EDITORIAL NOTES

EPIDEMIC CHOLERA IN TEXAS.

The *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* contains an article on the Epidemic Cholera in Texas, 1833–1834, by J. Villasana Haggard. It describes its ravages. Dr. Ignacio Sandejas was in charge of the hospital in Monterey. He had employed "the most reasonable prescriptions from among a great number offered him during the first attacks of the epidemic. The results were fatal in every case. Patients usually died within five hours after entering the hospital." In desperation "Dr. Sandejas went about the city in search of a new prescription. While engaged in this quest he heard that the residents of an indigent section of the city had discovered a cure for cholera. It consisted of giving the patient repeated drinks of lime water on the second water of nixtamal,[1] known as nejayote.[2]" "He immediately availed himself of the prescription and, with slight additions, supplied it to his patients. He was soon able to publish the following statement of results: " . . . .during the eight days that the epidemic has raged in this city over two hundred persons attacked by cholera have been cured with this prescription; and within the last seven days no one has died in the hospital. . . .[3]" The prescription follows:

"One slice of peyote, one finger in width and two fingers in length is allowed to boil in one cup of water. The liquid is then strained. To this liquid is added as much purified slaked lime as will be held on a silver real. It should then be stirred and drunk. If the systems are not lessened within a half hour, the dose must be repeated." Then follow instructions of care, treatments and foods for the patients.

". . . . Lastly, the narcotic effects of *peyote* (without the unwelcome results of opium) are well known; It is more soothing than opium.[3]"

Further parts of the article state that there were 43,000 sick at one time and the deaths about 18,000.

[1] Nixtamal—(From the Aztec *nextamalli*, composed of *nexatl*, lye and tomalli, tamal.—RAMAS Y DÚARTE, Feliz, *Diccinario de mejicanismos*, Imprenta de Eduardo Dublan, Mexico, 1895). Corn boiled in lime water.

[2] Ignacio Sandejas, August 13, 1833. Printed document, Spanish Archives, University of Texas.

[3] Same as foregoing foot-note.

The parts of the article are reprinted because of the history of the epidemic and also because of the prescription. It may be that other treatments contributed to the cures but there evidently was a different viewpoint of *peyote* than at present. Undoubtedly, the seriousness of the effect and results from the use of peyote warrants the legal action and probably, there is little, *if any*, need of this *very* dangerous drug. Still there are reasons for the beginnings of the use of a drug that require a knowledge of the history which brought this about.

HONOR ROLL IN MEDICINE.

Modern Medicine has again compiled an "Honor Roll of Men Who Made Medical Progress in 1936." About half of those named did their work in fields directly or closely related to pharmacy. Among those named are: William Dameshek, assistant professor of Medicine in Tufts College Medical School, and Abraham Meyerson, clinical professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, Boston —for clinical investigations in the uses of benzedrine and in the equilibrating of sympathetic and parasympathetic drugs.

Lester Dragstedt, University of Chicago—for research in physiology, work on the glandular product, lipocaic. Thomas Francis, Jr., and T. P. McGill, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research—for development of influenza vaccine. H. F. Helmholz and A. E. Oasterberg, Mayo Clinic—for clinical research with mandelic acid. Elliott P. Joslin, Boston, —for research in diabetes, new protamine insulin.

Thomas Parran, surgeon general, U. S. Public Health Service—for initiating a fight on syphilis. R. R. Williams, New York—for the discovery on the chemical formula Vitamin B, resulting in its synthesis.

THE SECTION OF MEDICINE AND SCIENCE OF THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

According to present plans for the International Exposition in Paris in May 1937, announced by the French High Commissioner, three large pavilions will be devoted to medicine and science. Special emphasis will be placed on the precise scientific character of modern medicine as compared to the hit-or-miss methods of the nineteenth century. It is planned that the exhibit, which it is expected

will be of special interest to members of the medical and allied professions, will be so arranged and displayed as to be easily understood by the layman.—*Science.*

NEW AND NONOFFICIAL REMEDIES.

THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL ARTICLES HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED AS CONFORMING TO THE RULES OF THE COUNCIL ON PHARMACY AND CHEMISTRY OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION FOR ADMISSION TO NEW AND NONOFFICIAL REMEDIES. A COPY OF THE RULES ON WHICH THE COUNCIL BASES ITS ACTION WILL BE SENT ON APPLICATION.—PAUL NICHOLAS LEECH, *Secretary.*

PROCAINE-ABBOTT (See New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1936, p. 67).

The following dosage form has been accepted:

Sterile Ampoules Procaine Hydrochloride Crystals for Spinal Anesthesia, 50 mg.

SCARLET FEVER STREPTOCOCCIC TOXIN, U. S. P. (See New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1936, p. 388).

