia of a large meal, and it has the disadvantage of not being stable for more than a few weeks. When properly employed it will replace the customary high fasting blood sugar of the diabetic patient with a normal blood sugar. Perhaps the wise patient with diabetes will employ the quickly acting old insulin in the morning with a heavy breakfast and the slowly acting new insulin at night before a light dinner, as Dr. Hagedorn's patients have done.

"This undoubtedly represents an important advance in the treatment of diabetes; it should be emphasized, however, that protamine insulinate is still a laboratory preparation and is not yet commercially available in this country. The compound must be prepared shortly before use, as it is stable at most for only a few weeks. It does not supplant ordinary insulin but serves as an adjunct to the latter; the two must usually be used in the same patient at different times of the day. Hagedorn and his associates point out that protamine insulinate is of no special value in those patients who are now adequately treated with insulin. But for those patients whose diabetes cannot be controlled satisfactorily with insulin alone, protamine insulinate is a valuable contribution—indeed the most valuable since the original discovery of insulin by the Toronto group."—From *Journal A. M. A.* of January 18th, page 218.

#### PRESCRIPTIONS BY PHONE.

The *Journal of the American Medical Association* for January 11th reports a case in which damages were assessed against a drug firm. While this case is not altogether based on prescription by telephone the question enters and it brings out the importance of having the signature of the physician and also the assurance of the physician that the prescription is correctly written and understood. An error in prescription practice may result in great financial loss and also reputation, therefore, pharmacists should be guarded in this practice.

#### MARIHUANA SMOKING.

The use of Marihuana was almost unknown, except in Mexico, adjacent states and a few localities elsewhere; addiction has spread in recent years, necessitating State legislation. Marihuana cigarettes with and without tobacco are used by addicts and the number has increased because the plant has spread by natural propagation.

#### PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

**Marvin R. Thompson**, professor of pharmacology at the University of Maryland, School of Pharmacy, has been named by *Modern Medicine* as one of the 25 men for making medical progress in 1935. Credit is given "for isolating and identifying as an alkaloid the new active, oxytocic principle of ergot; independently discovered by Adair, Davis, Rogers, Kharasch and Legault; also by the English investigators, Moir and Dudley."

**Dr. Francisco Cignoli**, member of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION in Buenos Aires, has published a report of the Twelfth International Pharmaceutical Congress recently held in Brussels. A report was published in the December *JOURNAL*, pages 1113-1119.

**Lars Christianson**, for forty-eight years a Fargo druggist, was honored on the eve of his eightieth birthday by a group of Fargo friends and business associates. Mr. Christianson, throughout his fifty-four years of residence in Fargo, has been active in civic affairs. He is one of the founders of St. Luke's Hospital, a founder of the First Lutheran Church, and for forty-four years he has been secretary of Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota. Mr. Christianson came to the United States from Norway in 1873.

**Alden H. Emery**, assistant chief engineer of the Experiment Stations Division, United States Bureau of Mines, has been appointed assistant manager of the American Chemical Society, a newly created office. Mr. Emery, who is 34 years old, is a native of Lancaster, N. H. He is a graduate of Oberlin College and Ohio State University, and is now secretary of the society's gas and fuel division. Dr. Charles L. Parsons, of Washington, and R. T. Baldwin, of New York, have been reelected secretary-business manager and treasurer, respectively.

## LUCIUS LEEDOM WALTON.

## AN APPRECIATION.

In the passing of Lucius L. Walton after a busy and fruitful life of seventy years, American Pharmacy loses one of its noblemen. Courteous and friendly colleague of two generations of pharmacists; able examiner of thousands of candidates who have applied for registration as pharmacists in the Keystone State in the past 30 years; even-tempered and diligent worker in the committees, conferences and organizations of his beloved profession and in his church; polished, fair, inspiring and extraordinarily capable presiding officer in the Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association, the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy and the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION; efficient secretary and later president of the Pennsylvania Board of Pharmacy; and leader in many activities within and outside of the profession which he graced—such is the memory, at least in part, which Dr. Walton leaves with those who knew him best.

To have known him intimately and to have come under the spell of his fine personality, his lofty idealism and his passion for service to pharmacy was in itself an education. His efforts to meet the problems created by the dual aspect of the drug industry in a day when cynicism toward the professional ideals of pharmacy was on the increase were always inspiring.

In his Presidential Address to the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION in 1926 he referred to the qualifications of members of Boards of Pharmacy in the following words:

“The persons who sit in judgment on the qualifications of those seeking admission to the profession of pharmacy, and administer the pharmacy laws, should be trustworthy and well qualified technically. They ought, also, to be free from all political, social or friendly interest. There is no duty which may fall to the lot of a pharmacist that requires such broad knowledge, careful discrimination, good judgment, keen appreciation of justice, and conscientious preparation, as that of examiner on a board of pharmacy.”

