

## EDITORIAL NOTES

### PROBLEMS OF THE PHARMACOPŒIA.

In the January issue of the *JOURNAL*, page 5, "Problems of the Pharmacopœia" are discussed by *Chairman E. H. Wirth*, who would like to have more replies from interested persons on the subject. A reply, accordingly, was inserted on page XVI, of the *Advertising Section*, of the same issue of the *JOURNAL*, and it is hoped that more pharmacists will reply so that the Committee will be enabled to do this important work.



DANIEL HANBURY.

Face of Hanbury Medal.—see page 89.

*Toronto, Canada.*—A. E. Hanham, of Toronto, has been temporarily appointed secretary of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association and editor of the organization's publication, the *Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal*. He succeeds Dr. R. B. J. Stanbury, who died recently.

Dr. George F. Bowerman, District of Columbia Librarian, presided at the last session of Bibliographers held in Washington, at the Library of Congress. Those who attended the meeting came from Latin America and an address was delivered by Raphael Heliodoro Valle, Professor of American history at the University of Mexico. His subject was "The Bibliographical Wealth of America."

### DONATIONS.

**William C. Powell**, of Snow Hill, Maryland, has made several donations to the Museum of the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHARMACY. A bell metal mortar was given to him by Dr. G. M. Vandergrift, of New York City. Mr. Powell

was told this mortar was with the American soldiers at the Battle of Monmouth and Valley Forge—one of the Vandergrifts being surgeon. The other mortar, a *Lignum Vitæ* Mortar, was found under the "drifting sands" at Lewes, Del., and it is supposed to have belonged to the first president of the American Pilots' Association who was also a "dealer in spices."

**Samuel L. Hilton** has added to the list of magazines and books of the Library of the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHARMACY.

**F. W. Connolly**, Boston, has donated a vial of grain musk and another *Lignum Vitæ* mortar and an unusual mortar and pestle; the latter is of particular interest because it covers completely the inside of the mortar and, doubtless, dates back to quite an early period.

**Walter R. Brackenbury**, M.P.S., Middlesbrough, London, England, sent with his compliments, the following books:

"Air Raid Precautions, Handbook No. 2"—  
"First Aid for Gas Casualties."

"Air Raid Precautions, Handbook No. 1"—  
"Personal Protection against Gas."

"Air Raid Precautions, Handbook No. 6"—  
"Air Raid Precautions in Factories and Business Premises."

"Air Raid Precautions, Handbook No. 4"—  
"Decontamination of Materials."

Published by His Majesty's Stationery Office, London, England.

Major General C. R. Reynolds, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C., has appointed **E. N. Gathercoal** a member of the Honorary Committee in connection with the Tenth International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy, to be held in Washington, May 1939.

Liberty is taken in quoting the following two abstracts from the *Journal A. M. A.* of March 5, 1938:

Russell cites a fatal case of tetanus in a child of 18 months. The incubation period was twenty-four hours at the most and death ensued in about forty-four hours from the onset of the illness. The typical clinical signs were exhibited and large doses of anti-tetanus serum intramuscularly and intrathecally were given at the earliest opportunity. The sub-

sequent investigation seems to implicate a pigeon (or pigeons) as a "carrier" of tetanus. No animals were available for inoculation tests with the tetanus bacilli obtained on culture from the pigeon's droppings but the evidence otherwise would suggest the following chain of events: 1. The pigeon became infested with tetanus bacilli, probably by pecking horse manure, and became a "carrier," passing the bacilli or spores in its droppings, although showing no sign of illness itself. 2. The droppings infected the ground below the pigeon loft. 3. The child playing on the ground became infected through the skin, which was broken and scratched, as the result of active scabies. 4. The child developed clinical tetanus and died after a brief illness.

Bedson has prepared a psittacosis antigen from a crude virulent mouse-spleen suspension by centrifugating out the virus, resuspending it in phosphate buffer and heating the suspension for thirty minutes at 212° F. This heated antigen has been found superior to the crude virus suspension for carrying out complement fixation tests with the serums from patients with human psittacosis. The advantages of the heated antigen are that it makes the test more delicate, that it is not dangerous to handle and that it is stable.

#### PECTIN DERIVATIVE.

Dr. Edith Haynes, biologist, Indiana University, School of Medicine; Miss Grace Washburn, dietician, Dr. Charles A. Tompkins, and Dr. Matthew are quoted in a press dispatch on a pectin derivative as an antiseptic. The pectin used in these experiments came from citrus fruits—from the white inner layer of the fruit.

#### ESTIMATION OF SULFANILAMIDE IN BODY FLUIDS.

The author describes the method which is in use in the Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories for determining sulfanilamide colorimetrically. The method is as follows: "One millilitre of blood, or body fluid, is diluted with 2 mls of distilled water; 1 mil of a 20 per cent aqueous solution of trichloroacetic acid is then added, and the mixture filtered through a small filter-paper. To 1 mil of the filtrate is added 0.05 mil (one drop) of 0.05 per cent sodium nitrite solution. After three minutes 0.5 mil of a 1.0 per cent, alcoholic solution of

dimethyl  $\alpha$ -naphthylamine standing for fifteen minutes to allow the color to reach its maximum intensity, the color is compared with that containing known quantities of sulfanilamide. The comparison may be done in any of the usual forms of colorimeter. A range of permanent standards may be prepared using phenol red in phosphate buffer, or cobalt sulfate in dilute sulfuric acid."—H. Proom (*Lancet*, 1, 260 (1936)—through *The Pharmaceutical Journal*, page 211 (February 26, 1938)).

#### TERM "DRUG."

W. G. Campbell, Chief, Food and Drug Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has issued the following statement regarding Venereal Disease Preventives:

"The Federal Food and Drugs Act defines the term 'drug' as including 'any substance or mixture of substances intended to be used for the cure, mitigation or prevention of disease.'"

Senator Morris Sheppard, Texas, attacked before a Senate committee a bill to permit the sending of eight-ounce "samples" of liquor through the mails. The House had already approved the measure but Sheppard declared the legislation would make the Government post-office "part of the liquor dealers" and render parents "powerless to prevent sending of liquor to minor children."

A Committee has been appointed by the A. P. H. A. to collect Historical Data, composed of: Samuel S. Dworkin, *Chairman*; R. P. Fischelis and Robert L. Swain. Efforts will be directed to State and National Pharmacy and also made to enlist the interests of individuals and associations.

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#### PURDUE UNIVERSITY HOLDS BUSINESS CONFERENCE.

The eighth annual Druggists' Business Bureau conducted each spring by Purdue University, will be held March 23rd-24th, and will be in charge of Prof. H. W. Heine.

He reports that plans for this year's Conference include such topics as "Correct Training," "Business Management," "Salesmanship Demonstration," "Traveling Aspects," "Social Security as It Affects the Druggists."