

## CORRESPONDENCE

### UTILIZATION OF INVENTIVE TALENT.

D. W. Brinton, of the U. S. Naval Consulting Board, 15 Park Row, New York City, writes that some of the civilian engineers of this country are now rendering great service to the Government through the agencies of the Council of National Defense, the Naval Consulting Board, the National Research Council, and their numerous auxiliary committees, but, unfortunately, only a small proportion of the technical men of this country are so situated that they can go to Washington and engage in this service; therefore, some means of utilizing the patriotism and originative thought of our members had to be devised.

For this purpose the War Committee of Technical Societies has been organized, and it hopes to give the members of the Technical Societies who are obliged to stay at home, an opportunity to use their inventive talent and technical training in the study of the varied problems which arise in the preparation for and prosecution of the war—thus making valuable contributions to the national cause.

The greatest care will be taken to discover and utilize everything of value that may inhere in suggestions and inventions submitted. Not only will they receive studious examination, but when necessary, trials and experiments will be conducted. All inventions which have successfully passed the necessary examinations and tests are turned over to the particular department of the Army and Navy Service, where they may be most profitably utilized.

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### THE STRONTIUM BROMIDE PRESCRIPTION.

The letter of Dr. S. Solis Cohen, which appears in the August issue, has my attention. I am glad that the doctor has taken the pains to lay his experience before the pharmaceutical profession, for in this way we learn our shortcomings, and are enabled to correct them.

His experience may be regarded as a reflection upon the efficiency of the Board of Pharmacy, which should discover such apparent incompetency in pharmaceutical ranks.

It was at the meeting of the A. Ph. A. in Atlantic City that I listened to an address by Doctor Cohen, in which he led his audience to think that boards of pharmacy seemed to ask questions such as the examinees may not be familiar with. Now, if the type of prescriptions that the doctor has had such inferior pharmacal service from, is in the class he had in mind, then the Pennsylvania Board of Pharmacy must plead guilty, because it is one of its hobbies to feature the principles that are involved in dispensing prescriptions of like character, in every examination.

Notwithstanding criticisms to the contrary, the policy of the Board has not been officious nor over-exacting, hence it does not reject an applicant because he is unable to show himself to be 100 percent perfect in all branches.

As presiding officer of said Board I would be glad to have a consensus of opinion of the medical and pharmacal profession, as to whether or not a failure on the part of an examinee to properly prepare a prescription as cited by Doctor Cohen should warrant rejection, if his record on all other branches were such as would favor a passing grade.

Yours respectfully,

LOUIS EMANUEL.

P. S.—In the interests of a perfect pharmacopoeia, it may not be improper to ask the doctor why he gets better results from the use of strontium bromide of a special brand, than he does from the chemical of the same title of U. S. P. standard of quality, purity and strength.

LOUIS EMANUEL.

PITTSBURGH, PA., August 21, 1918.

THE EDITOR: Noting Dr. Solis Cohen's communication to the JOURNAL regarding the strontium bromide prescription as well as your reply to it, it seems to me that the very tangible reason for an occasional misinterpretation of the quantity of the bromide lies in the fact that

the specified brand of bromide prescribed (probably the Paraf-Javal) is *more often* prescribed and *better known* in the form of a solution. The wide-awake pharmacist, however, discounting the fact that many careless physicians often fail to indicate on their prescriptions the difference between the fluid and solid measurement symbols, ought to be well enough abreast of the times to know that the careful physician, and Dr. Cohen is well known to be in this class, would write for Liquor Stront. Brom., when this was wanted, and would designate the symbolic quantities accordingly. He should also know that there *is* on the market such a product as strontium bromide (Paraf-Javal). I disagree with you, therefore, when you state in your answer that "the brand of the salt has nothing to do with the case." Were it not for this specification Doctor Cohen would not have experienced any trouble whatever, for I believe with you that the Philadelphia druggist in common with the rest of his professional brothers *does* understand the difference between a fluid and a solid(!) ounce.

Yours cordially,

PHILADELPHIA, August 17, 1918.

IVOR GRIFFITH.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES OF PHARMACY.

The action taken at the Indianapolis Meeting relative to the award of the Fairchild Scholarship for this year is expressed in Recommendation No. 5 of President R. A. Lyman's address, and which reads:

"That it be the sense of the Conference that Mr. Fairchild could render the greatest service to pharmacy by offering the scholarship to a graduate pharmacy student, in order that he might pursue some research problem for one full school year, in the school of his choice; and further, that this scholarship be awarded on the basis of the applicant's scholastic training, his standing as an undergraduate pharmaceutical student and upon his fitness to do research."

