EDITORIAL NOTES

EXAMINATION OF PHARMACISTS FOR THE MEDICAL ADMINISTRATIVE CORPS, REGULAR ARMY.

The War Department is announcing an examination December 13–17, 1937, to qualify candidates for appointment as Second Lieutenant in the Medical Administrative Corps, Regular Army, to fill the ten existing vacancies.

Appointments will be made from pharmacists, male citizens of the United States, between the ages of 21 and 32 years, who are graduates of recognized schools or colleges of pharmacy, that is, schools or colleges approved by the American Association Colleges of Pharmacy, requiring four years of instruction for graduation and legally authorized to confer the degree of Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy.

Examination for appointment includes physical, a written examination in Practice of Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Pharmacognosy, Pharmacology, and Bacteriology, Hygiene and Sanitation, and an estimate of the candidate's adaptability for military service.

Examining boards will be convened at convenient locations throughout the continental limits of the United States for the examination of candidates authorized by the War Department to appear before them. Full information and application blanks will be furnished upon request by The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, D. C.

Applications will not be considered after November 24, 1937.

PROGRAM, AUTUMN 1937 MEETINGS OF THE WASHINGTON BRANCH, AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

OCTOBER 18, 1937.

(1) Survey of the Bioassays of the U. S. P. XI and N. F. VI.....William T. McClosky.

(2) Color Names for Pharmaceuticals (Illustrated with Charts)...K. L. Kelly.

(3) Reminiscences of Veteran Pharmacists and Pharmaceutical Chemists of Washington.

(FIVE-MINUTE SKETCHES.)

Henry E. Kalusowski.....S. L. Hilton.
M. I. Wilbert.....S. L. Hilton.
H. W. Wiley.....L. F. Kebler.

NOVEMBER 15, 1937.

Some Native Poisonous Plants.
(Illustrated).....James F. Couch.
Discussed by V. K. Chesnut.

DECEMBER 13, 1937.

Pharmacy and Medicine in Ancient Egypt.
(Illustrated).....L. E. Warren.
A popular lecture, Ladies particularly invited.
A Dinner Meeting is in prospect. Date to be announced.

Announcement has recently been made that the work of preparing the new edition of the French Codex has now been completed and that the new Pharmacopée Française is to appear during the course of this year. The new edition, which takes the place of the 1908 edition, reprinted with additions in 1920, and further added to since by various additions, will be in two volumes, the first containing the legal section with general chemical information, and the second including a list of chemical, medical and veterinary products. This new Codex has been compiled by a commission which included professors of the Paris School of Medicine and Pharmacy, as well as representatives from the various retail chemists' organizations. The secretary-general of the commission is Charles Lormand, director of the Control Laboratory for Medicines.

PHARMACY WEEK.

Pharmacy Week this year is held from October 18th to 23rd. The success of the movement depends upon the activities of the pharmacists. The greater the number who take part the greater will be the results. All are urged to take part.

Publicity for Pharmacy Week is best prepared by individual effort according to locality: By displays, distribution of messages, mailing communications to allied professions, the press, conversations with patrons, talks before clubs and other civic organizations, high school essays, etc. Publicity should be on professional lines.

Keep in mind the prizes that are offered, the certificates for meritorious displays; the Robert J. Ruth Memorial Prize becomes the permanent possession of the winner.

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.*

MERCURIN.—A mixture of 20 per cent of the β-methoxy-γ-hydroxymercuri-propylamide of trimethyl cyclopentane dicarboxylic acid $C(CH_3)_2C.CH_3.COOH.CH_2CH_2CHCONHCH_2CH_2.OCH_3.CH_2HgOH$ and 80 per cent of its sodium salt. Mercurin is a complex synthetic mercurial containing about 40 per cent of mercury prepared from *d*-camphoric acid and a racemic substituted propylamide.

