

CORRECTIONS FOR ROSTER.

(January Issue.)

Pharmaceutical Syllabus Committee, E. L. Newcomb's term expires 1919. W. H. Rudder was appointed for the term ending 1925.

General Membership Committees, Edward L. Wickham of Newark is a member of the Com-

mittee from New Jersey. M. M. Taylor is chairman of the Committee from Florida, and D. W. Ramsaur is a member from Jacksonville. The address of A. M. Thomas on Special Subcommittee "Pharmacists in Government Service" should be Santa Rosa, Calif., instead of Blaine, Wash.

CORRESPONDENCE
**THE POSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND SPECIAL TRAINING
IN REGARD TO S. A. T. C. UNITS IN SCHOOLS OF PHARMACY.**

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Committee on Education and Special Training, Section
of Training and Instruction Branch War Plans Division,
General Staff.

January 18, 1919.

CHARLES H. LA WALL, President,
American Pharmaceutical Association,
39 South 10th Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

DEAR SIR:

You have requested, as President of the American Pharmaceutical Association, a statement of the position of the Committee on Education and Special Training in regard to S. A. T. C. units in schools of pharmacy. The basis of this request is that the subject has been under discussion by many who are interested in education in pharmacy and in the pharmaceutical journals, and that it is not clear that the position taken by the War Department has been fully understood. With the permission of the Chairman of the Committee on Education and Special Training the following explanation is made:

The object of the Students' Army Training Corps was to furnish a supply of educated men from whom officers for the new army could be chosen, and to direct their training while in educational institutions so that those selected for commissions would more quickly be prepared to assume their duties as officers. It was strictly a war measure, and not an attempt by the Government to standardize education. Any effect this plan may have had on the problems of education in any line in peace times is entirely incidental, and this matter received consideration only to the extent that it was the aim of the Committee to disturb existing methods of education as little as was consistent with the attainment of its aims.

In the case of pharmacy the fundamental consideration was that the needs of the Army for pharmacists would be satisfactorily met through the draft. Although there was no real necessity for the inclusion of pharmacy students in S. A. T. C. for the purpose of supplying pharmacists for the Army, the Committee, nevertheless, decided that a limited number might wisely be accepted on the basis that this training would also prepare them for service as chemists and in other useful capacities. The plan finally evolved was to recognize those pharmacy schools in institutions which already had S. A. T. C. units, and to limit the admission to those students in these schools who were eligible for the Collegiate Section. This required graduation from an approved four-year high school, or an equivalent education.

A committee of representative educators in pharmacy, chiefly from the schools which would be eligible under this plan, was consulted September 29, 1918. This committee was requested to draw up a sample course in pharmacy. As in the case of all programs for courses adopted by the Committee, this program in pharmacy was not prescribed, but was issued as an example of what would be acceptable.

Yours very truly,

Committee on Education and Special Training.

(Signed) By H. D. ARNOLD,

Lieut.-Colonel, Medical Corps, U. S. A.

HDA/MNN

METHYL SALICYLATE SHOULD NOT BE DISPENSED FOR OIL OF WINTERGREEN
OR OIL OF SWEET BIRCH.

BY J. W. ENGLAND.

There are reasons for believing that some pharmacists dispense Methyl Salicylate when Oil of Wintergreen or Oil of Sweet Birch is called for, and they do this on the ground that the U. S. Pharmacopoeia (IX) recognizes Oils of Wintergreen and Sweet Birch as synonyms of Methyl Salicylate, but in so doing they are clearly in error, as the following correspondence indicates:

"CHARLES H. LAWALL, Chairman, Committee of Revision, U. S. P.:

Under Methyl Salicylate, U. S. P. IX, Oil of Wintergreen and Oil of Sweet Birch are given as synonyms.

Is a pharmacist justified in dispensing methyl salicylate for oil of wintergreen or oil of birch?

The Pharmacopoeia states that 'the label must indicate whether the methyl salicylate has been made synthetically, or distilled from either of the above-mentioned plants.'

If the label must differentiate, must not the pharmacist differentiate when he receives a prescription for the synthetic or the natural product?

In the U. S. P. VIII, under Veratrum, both *Veratrum Viride* and *Veratrum Album* were recognized, but the pharmacist receiving a prescription for Tincture of Veratrum Viride did not dispense Tincture of Veratrum Album.

(Signed)

J. W. ENGLAND."

To this letter the following reply was received:

"MR. J. W. ENGLAND, Philadelphia, Pa.:

In reply to your letter of January 25th, in my opinion a pharmacist is never justified in substituting methyl salicylate for oil of wintergreen or oil of sweet birch where these are called for on prescription or used for medicinal purposes. The clause showing the requirement for differentiating in labeling supports this view.

I cannot see the purpose of the confusing way of including these in the same text, as is done in the U. S. P. IX. The only conditions under which it really makes little or no difference is when the product is used solely in flavoring, and then, strictly speaking, it does not come under the U. S. P. at all.

(Signed)

CHARLES H. LAWALL."

DISCHARGE OF PHARMACISTS FROM SERVICE.

Considerable correspondence has passed between President Charles H. LaWall and the War Department relative to the discharge of pharmacists. The following is the last communication received on the subject:

CHARLES H. LAWALL, President, American Pharmaceutical Association:

Referring to your letter of December 16, 1918, addressed to the Surgeon General, in which you inclose copy of a letter to the Provost Marshal General, relative to the discharge of registered pharmacists from the Army, you are informed that, while the services of pharmacists serving in the Medical Department cannot be spared at this time, due consideration will be given to applications for discharge of pharmacists attached to other organizations of the Army.

(Signed)

J. C. ASHBURN,
Adjutant General.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 24, 1919.