

EDITORIAL NOTES

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DENOMINATIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS OF THE METRIC SYSTEM IN PHARMACY.

An effort should be made to bring about uniformity in the writing of metric denominations of weights and measures. So far as pharmacy is concerned there is no need for other denominations than milligramme, gramme and kilo for expressing weights, and mil and liter for cubic measures. The ending "me" should be dropped and the simplified spelling of "gram" adopted. The abbreviation "Cc." conforms better with "Mm.," however, the Pharmacopoeia uses the term "mil," so it may be advisable to follow the more general custom of writing "cc." The lack of uniform practice in writing metric terms is a hindrance to a more general adoption of the system. The least number of denominations possible is desirable. The subject is deserving of consideration by the next Pharmacopoeial Convention.

PHILADELPHIA DRUG EXCHANGE URGES THE DELETION OF UNNECESSARY NARCOTIC FORMULAS FROM PHARMACEUTICAL PRICE LISTS.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Drug Exchange held on May 14, 1919, a motion was passed directing the Secretary to communicate with the American Drug Manufacturers' Association and other drug manufacturing bodies, calling attention to the apparently needless multiplication in the price lists of manufacturing pharmacists of narcotic drugs of many unnecessary strengths urging that the number be minimized to the fewest possible units, so that the burden of making out the Federal and State Narcotic Reports be reduced to the lowest possible limit.

In a letter issued by Secretary J. W. England it is pointed out that, for example, in the price-list of a prominent manufacturer there are of hypodermic tablets of morphine, plain and combined, 37 strengths; of heroine, 5 strengths;

of diacetylmorphine, 4 strengths; of codeine, 6 strengths; of cocaine, 8 strengths. There are 72 items in the list of hypodermic tablets subject to the Harrison law. In the same list, under tablet triturates there are 99 items; under compressed tablets, 43 items; under chocolate-coated tablets, 54 items; under dispensary tablets, 8 items; under pills, 49 items; a total in all of 385 items, and this does not include elixirs and other forms of galenicals, nor the items of the pricelists of other manufacturers not mentioned in the list referred to. Hence, it is apparent that druggists are compelled to stock and report upon hundreds of narcotic preparations, many of which could be eliminated from the list and the burden of the wholesaler and retailer lightened.

The coöperation of manufacturers and dealers is requested for standardizing the lists of the preparations referred to by minimizing the number of items of narcotic products, to the end that the details of keeping narcotic records may be simplified and time and work saved.

The letter concludes by stating that there are trade demands which necessitate the listing of many narcotic products but that there is a marked tendency in the medical profession towards the much-lessened use of narcotic drugs in the treatment of disease, and that the medical profession would not seriously object to the excision of many narcotic formulas from the lists, and they would not be denied the use of such narcotic drugs, as they could readily have them compounded extemporaneously.

RESEARCH AND REFERENCE WORK OF WISCONSIN PHARMACEUTICAL EXPERIMENT STATION.

Circulars up to No. 5 have been issued by the Wisconsin Pharmaceutical Experiment Station. Circular No. 3 deals with Medicinal Plants and Designs. The work of Miss Bernice Oehler shows the possibilities for beauty and attractiveness of designs from medicinal plants and suitable for decoration of the drug

PETROXOLIN (UM)

History: This is the Latinized form of the name suggested by M. I. Wilbert, and adopted by the N. F. IV, as a more convenient designation for the longer title *Petrolatum Saponatum* of the N. F. III. Whereas the earlier edition (1906) contained but the two basal preparations (See *Petrolatum saponatum liquidum* and *P. S. spissum*), the last edition (1916) contains as many as eighteen specific preparations in addition to the *Petrozolinum liquidum* and *P. spissum*.

Properties: *Petrozolinum liquidum* is a yellowish-brown liquid, miscible with ether, chloroform, petroleum, benzoin or acetone and produces an emulsion-like mixture when added to twice its weight of water.

