

EDITORIAL NOTES

RESEARCH FOR PROGRESS.

Touching briefly upon the general value of research as something already known to his audience, Dr. A. G. DuMez, dean of the School of Pharmacy of the University of Maryland, outlined certain applications of research, which he believed pharmaceutical manufacturers would find it advisable to undertake and to promote. In this connection he gave some information on the institutions best equipped to carry out research of specific types. He considered in several aspects research in commercial, chemical, pharmacological, pharmaceutical, botanical and clinical lines.

Standardization of unofficial preparations was discussed by Mr. DuMez, who considered this a desirable undertaking, and he told of the plan of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION to revive its work in this connection and establish a laboratory in this field.

Schools of pharmacy are steadily becoming better equipped to serve manufacturers in research, Dr. DuMez said, and he believed that it was logical that this service should be utilized as it promised the best treatment of many problems. He referred his hearers to Dr. Ernest Little, dean of the New Jersey College of Pharmacy, Newark, for particulars and assistance in this connection, Dr. Little being the chairman of the executive committee of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and having made a particular study of research facilities.—From *Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter*.

STERILIZING UTENSILS.

The International Pharmaceutical Federation advises that during the sessions of the International Congress of Pharmacy in Brussels Professor B. Koskowski presented a report on the "Necessity of Sterilizing Medical Utensils."

The conclusion of this report is as follows:

"A pharmacy, as an institution devoted to health, should exercise care not to be a focus of contagion; the installations should be aseptic; the free use of glass on the tables, counters, etc., and the sterilization of the utensils used in the practice of pharmacy should give the impression of an establishment kept in a most cleanly condition. In this manner public confidence is won.

"We should not wait for the inspecting authorities to intervene in these questions and give orders which will impose aseptic conditions in pharmacies. I submit to the consideration of the 12th International Congress of Pharmacy in Brussels my proposal for the adoption by all pharmacies of the sterilization of medical utensils."

The Congress adopted this conclusion unanimously. However, that fact does not give the Bureau of the International Pharmaceutical Federation authority to undertake any further measures. Nevertheless, the Bureau of the International Pharmaceutical Federation asks attention be given to this problem, and it is hoped to have reports.

BLACK WIDOW SPIDERS.

Science of April 16th, in its supplement states that Black Widow Spiders were known to the Aztecs of pre-Columbian Mexico. The Aztecs knew, too, that the spiders were poisonous, yet they were not afraid of them. For they knew another thing, which few present-day white men are willing to believe—that the black widow's bite is rarely fatal, even though it may make the victim uncomfortably ill for several days. Dr. C. H. Curran, of the American Museum of Natural History, has dug up out of old Spanish records the notes about the black widow set down by the scholarly missionary Sahagun, to whose encyclopedic writings about Mexico the modern world owes the larger part of its knowledge of Aztec life. Sahagun estimated the black widow briefly, but correctly: "There are some poisonous spiders in this country, they are black and have a reddish tail. The stings cause great fatigue for three or four days, although they do not kill with their sting." Aztec doctors treated black widow bites with compresses soaked in an alkaline solution, and also gave the patient an alkaline drink. Complete rest for several days was a necessary part of the cure.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

It is understood that the National Institute of Health is planning the establishment of a center for Public Health Service research activities at Bethesda, Md., and that the plans for the center are maturing rapidly. The

change brings the opportunity for Dr. George W. McCoy to return to his favorite study of leprosy, with which his name has long been identified as an investigator.

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*.

ACRIFLAVINE NEUTRAL-CALCO (See New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1936, p. 189).

The following dosage form has been accepted:

Acriflavine Neutral-Calco, Vaginal Capsules, 1/2 grain: Acriflavine neutral-Calco 1/2 grain (0.033 Gm.) in a one-half ounce soluble gelatin capsule containing an excipient the composition of which is sugar of milk, starch and talc.

RINGER'S SOLUTION.—Aqueous solution containing, in 1,000 cc., sodium chloride 7.0 Gm., potassium chloride 0.30 Gm., and calcium chloride 0.25 Gm.

Actions and Uses.—Ringer's Solution is used when chlorides and sodium, potassium and calcium have been diminished. It is indicated in all forms of dehydration but particularly in cases in which loss of gastrointestinal secretions has resulted from vomiting, diarrheas or fistulas. It is also used in acidosis or alkalosis for improvement of circulation and stimulation of renal activity.

Dosage.—Ringer's Solution is given by all parenteral routes, chiefly subcutaneously and intraperitoneally.

Ringer's Solution in Filtrair Container: Each 100 cc. contains sodium chloride-U. S. P. 0.7 Gm., potassium chloride-U. S. P. 0.03 Gm., and calcium chloride (anhydrous) 0.025 Gm. Marketed in bottles (Filtrair containers) of 500 and 1,000 cc.

Prepared by Hospital Liquids, Inc., Chicago.

Ringer's solution occurs as a clear, colorless solution, possessing a slightly saline taste. The specific gravity is from 1.005 to 1.006 at 25 C. Twenty-five cc. of the solution concentrated to 10 cc. conforms to the U. S. P. XI test for heavy metals; 10 cc. of the solution conforms to the U. S. P. XI test for arsenic.

For limits of potassium, calcium, etc.—see *Journal A. M. A.*, March 6, 1937.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF PHARMACISTS.

A proposal for the interchange of pharmacists between various countries of the world has been submitted to pharmaceutical organizations affiliated with the International Pharmaceutical Federation, following a suggestion made by the German Pharmaceutical Society.

The proposed conditions under which exchanges may be arranged are:

(a) Duration of exchange period—six months;

(b) Pharmacists selected for exchange must not hold appointments in their own country at the time of selection;

(c) All costs of voyage and expenses in country to which they proceed are to be paid by pharmacists selected for exchange.

