

meeting, and participated in the presentation of an enlarged photograph of Hermann Hager to the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy.

Professor Otto Raubenheimer addressed the Philadelphia Branch, A. Ph. A., on the subject of the A. Ph. A. Recipe Book, February 8. He also made the presentation address in donating an enlarged photograph of Hermann Hager to the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, on behalf of the German Apothecaries' Society of New York.

Charles Sumner Koon was recently elected secretary of the Michigan Board of Pharmacy. He is also president of Muskegon (his home city) Retail Druggists' Association.

Dr. E. L. Newcomb, head of the Department of Pharmaceutical Botany and Pharmacology, University of Minnesota, has been elected editor of the *Northwestern Druggist*. Dr. Newcomb is also secretary of the Minnesota Pharmaceutical Association.

After twenty-five years of valuable service to pharmacy, Merck's Report ceases to be a subscription journal. The first number has already been issued under the new order, and, while different in general make-up, it will continue to be a welcome visitor. The spirit of the publishers is expressed in these words, "The field is so well covered by the pharmaceutical press that it seems unnecessary to do what other journals are doing so well."

Riker-Hageman merger with the United Drug Company has been authorized. The capitalization is \$20,000,000, and it is intimated that the Dow and Owl Drug Company "chain" of stores will be added before very long.

The Farbwerke-Hoechst Company will contest the legality of a ruling made by the Commission of Internal Revenue applying the provisions of the Harrison Act to non-habit-forming drugs, such as novocaine, orthoform, anæsthesin, and holocaine.

OBITUARY

J. P. BRASHEAR.

J. P. Brashear, veteran retail druggist of Fort Worth, Texas, and member of the American Pharmaceutical Association, died January 18 from injuries received on the night previous, when he was knocked down by an automobile.

Mr. Brashear came to Fort Worth about thirty years ago, first engaging as clerk, and later established the business of which he was owner at the time of his death. Fort

Worth druggists closed their stores and attended the funeral in a body, evidencing the high regard in which he was held as frater and citizen.

The deceased is survived by his widow and several children. He was deeply interested in association work, and always contended that membership in the various drug organizations was not only beneficial, but he considered such support a duty.

E. G. E.

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

Supplement to the British Pharmaceutical Codex, 1911, including additions, alterations, and corrections. Published by direction of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, London. The Pharmaceutical Press, 17 Bloomsbury Square, W. C., 1915. Price, one shilling net.

This pamphlet of 75 8vo pages contains particulars of important additions and alterations which have become necessary since the work was published, and includes new monographs, galenical formulæ, a list of substances with proprietary names and their chemical equivalents, a list of alterations in the text of the British Pharmaceutical Codex, 1911, necessitated by the publication of the British

Pharmacopœia, 1914, a list of British Pharmaceutical Codex, 1911, Corrigenda, and an index of nine 3-column pages, containing upward of 1300 references, and indicating the varied nature and comprehensiveness of the material discussed in the pamphlet under review.

The list of substances, with proprietary trade names and their chemical equivalents, embodies an attempt to develop and systematize a series of short, non-proprietary names by the adoption, so far as possible, of the following rules:

Alkaloids and other basic substances to have names ending in "*-ine*."

Local anæsthetics, if basic in nature, to have names ending in "*-caine*."

Antipyretics to have names ending in "*-in*."

Hypnotics to have names ending in "*-al*."

Antiseptics, for external use, to have names ending in "*-form*."

On the basis of this proposed system a number of non-proprietary names have been coined for synthetic chemicals of a proprietary nature. Unfortunately many of these names appear to contain but a remote suggestion to the chemical name or composition of the article and bear practically no resemblance to the advertised proprietary name by which the article is known or used. The coined non-proprietary name at best will find but limited use, and there may be some reasonable doubt as to the propriety of adding to the existing confusion by coining additional names.

If manufacture could be induced to follow some reasonable system as the basis for new compounds, much might be accomplished in the way of developing a more rational nomenclature for new remedies of a synthetic nature.

M. I. W.

SAW PALMETTO, A PHYTOCHEMICAL STUDY OF THE FRUIT OF SABAL SERRULATA.

A thesis under the above title was submitted by Charles August Mann, instructor in chemical engineering at the University of Wisconsin, for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, and has been issued as a bulletin of the University from the Course in Pharmacy of that institution. The author takes up the synonymy, natural history, and chemistry, and finally presents the bibliography, in which a number of the articles are concisely abstracted.

Quoting the author in his conclusions, the volatile oil so-called, *i.e.*, the mixture of ethyl esters of fatty acids, that is contained in alcoholic galenicals of the drug, is not a volatile oil in the generally accepted sense of the term. Neither is it a so-called ferment oil, resulting upon the hydrolysis of a glucoside, such as the oils of wintergreen, sweet birch, mustard, etc. It is formed by condensation of the free fatty acids, which are naturally contained in the berries, with ethyl alcohol, the preservative. Small amounts of ethyl esters are formed upon

fermentation of a sugar, contained in the berries, to ethyl alcohol, if the fresh berries are allowed to stand when they undergo the necessary chemical changes. Considerably larger amounts, however, are formed when, as previously stated, the berries are preserved in alcohol.