Preparations:

Petrozolinum Betanapholis 10 per cent
Petrozolinum Cadini 25 per cent
Petrozolinum Chloroformi camphoratum
Petrozolinum Creosoti 20 per cent
Petrozolinum Eucalyptolis 20 per cent
Petrozolinum Guaiacolis 20 per cent
Petrozolinum Hydrargyri 30 per cent
Petrozolinum Iodii 10 per cent
Petrozolinum Iodii dilutum 5 per cent
Petrozolinum Iodoformi 3 per cent
Petrozolinum liquidum
Petrozolinum Mentholi 17 per cent
Petrozolinum Methyl salicylatis 20 per cent
Petrozolinum Phenolis 5 per cent
Petrozolinum Phenolis camphoratum
Petrozolinum Picis 25 per cent
Petrozolinum spissum
Petrozolinum sulphuratum
Petrozolinum sulphuratum compositum
Petrozolinum terebinthinae larcis 20 per cent

Uses: Petrozolinols used for external application are found to be readily absorbed by the skin. They may be painted or rubbed into the skin or applied with cotton, etc. *Petrozolinum spissum* may be used in place of *P. liquidum* when ointment-like preparations are wanted.

store. The plants thus treated by the artist are hyoscyamus, digitalis and stramonium. Circular No. 4 relates to Volatile Oil of *Monarda fistulosa* L., by Emerson R. Miller. Several pages of an encyclopaedic pharmaceutical dictionary that is now being edited on the card system are included; these are concerned with the life and work of Dr. J. O. Schlotterbeck and a page of references to Solution of Potassium Arsenite. Circular No. 5 was prepared by H. A. Langenhan and G. J. Noel and is complete and comprehensive with information on N. F. Petrozolinols and Parallel Preparations. The thoroughness is evidenced by twenty-one cards of the dictionary to which reference has been made. Instead of going into detailed explanation of this card system, one of them has been reproduced in reduced form; the originals are 5 × 8 inches. (See top of this page.)

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY OF DIGITALIS.

The *Journal of the A. M. A.* abstracts a report by Wedd compiled from data on unselected cardiac and cardiorenal hospital patients to whom digitalis was given, including twenty-nine in whose cases electrocardiographic records were taken every twenty-four hours, or more frequently, during the period of administration of a standardized preparation of the drug. It was soon apparent that suc-

Parallel preparations: For further information concerning this type of preparations see:

Linogen; Linolintol; Linoval; Parogen; Penetrole; Petrogen; *Petrolatum saponatum*; Petrolintol; Valsolol; Valsol; Vasapon; Vasosan; Vaselon; Vaseloxyne; Vasenol; Vasogen; Vasol; Vasollintol; Vasopotent; Vasoval.

Literature: More detailed information may be found in the following journal articles arranged chronologically:

1901. Wilbert, M. I. *Oxygenated Petrolatum*. *Am. Jour. Pharm.*, 73, p. 220. [*Proc. A. Ph. A.*, 49, p. 646.]
 1906. H. E. B. *Solid Petroz.* *Drug. Cir.*, 50, p. 646.
 1909. Diehl, C. L. *Report of the Committee on the National Formulary*. *Proc. A. Ph. A.*, 57, p. 1081.
 Wilbert, M. I. *Ibid.*, p. 1081.
 Fleuge, H., N. F. *Comment. N. A. R. D. Notes*, 9, p. 473.
 1911. Beringer, G. M., & G. M. Jr., *Petroz Preparations*. *Am. Jour. Pharm.*, 83, p. 213.
 Raubenheimer, O. *Petrozolinum spissum*. *Am. Jour. Pharm.*, 83, p. 223.
 McClure, W. E., *Iodine Petroz.* *Merck's Rep.*, 20, p. 287.
 1912. McElenie, F. D., *Proc. of N. Y. Branch. J. A. Ph. A.*, 1, p. 272.
 Burge J., *Proc. of the Nashville Branch. J. A. Ph. A.*, 1, p. 321.
 1912. ———, *Proposed Formulas for the N. F. J. A. Ph. A.*, 1, p. 176.
 ———, *Proc. of City of Wash. Branch. J. A. Ph. A.*, 1, p. 394.
 Newton, R. A., *Rep. of the New England Branch. J. A. Ph. A.*, 1, p. 87.
 Saalbach, L., *Hints on Proposed N. F. Formulas*. *J. A. Ph. A.*, 1, p. 321.
 De Jonge, C., *Proc. of the N. Y. Branch. J. A. Ph. A.*, 1, p. 517.
 Thum, J. K., *A Note on the Proposed Formula for Petroz.* *Am. Jour. Pharm.*, 84, p. 119.
 Roemer, J., *The N. F. in the Making*. *Drug. Cir.*, 56, p. 259.
General articles on the subject may be found in
 1910. Wolf & Fleischer, *Nova Therapeutica*, p. 356.
 ———, *Gehe's Codex*, p. 270.
 1908. Coblenz, *The Newer Remedies*, 4 ed., p. 98.
 1916. *The National Formulary*, IV, p. 153.
 1916. *Squire's Companion to the British Pharmacopoeia*, 19 ed., p. 387.
 Wis. Pharm. Ex. Sta., H. A. L., Form 15; 8-18.

