

Editorial

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Yuletide.

NOW comes the season of rejoicing. The Day of all Days, when, one and all, the entire Christian people of the earth, join in praise of the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings. The day when every one seems to try to make another glad of life, and the day from which we learn the veritable truth of the saying, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," and find more joy and peace in being kind, true and loving than in being unkind, false and insincere. Would there were more such days. Would that every day, the world's people thought of how they could lift the burden from some fellow-mortal and relieve their wants and their sorrows. How strange that with the joys and memories of one such day to abide with us, there cannot be seen how much better this world would be, if all days were like this one, full of joy and helpfulness to others.

What a different world this Cosmos would be if all, should from to-day, make their best endeavor to free themselves from meanness, from deceit, from wrong and cruel ways. Burns sings to us,—

*"Man's inhumanity to Man
Makes countless thousands mourn."*

when just simply Man's kindness to his fellow-men would make the world a place so joyous, that it would be a foretaste of the Heaven to which we all aspire. A MERRY CHRISTMAS! WHY? Why not a year of Merry Christmases? Why should we make but one, the sum and total of all our aspirations for a kinder and more generous life; then like the dog of Peter II, 22, turn to that by which we are degraded and defiled? "*Love ye one another,*" taught the Great Teacher, whose birth and life we celebrate this day. Not this for one day, but for every day.

We pharmacists follow Galen, "*The Paradoxopæus,*" (The Wonder-worker). Let us be wonder-workers in the world, and do our simple part to make it happier and better. In Italy the beggars greet you with "*Fate ben per voi*" (Be good to yourselves) in asking alms. Let us then seek our own good by doing good to others, and thus maintain the humanity, the worth of our high profession, devoted to the alleviation of the miseries of mankind; not alone the physical, but the mental and the spiritual as well. Thus will we honor our calling and make the name and the profession of Pharmacy revered and honored in the land.

The Journal wishes to every member A Most Merry Christmas!!

E. C. M.

A PLAIN DUTY.

WHAT Professor Kauffman called attention to at the last meeting of the Columbus Branch,—the use of the sodium salts in place of those of potassium,—is one of particular importance to every person, especially to pharmacists.

The supply of sodium in this country is practically inexhaustible, while we are almost entirely dependent upon Germany for potassium, and this fact accounts for the sharp advance in the prices of potassium salts, which will probably be accentuated if the war continues.

Salts of potassium and sodium, are presumed to derive their medicinal value from their combination with their radicals, not from their bases. The iodides and bromides of sodium and potassium have like medicinal uses, and are usually administered because of the iodine they contain, and the slight difference between them in this regard is in favor of the sodium salts. The latter are even preferred by many practitioners.

Merck's Report says:—

“Medicinally, in fact, the sodium salts are even believed to be superior to the potassium salts, because the consensus of opinion accredits the potassium ion with a depressing action on the central nervous system and heart, while the sodium ion is perfectly inert or indifferent. This view is so widely held that many physicians, particularly abroad, prefer the sodium salts (bromide, iodide, etc.,) to the potassium salts, and invariably prescribe them. This fact has not, however, been impressed upon the greater number of physicians, who largely follow traditions in prescribing, and who perhaps are not fully familiar with the sodium salts and their doses.”

If physicians were informed on these points by pharmacists, there would doubtless result a greater use of the sodium salts and a lessened one for those of potassium. The doses of the most commonly used salts of these bases are practically identical,—of the iodides and bromides exactly the same. It would seem, therefore, as though it were the performance of a plain duty to the public and to themselves, for druggists to recommend to physicians the use of the salts of sodium instead of those of potassium. At the same time, they would be assisting to render the country independent of any interference with its medicinal supplies, such as has been caused by the existing war in Europe.

E. C. M.

RETAILERS IN THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

THOUGH not unfriendly in tone, an editorial in the November number of the *Western Druggist* entitled “Retailers in the American Pharmaceutical Association,” is based upon a false assumption and therefore leads to a wrong conclusion.

An assertion, admittedly made “during a somewhat acrimonious debate” at the last N. A. R. D. convention, affords very slender support for such a sweeping premise as that “a majority of the members of the A. Ph. A. consist of pharmaceutical teachers, pharmaceutical editors, representatives of various departments of wholesale and manufacturing houses and the retired lists of these various interests.”

An inspection of the roster of the A. Ph. A. members, quickly disproves this assertion. An actual count of the members in Massachusetts shows that 130 out