EDITORIAL NOTES

NEW SYSTEM OF NAMING COLORS.

The new system of naming colors was referred to in the report of the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. It will provide a definite, accurate measurement of color strength and tone. It was exhibited by the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science held at Atlantic City, N. J., during the week of December 28th. The new color names are simple, easily understood and usable and are based on a logical, scientific basis which gives them a legal standing and makes them valuable for many types of analytical work. The system is based on the use of the basic terms red, yellow, green, blue and purple with the component hues orange, pink, brown and olive, the modifiers faint, pale, light, brilliant, weak, vivid, strong, dusky, dark and deep, and the adverb *very*. The resulting terms such as "very dark blue," for example, would relate to a definite standard of color rather than to the color education of an individual observer as is now the case. Indefinite names ending in "ish" such as reddish, yellowish, etc., have been eliminated except as modifiers of definite names; such as reddish purple, yellowish green, etc.

The new system is the result of research being conducted at the National Bureau of Standards, at Washington, D. C., under the direction of Dr. Deane B. Judd and by Mr. Kenneth L. Kelly, research associate, under a National Formulary research project of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION which is sponsoring the work as a means of standardizing the color names used to describe official drugs and pharmaceuticals used in the treatment of disease.

PAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

An era of friendlier political and trade relations among American countries appears certain to result from the conference in Argentina. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, cabled his best wishes for the success of the Greater Texas and Pan-American Exposition to be held in Dallas in 1937, which will celebrate the achievement made at Buenos Aires.

The Pan-American health directors convened in Washington last April evidenced the value of the meetings with our neighbors and speaks for the opportunities that developed in Argentina and the possibilities that will result from these conferences. (See April JOURNAL, page 277.)

PRODUCTION OF IODINE.

Prior to 1932, this country was dependent on a foreign monopoly for its supply. A recent comment on a report of the Chemical Division of the Department of Commerce indicates that this country has recently assumed a leading position in the production of iodine. During 1935 the sale of this element by producers amounted to 245,700 pounds, and for the past four years it has averaged 276,500 pounds annually. The source of the iodine is salt brine and the waters from oil wells, the most successful projects being located in California. This rapid industrial chemical development has raised the United States from an essentially dependent nation as concerns iodine to the world's second largest producer.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA.

Plans are under way for a pharmacy institute of three days, to be given in connection with the Center for Continuation Study at the University of Minnesota. This Institute will be held on February 15, 16, 17, 1937.

THE HOSPITAL LABORATORY.

The laboratory of a hospital should be a separate unit both in a scientific and economical sense, and should be placed when possible in some ideal central spot among the wards from which it gets its material for examinations. It must naturally be subdivided into biochemical, microscopic, bacteriological and serological departments, as well as for anatomical and pathological investigations, the last in the immediate neighborhood of the mortuary. The outfit of instruments and material for use must be ample, having regard to reasonable economy, since the unique nature of investigations must be carried out quickly, accurately and strictly scientifically in the interests of the diagnosis and the dependent treatment. The laboratory of a large hospital must be in a position to carry out every investigation required for fixing a diagnosis. It must not, however, even though its aims are purely practical, limit itself to a daily routine, but of its own initiative take part in the steady development of science. Through the investigations of the causes of disease the laboratory serves not only curative but preventive medicine.—From *Nosokomeion*—Or-

FICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION.

OILY PREPARATION OF ACRIFLAVINE.

Acriflavine (neutral)	1 Gm.
Colloidal kaolin	20 Gm.
Wool fat	30 Gm.
White beeswax	50 Gm.
Ti-tree oil	10 mils.
Oil of lemongrass	1 mil.
Distilled water	250 mils.
Sterilized liquid paraffin	740 mils.

Aseptic precautions are observed and non-volatile ingredients are sterilized by heating. The kaolin is placed in petri dishes and sterilized in the hot air oven. It is too early to say much about clinical results, because the preparation has only been in use for a few weeks.

In the oil-in-water type of emulsion there is a choice of several formulas. The emulsifying agent is usually the soap of a monovalent metal or group, and consequently the acriflavine is in the continuous phase. Those emulsions prepared with solutions of ammonia or potassium hydroxide need care in making in order to avoid irritation caused by excess alkali. The use of this type of preparation looks like increasing sufficiently to warrant a formula being included in the next issue of the (British) Codex. —*Pharmaceutical Journal*, December 12, 1936.

AT THIS SEASON OF THE YEAR.

Tuberculosis blindness, maternal health, child welfare, crippled children, cancer, the American Red Cross enlist the public-spirited and sympathetic men and women to lend their support for efforts in correcting the growing afflictions. In every instance the need for help is urgent and very real and should have the support of all, so that the burden may not fall on the few. It requires and should have not only financial aid, but a better understanding of how the number of cases may be reduced and conditions improved.

It is stated that cancer took more than 140,000 lives in the United States and estimated that there are between three and five thousand sufferers alive to-day, perhaps, half of them might be saved if knowledge of the signs and symptoms which might mean early cancer were given to them and if they were strengthened by courage to act on that information without delay.

MENACE AND DANGER.

There are other diseases and dangers of infection that Surgeon General Parran is bringing to the attention of the public and are not in the foregoing classes; they have no place in that connection, but they are a menace and danger. It may be said, these conditions should not obtain, but they do; right or wrong, in every possible way there should be correction.