All of these qualifications Lucius Walton possessed to an unusual degree. He was in the minds of many, the ideal Pharmacy Board member. The Proceedings of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy and of District No. 2 of that Association are replete with practical suggestions for conducting the work of Pharmacy Boards and for elevating professional standards, emanating from the fertile mind and long experience of this Master of Pharmacy.

Dr. Walton's life-span paralleled some of the most significant developments and changes in American Pharmacy. He was a keen student of these changes and sought to adapt himself and the professional activities for which he was responsible to the changing order, without ever sacrificing the fundamental principles of good pharmaceutical practice to expediency.

Honors were bestowed upon Dr. Walton at various times during his career for services well rendered. Although richly deserved and without doubt greatly appreciated by the recipient, they were received in the spirit of humility which characterizes the truly great in every walk of life.

It was a treat to watch Lucius Walton preside over an assemblage such as the House of Delegates of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. He knew parliamentary procedure as well as he knew pharmacy—and that is saying a great deal. He was never at a loss for the proper procedure to handle a difficult situation, and although very patient with those whose lack of knowledge of parliamentary law caused many a snarl and tangle in the management of some of our pharmaceutical meetings he frequently deplored the fact that many of those who accept appointment as presiding officers of our pharmaceutical associations do not take the trouble to acquaint themselves with the rules and by-laws under which they are expected to function. The tendency toward placing a premium on mediocrity sometimes resorted to in organizations in order to serve the ends of political expediency was always repugnant to Dr. Walton. He will be sorely missed in the councils of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and the many other groups who leaned heavily upon his advice and experience.

No better sentiment can be found to close this brief and totally inadequate appreciation of one of America's most outstanding pharmacists, than the one which he himself uttered in commenting upon the departed in his Presidential Address of 1926:

"Death's transfiguration into the dimly outlined image of Eternal Love makes sacred our beloved. We are quickened to new resolves and impulses to better living by the blessed lives thus transmuted into our lives, and this birth in death tempers the sadness of the passing of our associates."

ROBERT P. FISCHELIS.

## OBITUARY.

### LUCIUS LEEDOM WALTON.

Lucius Leedom Walton, the 73rd president of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, and member of the ASSOCIATION since 1904, died December 26, 1935, in the Clifton Springs Sanitarium, New York, after an illness of several months. Mr. Walton's health had not been good for several years.

There are events in the lives of all men that stand out above all other preferments. It



LUCIUS L. WALTON.

was the privilege of this writer to attend a testimonial given to Mr. Walton after he was elected President of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. The citizens of Lycoming County came to do him honor and all the drug stores of Williamsport closed their stores so that proprietors and assistants could attend the dinner. The members of Lycoming Medical Society attached their signatures to an expression of professional regard in a beautiful memorial volume neatly embossed and attested by the seal of the Society. The papers of Williamsport expressed their high regard in

editorials. The tributes paid the deceased evidenced the high regard in which he was held not only in his home town but throughout the state.

Mr. Walton was born at Clinton, N. J., July 8, 1865, son of Thomas Cooper and Jane Eliza Walton. Here he received his early education, and having chosen pharmacy for his life work he matriculated at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and was graduated in 1888 as one of the honor men in his class. He was manager of Barnum's Pharmacy in Danbury, Conn., for several years. In 1892 he opened a pharmacy in Williamsport, Pa., which he continued to operate until the time of his death.

Mr. Walton was appointed a member of the Pennsylvania Board of Pharmacy in 1906 and was a member until his demise; for seventeen years of his membership on the Board he was its secretary. He served the Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association as Treasurer, Secretary, Vice-President and President. In 1921 he was elected president of the National Association Boards of Pharmacy. For several years prior to his election he was chairman of the Executive Committee and after serving as its president he again was named chairman of the Executive Committee. In 1923 Mr. Walton was elected chairman of the House of Delegates and two years later president of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

In 1912 his Alma Mater conferred on him the Degree of Master in Pharmacy and in the same year the Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy honored him with the degree of Doctor of Pharmacy.

In 1890 Mr. Walton was married to Miss Cora Olive Brooks, of Williamsport, three children were born to them: Mrs. Louis Saalbach, Pittsburgh; Mrs. Lowell Budinger, Williamsport; Brooks Lamar, teacher at Hackensack, N. J. Mrs. Walton, who survives her husband, was a frequent attendant at the annual meetings of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.