Mulford Biological Laboratories, Sharp & Dohme, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

Scarlet Fever Streptococcus Toxin for Immunization-Mulford: Prepared by the method of Drs. Dick under U. S. Patent 1,547,369 (July 29, 1925; expires 1942) by license of the Scarlet Fever Committee Incorporated. Marketed in packages of five ampoule-vials containing, respectively, 500, 2,000, 8,000, 25,000 and from 80,000 to 100,000 skin test doses; also in packages containing ten complete treatments consisting of six 10-cc. vials, one containining 500 skin test doses per cubic centimeter, one containing 2,000 skin test doses per cubic centimeter, one containing 8,000 skin test doses per cubic centimeter, one containing 25,000 skin test doses per cubic centimeter and two containing from 80,000 to 100,000 skin test doses per 2 cubic centimeters.

PERNOSTON.—Butyl-β-bromallyl barbituric acid.—5-(butyl-2)-5-β-brompropenyl malonylurea.—$[CH(CH_3)CH_2CH_3](CH_2CBr{:}CH_2)C{\cdot}CONH{\cdot}CONH{\cdot}CO$. Pernoston differs from barbital (diethylbarbituric acid) in that both of the ethyl groups of the latter are replaced, one by a (normal) secondary butyl group, and the other by a substituted brominated allyl group.

Actions and Uses.—The actions and uses of pernoston are essentially similar to those of barbital, but pernoston is more active than barbital and is used in correspondingly smaller doses. It is promptly absorbed and is rapidly changed and destroyed within the body. It is used in combating insomnia due to emotional strain and nervous instability. In therapeutic doses it is said to produce no demonstrable toxic effects on the heart, lungs, blood vessels and kidneys; it does not interfere with the physiologic activities of these organs.

Dosage: One tablet (3 grains) given one-half hour before sleep is desired, preferably followed by a glass of warm milk or lemonade. For hypnosis in the presence of pain: one tablet given in conjunction with aminopyrine or acetylsalicylic acid.

Manufactured by J. D. Riedel-E. de Haen, A. G., Berlin, Germany (Riedel-de Haen, Inc., New York, distributor). U. S. patent 1,739,662 (December 17, 1929, expires 1946). U. S. trademark 266,216.

Pernoston Tablets, 3 grains.

Pernoston occurs as a fine, white, crystalline powder, with a slightly bitter taste; completely soluble in alcohol and ether; very slightly soluble in cold water; insoluble in the paraffin hydrocarbons. A saturated aqueous solution is acid to litmus paper. Pernoston melts at 130 to 133 C.

Place approximately 1 Gm. of Pernoston in a 25-cc. glass stoppered cylinder, add 10 cc. of water and 1 cc. sodium hydroxide solution and shake for one minute, filter through paper and divide into two portions; to one portion add 1 cc. of mercury bichloride solution: a white precipitate results, soluble in 10 cc. of ammonia water; to the other portion add 5 cc. of silver nitrate solution: a white precipitate results, soluble in 5 cc. of ammonia water.

Fuse about 0.1 Gm. of pernoston and 1 Gm. of crushed potassium hydroxide, previously moistened with 1 cc. of alcoholic potassium hydroxide solution, in a nickel crucible: it is decomposed with the evolution of ammonia; cool, dissolve the residue in 10 cc. of water, add 10 cc. of diluted nitric acid, filter through paper; to the filtrate add 5 cc. of silver nitrate solution: a curdy dirty white precipitate results, soluble in excess of stronger ammonia water.

Dissolve 0.1 Gm. of pernoston in 1 cc. of sulfuric acid: the liquid assumes a yellow color, changing slowly to a brownish red, finally to a dark red. Place 1 Gm. of pernoston in a 25-cc. glass stoppered cylinder, add 10 cc. of water, shake for one minute, filter through paper and divide into two portions; to one portion add 0.5 cc. of a saturated bromine water: an immediate discoloration occurs; to the other portion add 0.1 cc. of tenth-normal potassium permanganate: a yellow color appears immediately.

Boil 0.5 Gm. of pernoston with 50 cc. of water for two minutes: no odor develops; cool and filter; separate portions of 10 cc. each of the filtrate yield no opalescence with 1 cc. of diluted nitric acid and 1 cc. of silver nitrate solution (*chloride*); no turbidity with 1 cc. of diluted nitric acid and 1 cc. of barium nitrate solution (*sulfate*); no coloration or precipitation on saturation with hydrogen sulfide (*salts of heavy metals*).

Incinerate about 1 Gm. of pernoston, accurately weighed: the residue does not exceed 0.1 per cent. Transfer about 0.25 Gm. of pernoston, accurately weighed, to a bomb tube; determine the bromine content by the Carius method: the amount of bromine found should be not less than 26.1 per cent nor more than 26.6 per cent. Dissolve about 0.5 Gm. of pernoston, accurately weighed, in 25 cc. of previously neutralized alcohol; dilute with an equal volume of water and titrate with tenth-normal sodium hydroxide solution, using thymolphthalein as an indicator; the amount of tenth-normal sodium hydroxide solution consumed corresponds to not less than 98.5 per cent nor more than 101.5 per cent of *sec.* butyl-bromallyl barbituric acid.