THE HOME MEDICINE CABINET.

"A Booklet entitled 'The Home Medicine Cabinet' was issued December 26th, by the Consumers' Project, a WPA activity under the supervision of the Department of Labor.

"The booklet, which consists of twenty-two pages, makes no reference to the products of any particular manufacturer, and is devoted chiefly to listing the essentials of a home medicine cabinet and describing their use. Principal products listed include an antiseptic, application for burns, pain-reliever, laxative, emetic, stimulant, toothbrush, dentifrice, gauze.

"Antiseptics recommended are iodine, boric acid and rubbing alcohol, and a few first-aid instructions in dressing a small wound are included. Laxatives approved are mineral oil, agar emulsion, cascara sagrada, milk of magnesia, sodium phosphate and castor oil. There is a caution about depending too much on laxatives and a warning against laxatives containing phenolphthalein or strychnine. Aspirin is described as 'the least harmful drug for use in the self-treatment of pain,' and consumers are warned against certain pain remedies.

"A formula for making tooth-powder in the home is given, and consumers are told that a dentifrice should do nothing more than clean the surface of the teeth. Salt water is recommended as the best mouthwash.

"The booklet frequently refers to publications of the American Medical Association and refers the reader to that organization or to the United States Food and Drug Administration for further information or lists of drugs containing ingredients mentioned."—From an article in *Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter* of December 28, 1936.

THE TREATMENT OF MALARIA.

"The multiplicity of therapeutic agents now available for the treatment of malaria and the conflicting claims of efficiency made for them create much therapeutic confusion. To date the most authoritative consideration of the question is the report of the Malaria Commission published in the *Quarterly Bulletin of the Health Organizations of the League of Nations*. The extensive review of the action and value of

the various drugs embodied in this report is based on numerous laboratory and clinical observations. The status at the time of the report is summarized thus: The new synthetic remedies now available are still in the experimental stage, and they (members of the commission) consider that the time has not yet come when any of these drugs can be recommended as substitutes for, or in preference to, quinine and other preparations of cinchona bark. The commission believed that quinine is effective for the purpose of clinical prophylaxis and that it remains the best drug to use. It is not good practice, according to the commission, to treat attacks of malaria in the acute stage with more than one of the specific drugs available. For treatment of an acute attack of benign tertian and quartan malaria, quinine and atabrine seem to be about equally effective. Atabrine, however, is definitely superior to quinine for the treatment of acute attacks of malignant tertian malaria. For the treatment of relapses the commission felt that no drug or combination of drugs seems yet to be available which will sterilize all the parasites in the human host and thus prevent the possibility of relapse. Plasmochin, unlike quinine and atabrine, has a powerful action against the gametocytes of malignant tertian malaria. The problem therefore retains some characters of confusion, much of which, however, can be eliminated by knowledge of the indications and limitations of the more widely used preparations."—*Journal A. M. A.*, November 14, 1936.

PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

Dr. David Hooper and Mrs. Hooper will celebrate the 50th anniversary of their marriage on January 19th. They were married in 1887 at Woodbourne, Catacamund, South India. Mr. Hooper was elected to honorary membership in the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION in 1899; his work in the chemistry of drugs while in India was outstanding. He was quinologist to the Government of Madras, India, 1884–1897, curator of Industrial Section, Indian Museum, Calcutta, 1897–1912, Economic Botanist to the Government of India, 1912–1914. He received the Hanbury Medal in 1907, was president of the British Pharmaceutical Conference in 1916. Dr. Hooper is in charge of the collection of Materia Medica specimens in the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum. We extend best wishes to the celebrants.

CENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF CHARLES F. CHANDLER.

Celebrations are planned by Columbia University and by chemical, civil and industrial groups to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Professor Charles Frederick Chandler, for sixty-one years a member of the faculty of Columbia, the father of the American Chemical Society, and one of America's first great industrial chemists.

Charles F. Chandler became a member of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION in 1867. A sketch may be found on page 227 of the March JOURNAL for 1917 and in September JOURNAL for 1925, page 849.

DOHME LECTURE.

Prof. Solomon Lefschetz, of Princeton University, delivered the first of the Dohme lectures this year. The subject of the lecture was "What Is Topology?" and delivered in Remsen Hall, the Johns Hopkins University. The speaker was introduced by Dr. A. R. L. Dohme, sponsor of the series of lectures, founded in memory of his father, Charles E. Dohme, a former president of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and outstanding in its activities. ("Topology" is a relatively new branch of higher geometry.)

Dr. John Howard Northrop of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research will receive the Charles Frederick Chandler Medal. He was cited for fundamental discoveries concerning bacteria, the constitution of the protein and the chemistry of digestion. The medal was founded in 1910 to honor Professor Chandler.

P. M. Gross, Chairman of the Department of Chemistry of Duke University, stated, December 12th, in an address at the University of Richmond that the nicotine in tobacco could be reduced without greatly changing the aromatic qualities of tobacco.

The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION has received from Mrs. Alice L. Braunworth a copy of the fiftieth anniversary number of the *Druggists Circular* and a copy of the *Western Druggist* containing a group picture of the A. PH. A. at Chicago, September 7, 1869. This number also contains prints of a large number of pharmacists.