

EDITORIAL NOTES

Editor: E. G. EBERLE, Bourse Building, Philadelphia, Pa.

Committee on Publication: J. W. ENGLAND, *Chairman*; G. M. BERINGER, CASWELL A. MAYO, H. B. MASON, E. L. NEWCOMB, and the Editor-in-Chief of the JOURNAL, General Secretary, Treasurer and Reporter on the Progress of Pharmacy, *ex-officio*.

Editorial Office: 253 Bourse Building, Philadelphia, Pa.

WILL YOU DO YOUR BIT?

At the conclusion of another year the Publication Committee invites the members "to do their bit," in conveying to the patrons of the Journal assurances of coöperation and appreciation of their business, and also in encouraging others to make use of the advertising pages for sending their monthly messages. A word from the members will no doubt often be more effectual than the arguments that can be presented from the office. Many other manufacturers and dealers could advantageously use advertising space in the Journal, and they would do so if they were convinced that such coöperation would bring them returns. The same request has been made in former years and the liberty is again taken with the assurance that this interest on the part of the membership will be mutually helpful.

CREATING A DENTAL CORPS IN THE ARMY.

By concurrence of the House in Senate amendments to House Bill 4897 in the closing hours of Congress, October 6th, a Dental Corps has been created in the Army, corresponding to the Medical Corps, the membership of which shall have the rank, pay, promotion and allowance of officers of and shall be of the corresponding grade of the Medical Corps. Chairman Dent, of the House Military Committee, explained that the House bill relating to members of the Dental Service of the Army corresponded to the section of the national defense law which waived the former requirement of the law of five years' previous service in the Army as lieutenant before a member could be promoted to the next higher rank, and so on for the higher grades. The Senate practically adopted the House bill with the material amendment that a Dental Corps be created in the Army. Heretofore, the highest rank a member of the dental service could attain was that of major, and it would require

twenty-four years of service before he could obtain that rank. At present the highest officers in the Army dental service have the rank of captain.—*Journal A. M. A.*

WARNING AGAINST MEDICINE FRAUD.

Imposters posing as federal employees are trying to sell rheumatism and other "cures" which they represent to the gullible as being made by the United States Government, is a warning issued by the Bureau of Chemistry, United States Department of Agriculture. Letters received from residents of Minnesota and South Dakota tell of such misrepresentations by agents of the "United States Medical Dispensary" or "Dr. Henry Post," Washington, D. C. The packages and labels guaranteed for \$20 "cures" for various ailments, but failed to give any address of those who are to refund. Federal inspectors have been unable to locate any such concern or doctor in Washington or elsewhere.

The label contains a serial number and states that the "product" is "guaranteed by Dr. Post under the national pure food and drugs act of June 30, 1906." The number given is that assigned to a concern which has never made such a product and has no connection with Dr. Post or a Dr. George Lawrence of South Dakota, who, according to a correspondent, represented himself as both Dr. Post's agent and an employee of the United States Government.

The department's inspectors can not find that the product is being shipped in interstate commerce, which would bring it under the Food and Drugs Act and are of the opinion that the agents carry it personally to escape detection by the Federal authorities. The department therefore has brought the matter to the attention of various state and city food and drug officials with the view of securing their coöperation in detecting and preventing such fraudulent practices.

COMPARISON OF SALVARSAN AND JAPANESE SALVARSAN SUBSTITUTES.

Quoting *Chemical Abstracts*, November 10, 1917, p. 2934, from *Japanese Medical Literature* (1917) 2, Part 2 (9), various substitutes for salvarsan and neosalvarsan have been placed on the market under such names as arsaminol, sodium arsaminol, ehamisol, neohamisol, tanvarsan, neotanvarsan and arsemin. These Japanese preparations were tested pharmacologically on rats and dogs, and also compared with control experiments, using Ehrlich sold salvarsan. Clinical tests were also made in syphilitic cases. The workers K. Dohi, H. Nakano and T. Kambayashi state that: "The toxicity of all preparations was noticeably less than the German one, although the possibility is allowed that the latter may have changed somewhat with age. The Japanese preparations seemed to have fully as much value as the original and yet lacked much of the reaction that usually accompanies the injections of the latter."

THE USE OF SACCHARIN IN SYRUPS, ETC.

Ernesto Repetto, in *Revue Pharmaceutica* 60, 407-419, 1917, recommends the use of saccharin in medicinal preparations. It is claimed that it contributes no ill effects and is really advantageous because it prevents stomach and intestinal fermentation. Glycerin is recommended as a solvent.

THEORY OF EMULSIFICATION BASED ON PHARMACEUTICAL PRACTICE.

W. O. Emery, in *Chemical Abstracts*, November 20, 1917, p. 3094, presents the conclusions of W. G. Crockett and R. E. Oesper on above subject in an article printed in *J. Ind. Eng. Chem.*, 9 (1917), 967-969. These are based on numerous experiments, which follow: (1) Critical points have been estab-

lished using tragacanth and Irish moss as emulsifying agents. (2) Better tragacanth emulsions are obtained by adding the proper amount of water to the previously mixed internal phase and emulsifier and shaking immediately, than by adding the water in portions, shaking after each addition. (3) If the water and the critical amount of tragacanth are made into a mucilage and this then shaken with the internal phase, no emulsion is formed. (4) The critical points are not affected by allowing the dried internal phase to stand in contact with the emulsifying agent before the addition of water. (5) Irish moss emulsions are not affected by small quantities of alcohol, but are instantly cracked by the addition of a trace of soap either before or after the addition of the water or after emulsification has been completed. More than a trace, however, is not detrimental but aids the moss in producing emulsification. (6) Glycerin serves to re-emulsify emulsions cracked by soap, and emulsions to which glycerin has previously been added are not cracked by a trace of soap. It does not directly aid the moss as an emulsifier. (7) Acacia emulsions are not cracked by the addition of a trace of soap. If less than the critical amount of acacia is used, a trace of soap added before the addition of the water supplements the acacia and emulsification ensues; if, however, emulsification is attempted by shaking the internal phase with water and an insufficient quantity of acacia and then adding the soap, it is found that no emulsion is produced, by not only the quantity of soap previously used, but even by many times that quantity. (8) Critical points are less distinct with more viscous than with the less viscous oils. (9) Tragacanth is not suited for the emulsification of fixed oils in water under the foregoing conditions, for it forms a thick, ungovernable mass. (10) Critical points vary with the shape of the container in which the emulsions are made.

OBITUARY.

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES CASPARI, JR.

(Continued.)

CHARLES HOLZHAUER.

The American Pharmaceutical Association has lost a most valuable member in the death of Charles Caspari, Jr. A man of exceptional ability and of sterling character—he was untiring in his efforts to raise the stand-

ard of our Association higher and higher, and without any thought of gain to himself. To know the right and to do it, was ever uppermost in his mind. I knew Mr. Caspari for a long period of years and my respect for him has constantly increased. His memory will ever be cherished, and truly his works will live after him.