Actions and Uses.—Mercurin is proposed for use as a diuretic to be administered rectally. Its potency is comparable to that of parenterally administrated mercurial diuretics. It is well tolerated. It is contraindicated in advanced chronic nephritis and acute renal disease and should be used with caution in presence of diarrhea, enterocolitis and hemorrhoids or other rectal disorders. It probably acts as a mild renal irritant.

Dosage.—Mercurin is supplied in the form of cocoa butter suppositories, each containing 0.5 Gm. of mercurin, to be administered rectally in the morning, repeated at three- to five-day intervals as required by each individual case.

Manufactured by Chinoin Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works, Ltd., Budapest, Hungary (Campbell Products, Inc., New York, distributor), U. S. patent applied for. U. S. trademark 338,989.

Mercurin Suppositories, 0.5 Gm.

Mercurin occurs as a white, odorless, bitter tasting noncrystalline powder that is very slightly soluble in water, soluble in alcohol, and insoluble in ether. An aqueous solution has a p_H of about 7.8. Suspend about 1 Gm. of mercurin in 10 cc. of water, add 30 cc. of 2 normal acetic acid and 1.5 Gm. of ammonium chloride; heat on the water-bath and bubble hydrogen sulfide through the solution until no more precipitate is formed, filter while hot and place the filtrate in the refrigerator for twelve hours; filter and wash the crystals with a little cold water and dry at 75° C.: the precipitate with hydrogen sulfide indicates the presence of mercury; the crystals melt at from 157.5° to 158.5° C. and are identified as trimethyl cyclopentane dicarboxylic acid monoallylamide. Transfer about 1 Gm. of mercurin, accurately weighed, to a 25-cc. standard flask, add 1 cc. of sodium hydroxide solution, fill to the mark with water; observe the rotation of the resulting solution within thirty minutes in a layer 200 mm. thick at 25° C. using the D line of sodium: $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ is not less than 9.5 nor more than 10.5.

Saturate with hydrogen sulfide, 5 cc. of the solution prepared for observing the rotation: no precipitate forms and no coloration results (*Heavy metals—especially mercuric ions*). Dissolve 0.1 Gm. in 5 cc. of water, add 1 cc. of diluted nitric acid, filter through paper and divide the filtrate into two portions; to one portion add 1 cc. of silver nitrate solution: not more than a slight opalescence results (*chlorides*); to the other portion add 1 cc. of barium nitrate solution: no turbidity results (*sulfates*). When tested for arsenic according to the U. S. Pharmacopœia X, the product meets the requirements for arsenic (p. 428, Arsenic Test).

Transfer about 0.5 Gm. of mercurin, accurately weighed, to a wide mouth weighing bottle and dry to constant weight in an oven at 80° C.: the loss in weight is not less than 6.5 per cent nor more than 7.5 per cent. Determine nitrogen by the micro Dumas method: the nitrogen is not less than 2.75 per cent nor more than 2.80 per cent when calculated to the dried substance. Transfer an accurately weighed specimen of the original to a platinum dish and ash in the presence of sulfuric acid, ignite to constant weight in a muffle furnace at 900° C.: the residue calculated as sodium sulfate is equivalent to not less than 4.20 per cent nor more than 4.70 per cent sodium when calculated to the dried substance. Transfer about 0.3 Gm. of mercurin, accurately weighed, to a large platinum dish, add 15 cc. of a solution of sodium sulfide (made by dissolving 50 Gm. of crystallized sodium sulfide to make 100 cc. of solution) and sufficient water to nearly fill the dish, electrolyze at 5 volts for eighteen hours; siphon off the solution while adding water until the ammeter shows that no current is flowing; break the circuit; wash the mercury deposit with alcohol and ether; dry for a few minutes in a warm place; and then in a desiccator over sulfuric acid in which a beaker containing mercury has been placed, weigh: the percentage of mercury is between 30.2 per cent and 40.2 per cent when calculated to the dry basis.

MERCURIN SUPPOSITORIES.

