

# EDITORIAL

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## PHARMACOPŒIAL AND NATIONAL FORMULARY ACTIVITIES.

CHAIRMAN E. FULLERTON COOK of the Revision Committee of the United States Pharmacopœia and Chairman E. N. Gathercoal of the Revision Committee of the National Formulary rendered reports at the Dallas meeting of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. These are published in this issue of the JOURNAL and should be carefully studied as they set forth the promotion of professional pharmacy and of prescription practice; comment is made by reference to the minutes of the General Sessions.

The plan provides for a series presenting the therapeutic side of medicine. At the time of Chairman Cook's report eighteen of these articles had been received and a number of them have been published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. It should be stated that reprints of these articles may be obtained from Chairman Cook, 43rd and Woodland Ave., Philadelphia, for use in the pharmacy and distribution to physicians and hospitals at 5 cents each and as low as 3 cents when an order is given for more than fifty copies. The plan as announced by the Chairman will acquaint those who are not informed of the great value to pharmacists and pharmacy. It promises results in one of the greatest worth-while coöperative efforts ever undertaken by medicine and pharmacy, and pharmacists should wholeheartedly enter into the promotion.

Pharmaceutical articles will parallel the medical articles and appear in pharmaceutical publications under the caption of "The Pharmacopœia" for information and guidance of pharmacists throughout the country. A feature of the plan also propounds the ultimate publication of the series as a bound book and, during the appearance of the articles, suggestions for exhibits. The success will depend upon the interest and the efficiency of retail and hospital pharmacists.

Chairman Cook referred in his report to interim revisions, because of new developments, intensified activities of the Food and Drug Administration and the rapid advances in medical sciences, improved tests, assays, etc.

An Addendum to the British Pharmacopœia has been completed and will become official as soon as published; this will then have the same authority as the Pharmacopœia itself. It consists not only of a number of pharmacopœial monographs, but many corrections and a number of improvements in the methods of preparations, of tests and assays. Five of the monographs describe bacterial products; four deal with vitamins and their preparations; there are twenty-nine additions and one deletion, and in ninety-three instances have monographs in the present Pharmacopœia been amended by the Addendum.

## THE NATIONAL FORMULARY.

Chairman E. N. Gathercoal explained the admissions to the National Formulary, gave reasons for retaining items for which there was some deletion demand. The basis of retaining them is that physicians prescribe them and drug stores stock them and use them.

## THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL.

The Chairman prepared a short history of the National Formulary Committee of 4 pages a very comprehensive "short history." The names of the members and their respective terms of service were given, and references to the revision periods. He also made the concluding remarks of the celebration, giving an account of the revision work.

Frank A. Delgado presided during the Semi-Centennial celebration. An exhibit was made of the books which were basic in the founding of the National Formulary. John Thomas Lloyd, represented his father, the late John Uri Lloyd, and Samuel L. Hilton exhibited copies of "Elixirs," and of the "New York and Brooklyn Formulary." Hugo H. Schaefer spoke for the German Apothecaries' Society as contributors of the latter volume to the building up of the National Formulary. A review of the early formularies was given by George D. Beal; of the present edition by E. F. Kelly, and that of the future revisions by John C. Krantz, Jr. The latter concluded his remarks by the statement which will close this comment:

"The Pharmacopœia has adopted the policy of recognizing the pharmacologically and therapeutically approved simple medicaments. The future of the National Formulary lies in the recognition of the forms of medication in which these approved simple medicaments are administered in the treatment of disease."

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A SESQUICENTENNIAL AND A CHALLENGE.

TO MENTION the "AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHARMACY" in our National Capital and the insignificant-looking apothecary shop in the small Swedish town of Koeping in the same breath, may seem like a leap from the sublime to the ridiculous. So far as architecture is concerned, this may be true. However, when we consider scientific accomplishments, it remains to be seen whether American pharmacists with all our wealth at their disposal can bring about a small fraction of what the modest apothecary did more than a century and a half ago.

At the dedication of the Kent Chemical Laboratory of the University of Chicago in the nineties of the past century, Professor Ira Remsen of Johns Hopkins University pointed out that at that time chemists were just beginning to appreciate the far-reaching significance of the experimental results of Scheele. One need but recall the discovery of oxygen and that of chlorine, and the revolutionary results due to these discoveries as they affected both theoretical and practical chemistry. Almost equally significant were his discovery of glycerin while preparing lead plaster, and that of the wet method for the preparation of benzoic acid, the flowers of benzoës of his time and generation. The former helped pave the way to our understanding of fatty oils, the latter made possible the isolation of plant acids which gave a first glimpse of the future development of organic chemistry along lines that were then being followed so successfully by inorganic chemistry.

Carl Wilhelm Scheele was born December 9, 1742, in Stralsund, the capital of Pomerania, which at that time belonged to Sweden. At the age of fourteen he was apprenticed to the apothecary Bauch in Gothenburg, who soon recognized and appreciated the boy's remarkable gifts. When, in 1765, he went to Malmoe, he is

said to have gained more experience than the majority of the chemists of the time. Seven years he spent at Stockholm and Upsala, where he became acquainted with Bergman, Professor of Physics, Mineralogy and Chemistry at the University. It was he who drew Scheele out of his seclusion. After having taken charge of the "apothek" in Koeping in 1775, he was able to devote himself more closely to scientific work. The records of his researches followed one another rapidly in the Transactions of the Stockholm Academy. He died May 21, 1786, a century and a half ago, in his best years, apparently from overwork.

Scheele was a pioneer in nearly every branch of chemistry. However, it is not merely as an investigator and discoverer, but as a high-principled and unassuming man, that Scheele merits our warmest admiration. It was the famous Swedish geologist and explorer, Nordenskiöld, who, in 1892, published "Karl Wilhelm Scheele: Nachgelassene Briefe und Aufzeichnungen." (His letters and journals.) His complete works had been published by Hermbstaedt a century before (1793). Scheele's monument was erected in 1892, the sesquicentennial of his birth, in Stockholm.

Pharmaceutical youth the world over has learned to admire this noble representative of our calling. Would that a Scheele might arise in the new world and be given a place in the research laboratory to which we are looking forward in connection with our AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHARMACY in Washington.—EDWARD KREMBERS.

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#### PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S PHARMACY WEEK MESSAGE.

**I**T GIVES me a great deal of pleasure to extend to the pharmacists of the United States, my best wishes for the successful observance of National Pharmacy Week.

"I am especially gratified to learn that National Pharmacy Week is not an annual gathering devoted primarily to the commercial aspects of a vast national enterprise. It is clear to me that so long as pharmacists are interested in high educational qualifications and are imbued with the ideal of service, the esteem in which its members are held will be steadily enhanced. As a close and dependable ally of the medical profession the pharmacist is an important factor in restoring to health the millions who unfortunately become ill."

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#### PHARMACY WEEK.

On Tuesday, October 20th, an address by President George D. Beal was broadcast, originating in Radio City. The speaker gave an outline of the pharmaceutical activities and the history of Pharmacy, its influence and service, their part in the protection and promotion of public health.

Dr. R. L. Swain spoke over WCAO. on October 19th on "The Pharmacist—A Community Asset." The message evidenced the thorough acquaintance with the subject and it is hoped in a succeeding number of the JOURNAL to quote at greater length; at this time we are taking the liberty of using the closing paragraph.

"And, so, on the first day of National Pharmacy Week, the public might well stand in salute to the pharmacists of America, a modest and yet indispensable group of public servants."

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NOTE: Owing to the many pages of Minutes of the Dallas meeting, it is necessary to limit the papers of the sections in this issue.