

This committee has been called upon by the medical sector to prepare specifications for all medical and surgical supplies of the army and navy.

As soon as this work is accomplished specifications will be sent out in the usual manner by the departments and proposals will be asked for.

The Pharmaceutical Committee is in no sense a purchasing agency. It is giving the government gratis, the benefit of expert advice, and information as to how best to meet conditions in the trade for prompt, efficient and economic filling of the order.

In a general way pharmacists may realize what it will mean to them when the government draws upon the manufacturing interests for supplies. There will likely also be further taxation on alcohol and a stamp tax on the usual list, of former occasions, is not unlikely.

#### THE CINCHONA BOTANICAL STATION.

It is announced in *Science* that the botanical station at Cinchona, in the Blue Mountains of Jamaica, formerly leased for ten years by the New York Botanical Garden, has been taken over by the Smithsonian Institution on

behalf of fourteen American botanists and institutions. It is hoped to make of this establishment a counterpart, in the American tropics, of the well-known Buitenzorg Garden of Java. The station comprises a furnished residence, three laboratory buildings, two glass propagating houses, and a garden of ten acres. Moreover, occupants will have the privilege of studying and collecting over the many thousand acres of the Cinchona reservation and on certain neighboring estates, besides having opportunities for study at Hope Garden, Kingston, with its library, herbarium and rich collection of growing plants, and Castledon Garden, which has a fine collection of cycads, palms, *Ficus*, etc.

#### COMPOUND SOLUTION OF SODIUM BORATE.

Thomas D. McElhenie, Brooklyn, suggests the following procedure in preparing solution of Sodium Borate: Dissolve the sodium bicarbonate in 500 mils of water; add the phenol, dissolved in the glycerin, and then add the sodium borate. After it is dissolved make up with water to 1000 mils. This procedure, the writer states, avoids effervescence.

### OBITUARY.

#### IN MEMORY OF THOMAS F. MAIN.

(Many more tributes will doubtless reach the JOURNAL, but as the forms of this number must be closed, they are of necessity omitted from this issue.—EDITOR.)

CHARLES HOLZHAUER.

I am overwhelmed at the loss in the death of Mr. Main. His death closes an intimacy of about fifty years, during which time I have learned to know him as a man of bright mind and the most sterling integrity. He was always ready to help and never hurt. He was a friend, of whom it never was necessary to ask when trouble came to anyone, what will Mr. Main do? Personally, I feel I have met with a loss that I shall feel very keenly, and pharmacy will miss him sadly.

EDGAR L. PATCH.

I am sorry to learn of the death of Honorary President Thomas F. Main.

His personality will be greatly missed in all the days to come. Always cheery and thoughtful of others, he endeared himself to all his associates and ever brightened the corner where he was.

I esteem it a great privilege to have been associated with him and shall cherish him in my memory as a helpful inspiration.

EDWARD A. SAYRE.

A message over the wire says Thomas F. Main is dead. Such a shock; even to one who talked with him on Wednesday (it is Friday now). He was very sick, spoke in a whisper, with difficulty. If he knew his real condition, he did not say. His thoughts even then were of others. He said, "tell the boys not to come here without first 'phoning the doctor." I tried to reach the doctor on Thursday, left a message for him and 'phone numbers for home and store, not a word and my home little more than a stone's throw from the hospital. "No news is good news," is an old saying, hence the shock at evening was the greater. Memory fails me when I try to remember when we first met. I seem to have always known him. Always kind and considerate, ever ready to do a favor for others, he was highly thought of by all he came in contact with. He was a genial soul, full of the milk of human kindness. Never robust in health himself he was ever trying to do some-

thing for others. For fifteen years, with one exception (he was then in a hospital), he sat down to dinner with a party of friends and then led the way to the annual meeting of the College of Pharmacy of the City of New York. The last dinner was little more than a month ago. He was ever thinking of others. Recently at the funeral of Dr. H. L. Coit, he gave his reason and expressed his regret at being unable to be present at the services of Dr. W. C. Alpers. "His health was such that he did not dare go." In closing he said, "Men of our age must begin to think a little of themselves."

Our comrade has passed over the portal; he will be missed by a host of friends.

GEORGE C. DIEKMAN.

The sudden death of Thomas F. Main deprives pharmacy of one of her most able, fearless and conscientious representatives. His loss will be keenly felt, not only by individuals, but likewise in association circles. His activities were many and varied, in both the wholesale and retail field, and he enjoyed the friendship and confidence of pharmacists throughout this country. His naturally cheerful disposition and his sincerity of thought and action, endeared him to all those with whom he came into contact, and he will long continue to live in the memory of many.

He was a graduate of the College of Pharmacy of the City of New York, Class '71, and for a number of years served the Alumni Association, in the capacity of Honorary President. He was most active in serving the interests of his Alma Mater, as its secretary, which office he filled for many years, in a most satisfactory manner. His executive ability and his capacity for making and holding friends, made his service of especial value, and his death leaves a vacancy it will be difficult to fill. Personally I mourn the loss of a frank and disinterested advisor, and a warm, sincere friend.

