

## EDITORIAL

E. G. EBERLE, EDITOR EMERITUS.

2215 Constitution Ave., WASHINGTON, D. C.

### U. S. CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION FOR JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANT.

The Civil Service Commission has recently announced an open competitive examination, No. 18 (Assembled), for Junior Professional Assistant in twenty-two optional branches, one of which is Junior Pharmacist. This is the first grade in the professional and scientific classification and the beginning salary is \$2000 a year subject to a deduction of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent toward a retirement annuity.

The examination is not being given to fill any particular position or positions but rather to establish a list of eligibles which list may be certified separately in accordance with civil service rules to fill vacancies occurring in the positions for which the examination is given and in positions requiring similar qualifications. This will be the first general list of eligible pharmacists to be established in the professional and scientific classification of the civil service.

Applicants must be citizens of the United States, must not have passed their thirty-fifth birthday on the date of examination, must be in sound physical health and must have successfully completed a full four-year course leading to a bachelor's degree in a college or university of recognized standing.—E. F. K.

### PHARMACY UNDER HEALTH INSURANCE IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The nineteenth annual report of the British Ministry of Health for 1937-1938 (year ending March 31, 1938) contains some very interesting information about the participation of pharmacists (chemists) in the National Health Insurance.

The insured persons numbered approximately 16,138,000; the physicians under contract numbered approximately 16,000 or about 1 per 1000 insured persons and the chemists shops (pharmacies) under contract numbered approximately 12,000 or about 1 per 1,345 insured persons.

Of the total expenditure for medical benefits, insurance doctors received £7,200,000 (\$33,840,000), insurance chemists received £2,195,700 (\$10,319,700), insurance doctors received for medicines and appliances dispensed by them £192,000 (\$902,400), and the remainder was for special services.

During the year 65,792 prescriptions were filled or 4.75 per person.

"A review of the disciplinary proceedings which have been found necessary during the year, particulars of which are given below, afford no ground for thinking that there has been any deterioration in the high standard of service reached by insurance doctors and chemists."

"The number of cases in which money was withheld from insurance chemists on account of breaches of their terms of service and the total amount withheld were 161 and £203 5s 6d . . . . . Under the scheme for testing drugs and appliances 4,589 samples were tested and inaccuracies considered to warrant the withholding of money for breaches of the terms of service were found in 158 cases." The percentage of tested dressings found deficient in quantity decreased for 1.8% in the preceding year to 1.3% while the percentage found deficient in quality increased from 6.2% to 7.9%. The large majority were cases of substantial inaccuracies in the dispensing of test prescriptions.—E. F. K.