Mere traces of volatile oil may be obtained from fresh berries, but this does not consist of ethyl esters, at least not to any appreciable extent, but of such of the free fatty acids of the berry as are volatile with water vapor. Owing to the presence of higher fatty acids such an oil is semi-solid. To this extent the true volatile oil of saw palmetto resembles that of the cocoanut, the only other oil of the palm family known at present. Whether a further analogy exists between these two volatile oils cannot be decided until much larger quantities of fresh berries can be distilled, so that sufficient volatile oil for a chemical investigation may be obtained.

Although the enzyme lipase has been demonstrated to exist in the berry, its presence is not necessary to explain the condensation of the ethyl alcohol with the free fatty acids to the corresponding ethyl esters. Indeed, the alcohol may even interfere with, if not completely inhibit, the enzyme action if sufficient alcohol could be used. Prolonged contact between the ethyl alcohol and the individual acids has shown that in each case the formation of esters can be accounted for without enzymes or other so-called catalytic agent.

Relative to an alkaloid, the author states that in order to ascertain whether the berries contain basic substances as such, a systematic search for alkaloids was made and repeated with several slight modifications. No decided tests, however, could be obtained with the general alkaloid reagents used.

He assumes that the basic substance or substances obtained by heating the berries with an aqueous solution of barium hydroxide were products of hydrolysis, probably of proteins. The slight indications for alkaloid obtained with some of the general alkaloidal reagents in the special search for alkaloids he likewise attributes to similar changes on a much smaller scale.

TOBACCO LEAVES.

The book under the above caption is published by the Collegiate Press, Menasha,

Wis.; the author is W. A. Brennan, of the Department of Medical Sciences, The John Crerar Library. The interesting book is divided into chapters devoted to the history, botany, and chemistry of the tobacco plant, while other chapters are concerned with the cultivation of tobacco and its manufacture into the various forms in which it is consumed. The effects are also considered; in fact, there is little left unsaid regarding this important "drug," and the story is told throughout in an interesting and readable style.

Aside from the interest the book has for the reader, there is in it much valuable information for the dealer. The reference to this book, which came to the editor's desk, was prompted by both the latter thoughts, as many druggists are not only consumers of but dealers in cigars and tobacco.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTS.

The 1915 proceedings of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Chemists have been published in a bound volume of about 300 pages. A valuable appendix presents the Federal narcotic law, rules and regulations, with Treasury decisions.

The book contains all the transactions of the Rochester convention, together with the many interesting and valuable reports presented during the 1915 meeting. The report of the Committee on Legislation includes a synopsis of recent legislation affecting the drug trade.

The officers are: B. L. Maltbie, Newark, N. J.; first vice-president, E. S. Holt, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; second vice-president, J. W. Haynie, Columbus, Ohio; secretary-treasurer, C. H. Searle, Chicago, Ill.

SOCIETIES AND COLLEGES

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS OF MEDICINAL PRODUCTS.

The fifth annual meeting of the National Association of Manufacturers of Medicinal Products was held in the Waldorf-Astoria of New York City, February 3 and 4.

President H. C. Lovis, in his address, commented on the general improvement of the business. Aside from the influence of the European war, he contended that there was a steady, healthy, and substantial growth of the industries. He spoke for encouragement of botanical drug culture; endorsed the aims and provisions of the so-called Hill bill for protection of American manufacturers of dyestuffs, and pointed out the need for an American merchant marine.

President Lovis renewed his former recommendations that the association work for the adoption of a uniform narcotic law, for resale price protective measures, and opposed any changes in the National Food and Drugs Act.

Secretary Charles M. Woodruff presented a lengthy and interesting report. In this he raised the question as to whether the decision of the United States Supreme Court, in holding the Shirley amendment to the Food and Drugs Act constitutional, sanctioned the Board of Food and Drugs Inspection in at-

tempting to direct what statements may be made and what opinions expressed respecting drugs known not to be inert and having generally recognized therapeutic properties.

He opposed amendments to the Harrison Law, and contended for definite measures that would admit medicinal preparations containing poisons in therapeutic doses to the mails. Mr. Woodruff opposed formula disclosure measures.

The report of the Committee on Legislation included a commentary and summary of laws affecting the drug trade, and submitted a series of recommendations embodying the views of the Association on important legislation.

The Association denounced efforts to renounce legislation similar to that proposed in the Paige Patent Law Revision Bill. The Association was favorable to provisions which would by proper and strict regulation preserve medicinal drugs from destruction by the authorities and thus becoming economic waste.

Representatives of various allied associations were present and were given recognition. Members of this association who had been in attendance at the conventions of other related associations reported as delegates.

Among the addresses delivered before this convention was one by Dr. J. H. Beal, on behalf of the American Pharmaceutical As-