

EDITORIAL NOTES

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TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION.

The value of the announced gift of \$20,000,000 to American medicine by the General Education Board (Rockefeller Foundation) does not lie wholly in the munificence of the gift nor in the relief it may bring to the medical institutions that come within the sphere of its beneficence, but in the example it should set to other givers.

The gifts of the Rockefeller Foundation are in most cases conditioned on changes in teaching methods and curricula. Local men should place medical schools on a financial basis that will enable them to comply with the provisions of the General Education Board.

Naturally, we are interested in medical promotions but more so in pharmacy schools. Many men of means must ascribe their success in pharmaceutical and chemical manufacturing to pharmacists. There are comparatively few pharmacists who have made fortunes in pharmacy. The two interests owe much to pharmacy schools, but only a few endowments have been provided for the latter. This is repetition of a very important matter. There is opportunity to endow schools according to the views of those who desire to perfect teaching along commercial lines and those who would encourage pharmaceutical research. While it is well enough to make such provisions in a will, to provide an endowment during the lifetime of the donor gives him the opportunity to witness the results of his investment. Both the spirit and attitude are important for they mould public opinion relative to pharmacy and the drug business.

DEATH OF SIR PETER WYATT SQUIRE.

News has come of the demise of Sir Peter Wyatt Squire on September 17, aged seventy-two years. A brief sketch appeared in the JOURNAL for July, 1918.

The deceased was a son of the late Peter Squire, head of the historic pharmacy in Oxford Street, London, and had been on the medical staff of the English Royalty from the time of Queen Victoria's accession. The former

had the honor of receiving the Jubilee Medal in 1887, with bar in 1897, the Coronation Medals of King Edward and King George, and was knighted in June, 1918.

Sir Peter Wyatt Squire was a student and prize winner of the British Pharmaceutical Society School, under Bentley and Redwood. He served as member of the Council from 1879-1885. He revised "Squire's Companion to the British Pharmacopoeia," was the author of "Methods and Formulac Used in Preparing Tissues for Microscopic Work," "Pharmacopoeias of the London Hospitals," "Companion to the Medicine Chest," and a frequent contributor to pharmaceutical and other scientific and technical publications.

Dr. Albert Schneider has resigned from the California College of Pharmacy to accept a call to the University of Nebraska. We understand that he is to occupy the Chair of Pharmacognosy in the Department of Pharmacy and will devote time to research.

Major General Merritte W. Ireland, surgeon general of the United States army, has been given an honorary fellowship by the Royal College of Surgeons, of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Frank G. Ebner, for some time assistant editor of the *Bulletin of Pharmacy*, has accepted a place in the advertising department of Parke, Davis & Co. Walter M. Chase has been elected assistant editor of the *Bulletin*.

Horace Greely Pierson, the elder brother of Romaine Pierson, publisher of the *Practical Druggist*, died August 9. The deceased was a druggist of Hornell, N. Y.

The New York drug and pharmaceutical publications gave much space to American Pharmaceutical Association matters. Each one of them rendered excellent service, worthy of more than this passing notice. The reports were up to their high standard and their special features interesting. These efforts are appreciated by the Association, and supplied their many readers with early reports of its transactions.

The male employees of Jno. T. Milliken & Company, pharmaceutical manufacturers, of

St. Louis, Mo., have organized an association to be known as the Milliken Expeditors' Club, the purpose of which is to promote good fellowship among the employees and to bring them into closer relationship with the heads of the various departments.

Kenneth N. Gilpin, son of H. B. Gilpin, member of the American Pharmaceutical Association, will in all probability be elected Speaker of the Virginia House of Representatives, of which he is a member. He served in the Aviation Corps during the war.

Richard M. Colgate, deceased, of Colgate & Co., bequeathed \$100,000 each to Yale and Colgate Universities.

CURES FOR UNREST.

The conferences to be held in Washington this month should have the interest of all citizens. The purpose of the International Labor Congress is not to formulate a series of rules and restrictions, nor concerned with scales and schedules of wages. It will be the aim of labor men, economists, capitalists and politicians to suggest or devise a code under which the worth of men to industry, to the community and to civilization can be established. This is a move in the right direction, for most of the unrest is due to misunderstanding and loose thinking. These conferences are to be international in character, but applying the thought to our interests, we may compete with foreign countries because of our great resources and our machinery, but it will not be with idle factories and shiftless workers. Let us think constructively.