JEANNOT HOSTMANN.

In the death of Thomas F. Main, pharmacy as a whole and the College of Pharmacy of the City of New York in particular loses an earnest and enthusiastic worker.

Immediately after graduating in 1871 he assisted in the organization of the Alumni Association in which he held many offices and of which he had been Honorary President since 1917. Since 1897 he had been Secretary of the College. Ever kind, courteous and patient,

he readily made friends. His sudden death will be a great shock to the many who met him at the annual meetings of the A. Ph. A., few of which he missed in many years.

His taking away leaves a vacancy. Those who knew him will mourn their loss and will feel that a true friend and a sincere and earnest worker for all that he thought good for his chosen profession has gone to his rest.

J. LEON LASCOFF.

It was with profound sorrow that I learned of the death of our beloved friend and colleague, Mr. Thos. F. Main, who was known to me for the past twenty-two years. Mr. Main was noted for his genial good nature and courteous treatment of others. Through his unflinching integrity and thoughtfulness he was respected and loved by many who were connected with the pharmaceutical profession; not only wholesalers and retailers, but also by the trustees, members of the faculty and the students of the Columbia University College of Pharmacy.

Mr. Main was a graduate of the class of 1871 and afterward associated with the institution as trustee, vice-president and secretary, for many years. His interest in the college carried him further than its business affairs. The members of the A. Ph. A., the College, as well as of many other local and national pharmaceutical organizations lost in him a good and loyal friend.

H. M. WHELPLEY.

The news of the death of Thomas F. Main comes as a distinct shock. I have known him intimately since our trip to the San Francisco meeting of the A. Ph. A. in 1889. We came home by the way of Yellowstone Park and were together for a week in that interesting part of the world. During all of these years, I cannot recall a single time that Mr. Main complained of poor health. In fact, he was a man who never seemed to complain about anything. He was, however, alert in watching the interests of the drug trade and never hesitated in giving his time and energy in a very unusual manner. I always looked upon Mr. Main as one who took a very unbiased view of important questions. He studied questions from the standpoint of the manufacturer, the jobber, the retailer and the consumer. He was a particularly good friend of the A. Ph. A., and among those who years ago advocated making this Association the great clearing house for pharmaceutical interests.

GEORGE M. BERINGER.

The decease of Thomas F. Main removes another prominent member of the American Pharmaceutical Association. He was a typical representative of one of the classes of the composite membership of the Association. He represented the active, energetic business man whose viewpoint and experience enabled him to grasp quickly many of the problems confronting pharmacy, and his opinions on many of these were of great value to the pharmaceutical interests.

He was a very lovable gentleman, always kind and polite yet frank and forceful. He usually attended the meetings of the New Jersey Pharmaceutical Association, and the members greatly prized his friendship and appreciated his opinions and kindly advice. The same can be said of the meetings of the A. Ph. A. and here a larger circle will lament his decease and miss the active and genial companionship of this esteemed friend.

JOSEPH L. LEMBERGER.

The news of the death of our fellow member, Thomas Francis Main, came very unexpectedly; if he was ill for any time we did not know it. Our sympathy and feeling for him would have claimed fraternal attention, for he was the embodiment of the spirit of Brotherly Love. We will ever remember his genial nature, which gave expression by his hearty, cordial hand grip and pleasing smile. We surely will miss him at our annual meetings, as he was a faithful attendant and an influential member, belonging to that efficient coterie, always willing to help along the best interests of the Association. Many pleasant memories of our dear friend come as we think of the annual greetings for over two score years.

BOWER THOMAS WHITEHEAD.

Professor B. T. Whitehead, of the South Dakota State College, at Brookings, died at his home April 1, following an illness of several weeks.

The deceased is survived by his wife, a daughter, Lindel, who is attending high school and a son, Lindsey W., Professor of Highway Engineering at Pennsylvania State College. Professor Whitehead was an alumnus of State College, graduating in the class of 1895 with the degree of Ph.G. In 1896 he received the degree of Ph.C. from Northwestern University, in the year following the degree of B.S. was conferred by his *alma mater* and in 1901 they also honored him with the degree of M.Sc.

In 1895 he was appointed instructor in pharmacy, becoming professor of pharmacy at the opening of the next term. The esteem in which Professor Whitehead was held by the student body is attested by the fact that he was elected "father" to college classes five different times. The deceased joined the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1908.

GEORGE A. FERGUSON.

George A. Ferguson, Ph.D., formerly professor of chemistry in the New York College of Pharmacy, died March 27th, at his home, 303 Stuyvesant Avenue, Brooklyn, where also he was born, in 1868. He graduated from Columbia University in 1890.

Professor Ferguson who was well known in bacteriological research, was for several years head of the Ferguson laboratories in New York



GEORGE A. FERGUSON.

and at Blue Point, L. I. In 1893 he served as Examiner of Medical Supplies for the U. S. Department of the Interior, and was also chemist to the New York Board of Pharmacy.

Professor Ferguson was a member of the American Chemical Society, the Society of Chemical Industry, the New York State Pharmaceutical Association, and the University Club. He joined the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1905.