cessive tinctures supplied to the hospital wards showed marked variation in their efficiency. Two biologically standardized tinctures of approximately theoretical strength were studied and it appeared that the inefficiency of one was due to failure of prompt absorption from the alimentary canal, as was indicated by the larger amount necessary to produce a change in the T wave, the earliest demonstrable digitalis effect. Daily doses averaging 10 Cc. were given and continued until alimentary disturbances or abnormalities in the cardiac mechanism appeared. In no case was there any ill effect attributable to digitalis and there were no evidences of the so-called cumulative action. The toxic dosage showed marked individual variation from 20 to 100 Cc. The earliest signs of toxicity were slight nausea and premature beats. It is believed to be a perfectly safe procedure and one which will promptly bring about the expected benefits of digitalis to begin with an initial dose of 5 Cc. of tincture and to continue with 8 or 10 Cc. daily until signs of toxicity appear or until clinical improvement warrants discontinuing the drug. In the series studied were cases with all possible valvular defects, all grades of decompensation, renal lesions of varying degrees of severity, systolic blood pressures ranging from 90 to 230 Mm. and almost all of the recognized types of myocardial involvement, including cases of intraven-

tricular block and complete dissociation, and there was not found any clinical entity which might be said to constitute a contra-indication to the use of digitalis.

PUBLIC SERVICE.

Every citizen owes a duty to the public. That duty is in direct proportion to the standing and influence of the individual citizen in the community. The duty of the mayor or member of the town commission is high in proportion to the duties charged against him. The duty of the professional man and merchant is high because of the wide influence of their words and acts.

The professional men of the community owe a peculiar duty to the community. They are the men who have been trained in broader things, as well as in a more intensive way. They are the men who look upon life from the vantage ground of educational advantages superior to those given the average man. They are looked to by the rest of the community to handle the extraordinary things of life, the things that are beyond the capabilities of the average man. Upon them rests a serious civic responsibility. The pharmacist must shoulder his share of this responsibility.

The pharmacist who fails to perform his duty toward the public is not performing his whole duty toward his profession. He must accept the responsibility for public service.

Now a community is rated among communities in regard to its prosperity. The community expert will tell you that the first thing to be done to determine "what is the matter with your community" is to find out if the people are paying their bills. If the community banks are struggling along with high interest rates, loans that are often renewed, and principal that frequently is lost, if your retail merchants and professional men are carrying the burden of a long line of extended credits, the community expert will tell you your community is living from hand to mouth, and is probably living in excess of its income. Living outside of income is just as bad for the community as it is for a business concern.

There is a remedy for this condition and the pharmacist with his own interests and his community's interests at heart can help apply it. It is the thrift movement which, as a result of the habit of saving acquired during the war period, is now sweeping the country.

It is axiomatic that the man who saves is the man who pays. If your community is

thrifty it will pay promptly. If your community will pay promptly, interest rates and prices generally in the community will go down. The community will eliminate the high prices incident to bad accounts and bad collections. Incidentally the pharmacist will eliminate the high costs incident to these unnecessary accounts and collections.

The thrift movement offers every professional man an opportunity to do his duty by himself and his community. He can lend his public influence to the campaign for thrift. In every community the thrift movement has a Savings Director, appointed through the Federal Reserve Bank System, who is directing the local thrift campaign. He needs help. He deserves the coöperation of every pharmacist in his efforts to foster the thrift spirit, and to make War Savings Stamps available everywhere as a means of systematic saving.

PERSONALS.

Dr. J. H. Beal, an ex-president of the American Pharmaceutical Association, first editor of the *JOURNAL A. PH. A.*, president of the National Drug Trade Conference, etc., is the first recipient of the Remington Honor Medal, awarded by the New York Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association. The presentation is to be made during the New York Convention of the American Pharmaceutical Association, and for this reason further comment at this time is deferred.