ILEX VOMITORIA AS A NATIVE SOURCE OF CAFFEINE.

Frederick B. Power and Victor K. Chestnut, in *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, 41, 1307-12, August, 1919, report that search for a native source of caffeine has demonstrated that an abundant supply may be obtained from a native plant, *Ilex vomitoria*, Aiton. Assays by a method developed by the authors, published in the same issue and printed in abstract hereafter, showed the presence, in most cases, of about 1.0 to 1.5 percent of caffeine in dried leaves. Although considerable differences in the caffeine content of the leaves of the plant have been found to exist, these are doubtless attributable to varying conditions of soil and climate. It would, therefore, appear that by the cultivation of the shrub under the most favorable conditions the supply of material

for the production of caffeine could be increased to any desired extent.

So far as has at present been ascertained no other North American species of *Ilex* than that above mentioned contains caffeine, and this substance is not contained in the leaves of the European holly, *Ilex aquifolium*, Linné.

The assay method is recommended as the result of a large number of experiments with different material. The procedure has been abstracted by the PHARMACEUTICAL JOURNAL, as follows:

Ten grammes of the finely ground material, previously moistened with a little alcohol, 95 percent, is extracted for about eight hours, in a Soxhlet, with alcohol. The alcoholic extract is then added to a suspension of 10 grammes of heavy magnesium oxide in 100 mls of water, contained in a porcelain dish, the extraction flask being rinsed with a little hot water. The mixture is evaporated on a water-bath until a nearly dry, powdery residue remains. This is mixed with sufficient hot water to enable it to be transferred to a filter, the dish being thoroughly cleaned with a little hot water by means of a glass rod with a rubber tip. The residue on the filter is then thoroughly washed with successive portions of hot water until about 250 mls of filtrate is obtained. This is transferred to a litre flask and treated with 10 mls of 10 percent solution of sulphuric acid. In some cases, as with tea and guarana, 20 mls of this acid is necessary, to prevent the formation of an emulsion in the subsequent shaking-out extraction. The acid mixture is first gently heated until frothing ceases, and then boiled, under an inverted funnel condenser, for thirty minutes. After cooling, the liquid is filtered into a separator, the flask being washed with a little 1:200 sulphuric acid. The clear acid filtrate is then shaken out with six successive 25 mls of chloroform. The chloroform extracts are bulked in another separator and shaken out with 5 mls of 1:100 solution of caustic potash, to remove coloring matter. After separation the clear chloroform is filtered into an Erlenmeyer flask, the remaining alkaline liquid being subsequently shaken out with two successive 10 mls of chloroform. This is filtered into the first chloroform solution, and the filter washed with a little of the same solvent. The chloroform is then distilled off, the residual caffeine being transferred to a tared beaker by means of a little of the solvent. After allowing the chloroform to evaporate spon-

taneously, the caffeine is dried for thirty minutes in the water-oven and weighed. It is then again heated for another thirty minutes, when a further slight decrease in weight is usually noted. This second weight is taken as caffeine. The final product is practically pure caffeine.

SUBSTITUTE FOR SENNA LEAVES.

Since the beginning of 1917 large quantities of so-called Palthé senna leaves have been imported into Germany from Switzerland. They have been identified as the leaves of *Cassia auriculata*, L., and are readily distinguished from senna leaves by the rounded and not tapering apex. It is remarkable that they contain no oxymethylantraquinones and are free from laxative action. With Bornträger's reaction (shaking an infusion with petroleum benzine, separating, and shaking

the benzine with ammonia) a yellow coloration of the ammonia is produced, whereas with genuine senna leaves a rose color is obtained.—*Pharm. Ztg.*, 64, 242, through *Pharm. Journal*.

CAPELLA BURSA PASTORIS.

Ergot and hydrastis being no longer obtainable in German commerce, Grimme recommends a liquid extract of this herb as a substitute. Its haemostyptic properties have long been known, and it is said to equal those of ergot and of hydrastis. The active constituent is supposed to be an organic acid, bursic acid. A liquid extract (1 in 1), made by exhausting the drug with boiling water, had a specific gravity varying from 1.042 to 1.064, and contained 9.06 to 14.61 percent of extract.—C. Grimme, *Pharm. Ztg.*, 64, 388, through *Pharm. Journal*.

SOCIETIES AND COLLEGES.

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