Place a suppository in a beaker containing 150 cc. of cold anhydrous ether. When disintegration is complete, transfer the undissolved material to a prepared gooch crucible using the first filtrate as needed to complete the transfer, dry the crucible in an oven at 80° C., cool in a desiccator and weigh: the weight of the insoluble material is not less than 0.47 Gm. or more than 0.53 Gm., and it meets the standards for mercurin.—From *J. A. M. A.*, July 10, 1937.

PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

It is regretted that the name of **Mrs. Robert S. Lehman** was omitted from the List of Registrants in the August JOURNAL. She was *Chairlady* of the Ladies' Committee at the New York Meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Skinner, of England, were visitors at the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHARMACY, Washington. Mr. Skinner is pharmacist at the Royal Northern Hospital, London; he is an *honorary member* of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

Former President, A. PH. A., **R. L. Swain** is president of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy.

J. Leon Lascoff will be awarded the Remington Medal, for 1937, at a dinner in New York, on October 25th.

J. W. Gayle, *Secretary* of Kentucky Pharmaceutical Association, has been elected *Honorary President* of the National Association Boards of Pharmacy; he is also the *Treasurer.*

Secretary H. C. Christensen, N. A. B. P., and Mrs. Christensen were visitors at the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHARMACY, on September 19th.

President E. N. Gathercoal, A. PH. A., and Mrs. Gathercoal, after a delightful visit through New England, stopped over at the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHARMACY before returning to Chicago.

RODOLFO ALBINO DIAS DA SILVA.

We are advised by Virgilio Lucas, President of the Pharmaceutical Association of Brazil, of the death of Rodolfo Albino Dias da Silva, professor of Pharmacognosy at the School of Pharmacy, University of Brazil, late *honorary member* of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION. He has been succeeded by Professor Oswaldo de Almeida Costa, a pharmacologist of high standing. President Lucas advises that the latter has signified his interest in pharmacy and is a worthy successor.

OBITUARY.

DR. GEORGE H. SIMMONS.

A very large circle of friends among American physicians and pharmacists have been grieved to learn of the death of George H. Simmons, September 1st, at St. Luke's Hospital, Chicago, following an abdominal operation from which he failed to rally.

Courtesy J. A. M. A.
DR. GEORGE H. SIMMONS.

Dr. Simmons was born at Moreton, England, in 1852, and came to the United States when 18 years of age. While in attendance at the University of Nebraska he acted in an editorial capacity and as correspondent for various lay publications. He received the degree of M.D. from the Hahneman Medical College, Chicago, in 1882 and from the Rush Medical College in 1892.

He was engaged in the practice of medicine at Lincoln, Neb., from 1884 to 1892. In 1896 he established the *Western Medical Review*, of which he was the editor, and from 1895 to 1899 served as Secretary of the Nebraska State Medical Society.

In 1899 he became General Secretary of the American Medical Association and editor of *The Journal*, and at the time of his death was editor and general manager emeritus of that publication.

During the decade 1920–1930 he was a member of the Board of Trustees of the United States Pharmacopœial Convention. During the World War he held the rank of Major in the Army Medical Reserve Corps for which service he was awarded the distinguished Service Medal in 1921.

With the beginning of his service as General Secretary of the American Medical Association that rather staid professional organization entered upon a new order of existence. From a dignified professional society meeting periodically for the discussion of scientific papers it became an aggressively militant organization in the work of medical reform. Through its special organ it attacked medical quackery and fraud in all its forms. It led a crusade in favor of the improvement of the methods of medical education and in the exposure of fraudulent degree-conferring institutions.

Under his administration the A. M. A. Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry was established, through which the method of advertising therapeutic agents to the medical profession has been radically reformed, and at the same time the *Journal* has conducted a pitiless exposure of fraudulent medicines advertised to the general public.

It may fairly be said that it has been due mainly to his organizing and administrative ability that the American Medical Association has come to be regarded as the most potent and effective organization of its kind, and that the *A. M. A. Journal* owes its commanding