THE SEALING OF GELATIN CAPSULES.

In dispensing small numbers of soft gelatin capsules it is customary to seal the capsules with the aid of a hot spatula or glass rod. This method is not entirely satisfactory, as it is difficult to obtain a neat seal, and one which is reliable in keeping the contents in the capsule. Moreover, it frequently happens that the hot iron or glass discolours the gelatin. To overcome these drawbacks, the following method has been adopted: Steam is generated from a pointed bent glass tubing inserted through a stoppered test-tube. The capsule is held in the steam within the area of dryness. A rapid seal is effected, which is neat, strong and free from any trace of charring. Instead of a glass apparatus, a flat oil-can such as is supplied with cycles and sewing machines, may be used.—By S. J. STARKEY in *The Pharmaceutical Journal*.—Feb. 27, 1937.

PRIMITIVE MEDICINE.

Dr. J. P. Todd, professor at Royal Technical College, Glasgow, recently said: "I have recently been reading some books of extraordinary interest which deal with the medicine men of the native tribes of Africa and the South Sea Islands. It came as a surprise to learn how much these people knew about disease and medicine, even if their knowledge was empirical rather than scientific. During the recent Abyssinian campaign a native soldier was badly wounded by a splinter of a steel shell. An amateur surgeon operated, his instruments being scalpels made of sharpened fresh-water mussel shells fixed on stick. Before operating he plunged them into boiling water to "kill evil." The wounded man was operated on and the splinter removed. Then the wound was treated with an antiseptic made from a local plant, and the wound sewn up with needles and the thread of a tree bark. In ten days the wound had healed. In parts of New Guinea bleeding is stopped by the application of leaves possessing a styptic effect, and home-made ligatures are used.

Some anæsthetics, such as cocaine in the form of coca leaves, were known to primitive people long before they were used in this country. Cinchona, jalap and eucalyptus were all used in the tropics long before their employment here in hospitals."—*Pharmaceutical Journal* (England); March 6th, page 252.

MUNICH PHARMACY MUSEUM.

The German Pharmacists' Association is appealing to its members for contributions for the Museum of Pharmacy in Munich. It demonstrates the use of medicines in the course of the centuries, beginning with the medicinal herbs as employed in 2000 B. C.

DANISH APOTHECARY SHOP—1780-1800.

It is announced in a February 1937 issue, of *Arch. Pharm. og Chemi* that a typical Danish apothecary shop of the period 1780-1800 is to be established at the museum of folk culture at Kjøbstad, Denmark. The museum is known as "The Old Village" (*Den gamle By*). A brick and timbered house, one of the oldest dated buildings of its type in Denmark, has been assigned to house the project. A committee of apothecaries and professors of pharmacy has been formed to plan the exhibit and to raise the necessary funds. The treasurer is Apothecary Carl Stub of Skanderborg, Denmark. Subscriptions are solicited.—*Courtesy of C. S. Leonard.*

NUMBER OF LICENSES OF JAPANESE PHARMACISTS.

The Japanese Home Department has recently completed an investigation into the number of licenses issued to pharmacists, physicians, dentists. During the ten years between 1925 and 1935, 13,945 licenses have been issued of which 4231 were re-written and 734 were re-issued. The results show that an average of 1394 pharmacists increased every year during the ten years under review.—*Japanese Retail Pharmacist.*

LIABILITIES ARE LOWER. BUSINESS CONDITIONS.

A sharp decrease in the number of failures in the manufacturing as well as the retail branch of the drug industry in 1936 as compared with 1935 is shown in a recent report by Dun and Bradstreet. The report shows that for manufacturers of chemicals and drugs there were 61 failures with liabilities of \$1,411,000 in 1936 as compared with 87 failures and liabilities of \$2,151,000 in 1935.

PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

Dean Edward Spease, of Western Reserve School of Pharmacy, addressed the City Club of Cleveland, March 20th, on national Food and Drug Legislation, past and present. The Saturday noon talks at the City Club are regularly broadcast, and because of the importance of the subjects discussed and the general competence of the speakers these broadcasts are widely listened to. The talk evoked from the critical audience a warm response, and the gist of Professor Spease's talk was printed in the newspapers.

Our fellow-member, **Professor Charles F. Heebner**, has rendered splendid service to pharmacy in Toronto and throughout Canada. He has also gained recognition Masonically and *Bulletin* 496 is largely devoted to his record. It contains a sketch of his activities in Pharmacy and an appreciation of the Masonic bodies. The sketch of the Dean ends with these words: "A more-or-less imaginary line which separates two neighbor nations has long ago tied them in bonds of friendship, and coöperation in pharmacy is as general between the pharmacists of Canada and the United States as among those of respective countries." He is an alumnus of New York College of Pharmacy. The appreciation evidences the high esteem in which our member is held.

The Masonic meeting of April 14th was known as "Pharmacy Night," at which time Dean Heebner presided and the candidate for degrees was the son of a pharmacist.

MINNESOTA STATE PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

Dean Emeritus Frederick J. Wulling was honored at the fifty-third annual banquet of the Minnesota State Pharmaceutical Association on April 7th. At this time tributes were paid to the retiring dean and the banquet dedicated to him. At this time, also, formal presentation of a memorial plaque was made by President Frederick K. Kustermann of the Alumni Association. President Roy G. Paulson of the Association presided as toastmaster.

Greetings were read from Governor Elmer Benson, John W. Dargavel, Jesse B. Slocumb and Dean C. H. Rogers.

Nearly 900 guests were seated at the table and following the banquet a musical program was rendered.