SODIUM GOLD THIOSULFATE (See New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1936, p. 223).

Gold Sodium Thiosulfate-Merck.—A brand of sodium gold thiosulfate-N. N. R.

Manufactured by Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, N. J. No U. S. patent or trademark. (Ampuls 0.1 to 1.0 Gm.)

PENTOBARBITAL SODIUM-LILLY (See New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1936, p. 109).

The following dosage form has been accepted:

Ampoules Pentobarbital Sodium-Lilly, 0.5 Gm. (7½ *grains*): Each ampoule contains the stated amount of pentobarbital sodium and is accompanied by a 10-cc. size ampoule of distilled water.—Courtesy *J. A. M. A.*, Jan. 16, 1937.

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE ARBORETUM.

Fifteen acres of woodland have been added to the Connecticut Arboretum at Connecticut College in a gift from forty donors interested

in the development of the arboretum. The names of all the donors have been affixed to the deed, which specifies that the property shall be set aside forever as a wild-life preserve.

THE FLOODS.

Readers have been made acquainted of the disastrous floods and to the members in the afflicted area the sympathy and sorrow of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION is expressed. Cincinnati has relatively and directly suffered greatest loss; Louisville has been severely stricken and other cities proportionately have suffered greatly. Pittsburgh has had great loss and destruction and also West Virginia sections. These losses cannot be estimated but as far as is possible the Government, States and the Red Cross and other divisions have entered into the work of relief; at best this cannot restore the loss sustained, the suffering, and health—the efforts of those who have not been stricken will alleviate and comfort.

Since the above was written, other sections have suffered great losses, among them Evansville, Ind., and Cairo, Ill.

PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

In an address to the Scientific Section of the Birmingham Branch of the Society Dr. E. G. Bryant, head of the Pharmaceutical Department of the Central Technical College, gave an account of the relationship between Zoölogy and Pharmacy.

In the January number of the *Maryland Pharmacist*, **John C. Krantz** depicts his active life in an interesting way, referring for his references to actual experience: and while he liked the old shop he expressed himself as interested and happy in his modern establishment.

Dr. John C. Krantz, Jr., Professor of Pharmacology, University of Maryland Medical School, addressed the Parent-Teachers' Association of Garrett Heights School, Baltimore, on January 7th. Earlier in the same evening, Dr. Krantz spoke before the Torch Club of Baltimore on recent advances in chemo-therapy.

A surprise party was tendered **Jesse L. Hopkins** by employees of J. L. Hopkins & Co., January 13th. The occasion celebrated 47 years of the company's business life.

John K. Clemmer, Miami, was elected *President* of the Florida State Board of Pharmacy for 1937. Other new officers are: J. K. Atwood, Jacksonville, and Victor Wray, Haines City, *Vice-Presidents;* J. H. Haughton, Palatka, *Secretary-Treasurer;* W. M. Hankins, Daytona, continues as a member of the Board.

Frederick C. A. Schaefer was reëlected president of the New York Branch of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION at the recent meeting in New York City. Other officers, also reëlected, are: Otto F. A. Canis, *Vice President;* Horace T. F. Givens, *Secretary;* Turner F. Currens, *Treasurer.*

A farewell dinner was given to John Culley, in San Francisco. Mr. Culley is leaving for Ogden, Utah, where he is planning to open a professional pharmacy.

A parchment scroll, signed by all in attendance, and an engraved silver plaque were presented to Mr. Culley by Albert A. Hansen, chairman of the All-Pharmaceutical Committee who staged the event under the auspices of the Allied Drug Travelers. George Frates, *past-president* of the California Pharmaceutical Association presided. Among the speakers were: Ray Whidden, William Rutherford, *past-president* of the California Pharmaceutical Association; Louis J. Fischl, *president* of the Northern California Retail Druggists' Association; Waldemar Gnerich, *secretary* of the N. C. R. D. A.; Angelo Bosso, *president* of the San Francisco Retail Druggists' Association, Prof. R. Misch, University of California College of Pharmacy, and Arthur Narveson, *president* of the Allied Drug Travelers of California.

Dean Howard C. Newton and Professor **Heber W. Youngken,** of Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, were speakers at the New Hampshire mid-winter meeting at Concord, January 25th.

Dean John L. Dandreau, of St. John's University College o Pharmacy, greets the readers of *The New York State Pharmacist* for January.

Dean C. Leonard O'Connell, University of Pittsburgh College of Pharmacy and **Associate Dean George C. Schicks,** of Rutgers University College of Pharmacy, were speakers at Connecticut mid-winter meeting of the State Association. The legislative program was led by **Hugh P. Beirne,** of New Haven.

The Scotsman, Edinburgh, refers to a donation of a framed indicator whereby the record by photography of the panorama from Braid Hills may be viewed. It has been presented by our honorary member in Edinburgh, **William Mair,** and accepted by Edinburgh Corporation.