

EDITORIAL NOTES

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PHARMACISTS IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

While the Bill presented by Congressman Edmonds, providing for a pharmaceutical corps in the U. S. Army has not further progressed in the House, favorable comment has been made in some of the daily papers and local, state and national associations have endorsed the measure. There is opportunity now for individuals to exert their influence with senators and congressmen to promote the enactment of H. R. 5531,¹ which means more for the health and life of the soldiers than is generally appreciated. That France has strengthened the pharmaceutical corps relatively more than any other division of the French army can only emphasize that experience has taught this country the importance of the pharmacist in the military service. England, on the other hand, has had experiences which have developed criticism because this part of their military organization was not up to modern standards.

The Journal is just in receipt of a communication from Japan in which the number and rank of pharmacists in the Japanese army on peace footing are stated as follows: One colonel, 3 lieutenant-colonels, 7 majors, 30 captains, 70 first lieutenants; the number of second lieutenants is not given. Comment is made that during war, the number is largely increased, but the writer was not in position to make an authentic statement, therefore here omitted.

In connection with the report of Chairman S. L. Hilton, of the Committee on the Status of Pharmacists in the Government Service, the brief printed in this issue, p. 837 *et seq.*, is mentioned. The document presents arguments for the establishment of a pharmaceutical corps. The important thing is to have the members of congress advised on the subject so they may study the proposition. If our own experiences are considered and those of England in connection with the promotion

in European armies, there can seemingly be only one conclusion and that is, to give our soldiers the very best possible protection and have our military organizations efficient in every respect. That recognition by rank be accorded to pharmacists does not weaken the argument, this is essential for efficient service and thoroughly in line with military organization. The pharmaceutical corps is to be part of the army medical department and under the supervision of the Surgeon-General. Resolutions have gone forward from various cities impugning their respective congressmen to familiarize themselves with the objects of the Edmonds' Bill, so that their vote will not be based on favor or prejudice, but knowledge. This is not an implication, but an expression, of the realization that the urgent need of right pharmaceutical service in military organizations is not fully appreciated, some even think that this has been provided for, and therefore the facts must be brought to the legislator's attention.

RED CROSS EMERGENCY HOSPITAL CARS.

The Medical Advisory Committee of the Red Cross War Council has decided to equip five laboratory railroad cars which will be prepared for emergency work against possible outbreaks of epidemics in cantonment camps in this country. Each car will have a staff of five or more experts, and will be so stationed at various cities that any cantonment can be reached with one of these laboratory cars within 24 hours on receipt of request from Federal or State authorities.

FOREIGN PATENTS AND TRADE-MARKS.

The trading with the enemy bill was reported to the Senate by the Committee on Commerce August 24, with two amendments added by the senate committee. One authorizes the Federal Trade Commission to

¹ See page 762, August issue of the JOURNAL A. PH. A.

fix prices when licenses are granted to use an enemy patent, trademark, print, label, or copyright, and the other authorizes the Commissioner of Patents to enforce secrecy in regard to any invention which may, in his opinion, be detrimental to the public safety or defense. The bill was broadened in its scope so as to apply to trademarks, prints, and labels, the property of enemy owners, as well as to patents owned in an enemy country.

BOTANICAL RAW PRODUCTS COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL.

The Botanical Raw Products Committee

of the National Research Council is seeking active coöperation in the work undertaken by them. Headquarters of the committee have been established at Harvard University and agricultural, botanical and commercial data have been collected on all species and varieties of plants, exclusive of food staples, having an economic value. Its aim is to supply manufacturers with information along these lines, to investigate requirements of the trade for known raw materials, to discover new geographic sources of plants necessary to trade, and to investigate the value of equivalents and substitutes for products now in use.

OBITUARY.

JOHN C. OTIS.

BORN 1856—DIED AUGUST 24, 1917.

Again, Grim Death, in the guise of a merciful agent, has invaded our ranks by taking away our friend and counselor, Dr. John C. Otis.



JOHN C. OTIS

Dr. Otis received his early education in the Cincinnati schools and then entered St. Xavier College of Cincinnati, from which institution he graduated with honors. His

chosen profession was Pharmacy, and during his career he successfully operated stores at Fourth and Vine Streets, Fifth and Vine Streets, Sixth and Vine Streets and Ninth and Vine Streets, Cincinnati.

His early entrance to the study of Medicine enabled him to obtain his degree of M.D. from the Ohio Medical College, which stood him in good stead during his life's endeavor.

His political career culminated in his election to represent his district in the Ohio General Assembly, while in civic and municipal affairs he was always counted upon as a factor.

To show his interest in Pharmacy, he represented the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy as its President for the last ten years; he was a member of the Cincinnati Branch, A.Ph.A., as well as the parent body, and tried in every way to be an advocate of progressive Pharmacy.

The Benevolent Order of Elks honored him with a Life Membership, while his many friends regret the loss of a man of true fellowship. Dr. Otis is survived by his widow and three daughters.

CHARLES A. APMEYER.

JOHN S. MUTH.

John Sebastian Muth, junior partner of Muth Bros. & Co., wholesale druggists of Baltimore, died early on the morning of August 31, after an illness of more than a year of a complication of diseases. Mr. Muth's health began to fail several years ago, in reality, the first symptoms being those of