Caswell A. Mayo, ex-president of the American Pharmaceutical Association, and for many years editor of the *American Druggist*, has accepted the management of the publicity department of William S. Merrell Chemical Company, of Cincinnati, Ohio. Mr. Mayo's activities in association circles are well and favorably known and also his achievements as a pharmaceutical editor. New York pharmacists regret Mr. Mayo's departure, while Cincinnati rejoices in this accession to her citizenship and number of her distinguished pharmacists. Charles W. Parsons, heretofore of the publicity department of E. R. Squibb & Sons, has succeeded Mr. Mayo as editor of the *American Druggist*.

F. B. Hays, editor of the *Druggists' Circular*, who was for a time in Manhattan Hospital, undergoing treatment of his eyes, has, we are glad to report, sufficiently recovered to permit resumption of his work.

William S. Glyn-Jones, Secretary of the British Pharmaceutical Society, has been knighted, hence is now Sir William. Michael Carteghe said of him in 1902, on his admission to the Bar, when a dinner was tendered to him, that he (Mr. Glyn-Jones) had received a training and undergone a discipline in the hard school of retail business in pharmacy, in organizing experience and activity for the promotion of pharmaceutical trade interests, and in the sphere of pharmaceutical politics, which served as the best of all preparations and endowments for any part he might be destined to play in the more spacious fields of legal practice or in public affairs.

The distinguished career has amply justified the speaker's judgment and foresight. American pharmacists join those of Great Britain in expressing their gratification at the well-deserved honor of knighthood which has been conferred upon Mr. Glyn-Jones in recognition of his distinguished parliamentary and public services.

SERVICE ROLL OF ILLINOIS PHARMACISTS.

At the suggestion of the Chicago Branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association, through the efforts of Superintendent Dodds, of the State Department of Registration and Education, and under the auspices of the Illinois Pharmaceutical Association, an effort is being made to prepare a complete list of all the pharmacists, assistant pharmacists and apprentices registered in Illinois who have

served in the Army or Navy of the United States during the present war.

A total of completed cards to date is 511. About 150 other names are on the list for which the data is not yet completed. Some interesting totals are obtained from the 511 cards, as follows:

Registered pharmacists, 278; assistant pharmacists, 90; apprentices, 143.

Enlisted, 386; drafted, 99.

Army, 420; navy, 76; marine corps, 1; merchant marine, 1; Polish army, 2; Canadian army, 2.

In the Army: General Staff, 1; medical corps, 9; medical department, 227; infantry, 128; (students' army training corps, 65; central officers' training school, 10); artillery, 19; (central officers' training school, 5); cavalry, 1; aero corps, 4; tank corps, 4; signal corps, 2; engineers corps, 1; ordnance corps, 6; quartermasters' corps, 2; motor transfer corps, 1; chemical warfare service, 13; bakers' school, 1; band, 2.

In the Navy: Medical corps, 1; hospital corps, 67; yeomen, 5; seaman, 1; aviation, 1; radio, 1.

Rank: Lieutenant colonel, 1; major, 2; captain, 3; lieutenant, 22; sergeant, 21.

In the American Expeditionary forces: 193.

Deceased: 4.

From Chicago, 239; other Illinois cities, 247; other states, 25.

Student or graduate of University of Illinois School of Pharmacy, 198.—*N. A. R. D. Journal.*

SOCIETIES AND COLLEGES.

THE NEW YORK MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

Only two months more and the time for the annual convention of the American Pharmaceutical Association will be at hand. The programs of the Sections are assuming shape; however, for most of them further contributions are desired. Those who have not already done so should send in the titles of their papers to one of the Section officers. The roster of the Association is printed in the January issue of the *JOURNAL*, page 69. The program of the New York Convention will be found on page 493 of this issue of the *Journal*.

During this month many of the State Pharmaceutical Associations convene, and these meetings offer the opportunity for mem-

bers to discuss closer affiliation with the parent body and also to enlist the attendance of many who need just a little encouragement.

Pharmacy schools have either closed this year's session or will close during this month. It will be seen, by looking over the list of members who have continued their affiliation for twenty years or more, that these joined the Association soon after graduation from the school of pharmacy. This is a suggestion for members of the faculties. Their attention is also called to the date on which applications for the Fairchild Scholarship must be in the hands of Chairman H. C. Christensen, namely, June 25.

This is not only the Victory Convention but a Commencement meeting for a number of most important pharmaceutical undertakings.