

EDITORIAL NOTES

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Committee on Publication: J. W. ENGLAND, *Chairman*; G. M. BERINGER, CASWELL A. MAYO, H. B. MASON, E. L. NEWCOMB, and the Editor-in-Chief of the JOURNAL, General Secretary, Treasurer and Reporter on the Progress of Pharmacy, *ex-officio*.

CORRECTIONS TO BE MADE IN REPORT OF A. PH. A. COMMITTEE ON U. S. PHARMACOPOEIA.

In the December, 1918, issue of the Journal A. Ph. A., Volume VII, Number 12, on page 1106 and page 1107, under article "Impurities in Potassium Carbonate and Bicarbonate" there were the following typographical errors:

On page 1106, 6th paragraph, 4th line, should read: "Page 885" instead of "page 883."

On page 1107, 3rd paragraph, 3rd line, should read: "2 grammes of $KHCO_3$ " instead of "2.8 grammes of $KHCO_3$."

On page 1107, 5th paragraph, 1st line, should read: "To the dry sample" instead of "or the dry sample."

THE NATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL MEETINGS IN NEW YORK CITY.

Extended reports of the New York meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association and related organizations during the last week of August must be deferred to succeeding issues of the JOURNAL.

The nominees for president of the American Pharmaceutical Association, the ballots to be mailed are: C. H. Packard, of Boston, F. W. Nitardy, of Brooklyn, and Leonard A. Seltzer, of Detroit.

Officers elected by the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties are: *President*, W. F. Rudd, of Richmond, Va.; *Vice-President*, J. A. Koch, of Pittsburgh; *Secretary-Treasurer*, T. J. Bradley, of Boston; *Chairman of the Executive Committee*, Henry Kraemer, of Ann Arbor, Mich.; and *Chairman of the Syllabus Committee*, E. F. Cook, of Philadelphia.

The National Association of Boards of Pharmacy elected these officers: *President*, W. R. Jarrett, of Oklahoma City, Okla.; *Vice-Presidents*, Lucius L. Walton, of Williamsport, Pa.; J. C. Piercy, of Tonopah, Nev., and J. L. Dow, of Lancaster, N. H.; *Executive Committee*, Chas. Gietner, Chairman, Missouri; Members: John Culley, Utah; Lawrence C. Lewis, Ala-

bama; *Treasurer*, Chas. H. Skinner, Vermont (re-elected); *Secretary*, H. C. Christensen, Illinois (re-elected).

A War Veterans' Section of the A. Ph. A. was organized with the following officers: *Chairman*, Robert P. Fischelis; *Vice-Chairmen*, W. M. Chase and T. Fairchild; *Secretary*, W. D. Walters. Clyde L. Eddy was made chairman of the committee on publicity.

FACTORS IN ASSOCIATION WORK.

In his address to Congress, President Wilson said, "There can be no energy in endeavor where there is no peace of mind." This is true relative to those who are assigned duties; they should be in position to work unhampered by uncertainties and be given wholehearted encouragement.

In all associations there are microscopic minds; these see faults that would be invisible if focused in a way which presented them in due proportion; they also recognize actual deficiencies that exist and are obscure to others. Thus while, at times, there may be unwarranted criticism, the possibilities of improvement are not infrequently developed by criticism. Differences in opinion, contrasts in points of view, debate, amendment and reservations seem to be necessary conditions to progress.

Just as unjust criticism discourages and destroys, so also the development of an association is retarded by too much conformity and uniformity. We need dissent to spur us on to our best endeavors; disagreement is often as helpful as agreement. An association that is content with its accomplishments is as near standstill as the individual who is perfectly content with the output of his work, day by day.

Coming back to the first thought, in an association we have the right to congenial comradeship, and we shall labor most effectually when in our dispositions we are happy, possessed of a morale that implies "belief in one another," that we can coöperatively do the best work.

THE ADVERTISING VALUE OF THE JOURNAL SHOULD BE DEMONSTRATED AND ITS CLIENTELE INCREASED.

The members of the American Pharmaceutical Association should realize that the money received from advertisements in the JOURNAL constitutes a dividend for them from their investment in the annual dues. These dividends will increase with additional income from advertising, in other service features. Non-members pay \$4.00 for the Year Book and \$4.00 for subscription to the JOURNAL.

It is important that the advertising value of the JOURNAL be evident and recognized. The publication reaches patrons of manufacturers of and dealers in pharmaceutical products and other lines; the members themselves are in the best position to place an estimate on the valuation of this patronage. What is yours worth?

The income from advertising during these times of high paper and increased labor costs has contributed to the ability of our Association to furnish its publications without increasing the dues. Practically all members can assist in this promotion and your cooperation is solicited in your and the Association's interest. The advertising pages, no less than the reading pages, mark the membership.

THE HIGH COST OF LIVING AND THE PROFESSOR'S SALARY.