The Committee to whom the matter of formulating a definite plan for awarding the Fairchild Scholarship was referred consists of H. C. Christensen, Chairman, 4149 Vincennes St., Chicago, Ill., Prof. J. W. Sturmer, 145 N. 10th St., Phila., Dr. George C. Diekman, 115 West 68th St., New York, and Dr. R. A. Lyman, c/o The University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb.

The Committee has decided that in making the award:

The ability of the candidate to perform research work be given a value of 50 credit units; the pharmaceutical scholastic record a value of 40 credit units; and the non-pharmaceutical scholastic record (above high school grade) a value of 10 credit units.

Further, that the candidate's ability to perform research work be determined upon evidence of research work previously accomplished, and that such evidence may take the form of a thesis presented at a college of pharmacy, or a paper covering research work carried out at a college, but in the latter case it should be accompanied by a certification from the dean that the paper represents the student's individual work. A published paper covering research work performed by the candidate subsequent to his graduation may also be accepted as evidence—at the discretion of the Committee.

The Committee reports further:

"It is to be clearly understood that this procedure does not necessarily represent the views of the members of this Committee on Examination on the larger problem of the awarding of the Scholarship, but is merely a practical plan decided upon the basis laid down at the Indianapolis meeting last year."

Schools or Colleges of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties, therefore having a candidate to present for the Fairchild Scholarship, should at once send his credentials, etc., to Chairman H. C. Christensen, 4149 Vincennes St., Chicago, so as to reach him not later than October 1, in order that the award may be made soon thereafter.

The Chairman of the Fairchild Scholarship Committee would also request that the Schools and Colleges give the matter of the Fairchild Scholarship consideration. As the Schools are perhaps most interested it is requested that all Schools present their views in writing to Secretary Theodore

J. Bradley, of the Conference, c/o Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, Boston, Mass., prior to December 1, 1918, with a view to having him lay before the incoming Fairchild Scholarship Committee these expressions, so that this Committee can be assured of having all Schools interested to the fullest extent when they formulate their plans of award for next year, and with the hope these will establish the method of award hereafter.

We thank you for giving both these matters your prompt consideration. The first should have immediate attention.

Respectfully,

*The Fairchild Scholarship Committee.*

#### CHANCE IN COLLEGE OR VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS FOR ALL BOYS OF 18.

All of our readers have by this time read of the opportunities that are to be given young men to enter schools or colleges during the first year or longer of their enlistment. Conferences have been held on the matter with school officials and the War Department. What opportunity pharmacy students will have we are not advised, but it is probable that satisfactory arrangements will be made.

A letter by Colonel Robert I. Rees reads:

"All young men who were planning to go to school this fall should carry out their plans to do so. Each should go to the college of his choice, matriculate and enter as a regular student.

"As soon as possible after registration day, probably on or about October 1, opportunity will be given for all the regularly-enrolled students to be inducted into the Students' Army Training Corps at the schools where they are in attendance.

"The student, by voluntary induction, becomes a soldier in the United States Army, uniformed, subject to military discipline and with the pay of a private. They will simultaneously be placed on full active duty, and contracts will be made as soon as possible with the colleges for the housing, subsistence and instruction of the student soldiers."

There are no exceptions or discriminations. The same rule applies to all boys of eighteen who are well enough educated to pass the entrance requirements of the colleges and universities.

Boys who can not pass the entrance requirements to colleges and who have only grammar school education, will have opportunity to apply for admission to vocational schools.

#### OPPORTUNITY IN HAITI FOR AMERICAN PHARMACISTS.

##### AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION:

The declaration of war upon Germany by the Republic of Haiti has led to the sequestration of most of the German firms doing business in the Republic. Prior to the declaration practically the entire drug business was controlled by Germans whose establishments have now been closed, with the result that at the present time the few remaining pharmacists, Haitian-owned, are worked beyond their capacity with limited stocks and more or less incompetent clerks.

As the head of the Public Health Service of Haiti I am exceedingly anxious to see a dependable trade in pharmaceuticals established in the island, and as an American I am anxious that the trade should in future be dominated by Americans, thus insuring the sale of American products and the establishment of the drug business on an American basis. The drug business here has always been a thriving and exceedingly profitable one, and this offers an exceptional opportunity. Sufficient capital would of course be required.

(Capable, wide-awake American pharmacists are desired.)

N. M. LEON,  
Surgeon, U. S. Navy,  
Sanitary Engineer of Haiti.

Port au Prince,  
Haiti,  
August 16, 1918.