The high cost of living is the result of the advanced cost of commodities and higher scale of wages in some activities without corresponding increase in the income or salaries of others. If it were possible to adjust the advances in accordance with demands and requirements higher costs would not be complained of.

It is surprising that under existing salary limitations such a large proportion of teachers have willingly and devotedly continued in their service. There is evident a spirit of altruism that should be recognized by an interest of the alumni to better the conditions referred to. The subject was a topic of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties, and a very timely one. The undergraduate does not understand the sacrifice made for him by the teacher. The need of endowments for colleges of pharmacy is admitted and adequate provision should be made for paying their professors salaries commensurate with the importance of their positions and duties.

PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH.

The address of President Kirkby, of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, was intensely practical and research was an important theme. The necessity of pharmaceutical research by pharmacists was emphasized.

The present situation of pharmacy should cause us to give most careful heed, and this thought was evident in the address of President LaWall and in the programs of the various sections of the American Pharmaceutical Association. Lack of cooperation in research means not only needless duplication of effort, but loss through arrested development.

INCOMPATIBILITY OF MERCURIC BENZOATE AND SODIUM CHLORIDE.

Gaucher and other Continental physicians have prescribed mercuric benzoate dissolved in dilute sodium chloride solution for administration by hypodermic injection for the treatment of syphilis. At a recent meeting of the Academie de Médecine, E. Seger pointed out that such a combination was incompatible, and that mercuric chloride and sodium benzoate resulted from the double decomposition of these salts. M. Delépine fully confirms this. He prepared two solutions, one with mercuric benzoate and sodium chloride, according to Gaucher's formula; the other with equivalent quantities of mercuric chloride, sodium benzoate, and sodium chloride. The ultimate composition of the two products was identical. On shaking out with ether, that solvent contained the same amount of mercuric chloride in each case. This proves that the original formula of Gaucher is defective and that nothing is gained by the use of mercuric benzoate, to immediately decompose it into mercuric chloride. If ammonium benzoate is used instead of sodium chloride in the solution with mercuric benzoate and some ammonia, the result is different. A crystalline double salt is formed, which might possibly be of service therapeutically. Ultimately, however, even this compound is likely to be decomposed into mercuric chloride when it comes into contact with the sodium chloride present in the body.—M. Delépine (*Répertoire Pharm.*, 30, 184, 1919; through *Pharmaceutical Journal and Pharmacist*, July 5, 1919).

NEW TEST FOR ACONITINE.

While working at the Chemical Laboratory of the National Hygiene Bureau of Buenos Aires, L. P. J. Palet (*Journ. Pharm. Chem.*, No. 9, 1919; *Chem. & Drug.*, July 5, 1919) discovered a new test for aconitine. He found that on heating samples of amorphous aconitine with phosphoric acid (sp. gr. 1.7) over a small flame until vapors were evolved, a violet color was produced. Only a grey coloration was obtained with the crystalline varieties of aconitine. He prepared a reagent, consisting of 25 grammes of phosphoric acid and 1 gramme of sodium molybdate, with which crystalline aconitines yielded a very bright violet coloration, whereas these alkaloids had failed to react to phosphoric acid alone. He tested the prepared reagent's value as a means of recognizing aconitine, and found that only aspidospermine (violet) and veratrine (violet-red) yield colorations which could be mistaken for the violet reaction of aconitine. The effects of oxidizing agents on the first, and of mineral acids on the second, however, enable both easily to be distinguished from aconitine.

THE HARRISON MEMORIAL LECTURE.

The following paragraph appeared under "Notes" in *Nature* for July 31: "On Wednesday, July 23, Mr. F. H. Carr, at a meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, delivered a memorial lecture on the late Lieut.-Colonel E. F. Harrison, whose invaluable work on the development of the anti-gas respirator has lately been the subject of so much eulogy. No more fitting place could have been chosen for the lecture than the buildings of the Pharmaceutical Society, in which Harrison received his training in the profession he had selected, and with which he was afterwards so intimately associated, nor could the delivery of a lecture in his memory have been entrusted to a better or more capable man than Mr. Carr. Most of the audience had been personal friends of Harrison's, some of them for upwards of twenty years, and they knew that the testimony that Mr. Carr bore to his sterling qualities, his upright nature, his sincerity, and the fearless manner in which he grappled with difficult problems was only too well deserved. The details which Mr. Carr gave of Harrison's early life, his tenacity of purpose and remarkable self-denial, were interesting in the extreme, and went far to explain a certain austerity in his nature. The part which Harrison played in the final phase of his life, the develop-

ment of the box-respirator, by which so many lives were saved and which contributed so largely to the victorious issue of the war, occupied the latter part of the lecture, which will long remain in the memory of those who were fortunate enough to hear it."

PERMANENT PHARMACEUTICAL EXHIBITION IN PARAGUAY.

The National Pharmaceutical Society of Paraguay has decided to establish in Asuncion a permanent exhibition of pharmaceutical products, chemicals, biological preparations, etc., which will be opened on October 12.

DEATHS.

We have been advised of the decease, on August 23d, of Theodore Henry Patterson. A sketch of the deceased is printed in the February, 1919, issue of the *Journal A. Ph. A.*, page 87. Dr. Patterson was a life member of the American Pharmaceutical Association, a Charter member of the Chicago Veteran Druggists' Association, an ex-president and the first secretary of the latter organization.

News has also reached the office of the death of Charles Harrison Bassett, of Boston, a life member of the Association. A picture appears in the June issue *Journal A. Ph. A.*, page 450.

ALBERT FREDERICK SEEKER.

Albert Frederick Seeker died August 19th, following an operation for appendicitis.

For fourteen years Mr. Seeker had been in the employ of the Bureau of Chemistry, United States Department of Agriculture, and for the last three years was chief of the New York Station. He was considered by all who knew him, or his work, as the ablest chemist in the Service. Every one in the Bureau and those having dealings with Mr. Seeker, as the Bureau's representative, had a profound respect for his knowledge, ability and judgment. He was admired by his friends and associates.

By his death the Bureau has lost one of its ablest officers and the pharmaceutical profession a silent but very active ally.

It was Mr. Seeker's duty to see that the Food and Drugs Act was enforced in the New York district and he put his life and soul into the work. In making decisions he combined his broad knowledge of chemistry, and its allied subjects, with judgment that is the gift of only a few. As a result of his work the people were protected and the pharmaceutical

profession received much needed assistance in maintaining its high standards. Controlling the quality of foods and drugs entering the great port of New York is a large problem, but we may say that Mr. Seeker did his duty well.

C. J. Z.

A DRUGGIST BACHELORS' CLUB.

Several months ago some sixty New Orleans pharmacists banded themselves into an

organization. The only requirements for membership were a liking for a good time and an unmarried status. They called the organization the Druggist Bachelors' Club.

The officers must pledge their troth and when successful in matrimonial contract yield their office and membership. Chairman R. F. Grace, of the Louisiana Committee on Membership, A. Ph. A., is largely responsible for the organization of which he is an officer.

SOCIETIES AND COLLEGES

MEMBERSHIPS IN THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION AS COLLEGE PRIZES.

In addition to the prize memberships given by Schools of Pharmacy in the American Pharmaceutical Association, mention of which was made in the July issue of the *JOURNAL*, page 589, the Highland Park College of Pharmacy awarded a membership to Clifford A. Neville for best work in Organic Chemistry, and the University of Montana two memberships, being the Alex. F. Peterson Prize in Manufacturing Pharmacy to Olive C. Gnose, of Anaconda, and the Charles E. Mollett Prize in Pharmacognosy to Ida M. Sylvester, also of Anaconda.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON THE PHARMACEUTICAL SYLLABUS.*

BULLETIN XXIII.

The Committee will meet at the headquarters hotel during the week of the 1919 Convention of the American Pharmaceutical Association, August 25-30. The exact time and place will be announced at the Convention by the Chairman and the Secretary.

As the third edition of the *Syllabus* should go into effect during 1920, this meeting will be of great importance, as it will probably be the last opportunity we shall have to meet before the book appears, and all other business will have to be done by correspondence. For this reason, members are urged to make a special effort to be present. A great deal was accomplished at the meeting last year in Chicago, and much work has been done by the sub-committees and the officers, so that the body of the revised book is nearly ready for the printer. If we can accomplish as much at the coming meeting as at the last one, the book should appear on time, in spite of

the difficulty of accomplishing a special piece of work like this during the disturbed conditions due to the great war.

Motion No. 23, by C. M. Snow, that the subject of Commercial Pharmacy be omitted from the next edition of the *Syllabus*, is *lost*, the vote being: Yes, 4; No, 14; not voting, 3.

Motion 24, by C. M. Snow, that if the subject of Commercial Pharmacy be included in the next edition of the *Syllabus*, it shall be printed in small type, to indicate that it is not compulsory that it be taught in the schools or examined on by the Boards of Pharmacy, is *carried*, the vote standing: Yes, 10; No, 8; not voting, 3.

Signed,

THEODORE J. BRADLEY,
Chairman.

BOSTON, MASS., Aug. 15, 1919.

FIFTH NATIONAL EXPOSITION OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES.

From data and information on hand the forthcoming Fifth National Exposition of Chemical Industries at the Coliseum and First Regiment Armory, Chicago, during the week of September 22nd, promises with its attendant society meetings to be an assemblage worthy of the past accomplishments of this great Exposition. The managers of the Exposition report that there are as many exhibitors as at the last very complete Exposition, that there are a great many who have never before been exhibitors and for which exhibits visitors may look forward with interest. The old established exhibitors have nearly all something new in the way of developed products since the entry of our country into the war for which the chemical profession and industries may look with renewed interest.

* This Bulletin is published for record, after the convention has been held.