

EDITORIAL NOTES

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HORATIO C. WOOD, M.D.*

PRESIDENT OF THE U. S. PHARMACOPOEIAL CONVENTIONS FROM 1890 TO 1910.

Horatio C. Wood, M.D., of Philadelphia, was president of three Pharmacopoeial Conventions, and though not able to be present at the last meeting he sent a message from his sick-bed that was full of encouragement for those assembled. He realized that active service for him was no longer possible, but his impress marked the convention.

Doctor Wood was born in Philadelphia, January 13, 1841; here he lived his long and useful life, and died at his home, 4107 Chester Ave., January 3, 1920. He graduated from the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania in 1862, and served his Alma Mater from 1866 to 1906, a period of forty years, retiring on account of ill-health. The University of Pennsylvania, Yale and Lafayette conferred the LL.D. degree on him, and Swarthmore honored him with the degree of A.M. For ten years he was professor of botany, *i. e.*, to 1876, when he was elected professor of therapeutics, and emeritus professor of therapeutics in 1907. He was of the third generation of a family to be honored with the occupancy of the chair of therapeutics at the University of Pennsylvania, and it was his privilege to live to see his son, Horatio C. Wood, Jr., succeed to the chair.

As an author and editor the deceased was widely known. He edited five editions of the United States Dispensary, 1883-1907, was editor of *New Remedies*, *Philadelphia Medical Times* and *Therapeutic Gazette*. Many societies, associations and institutions honored him; for his experimental researches in the physiological action of amyl nitrite he was awarded the Warren prize by the Massachusetts General Hospital; the American Philosophical Society awarded him a prize for his researches on American hemp; and so a list of investigations might be cited for which special honors were conferred.

In 1902 Doctor Wood was appointed to

represent the United States Government to the Brussels Conference to formulate standards for *potent remedies*. Practically all of the recommendations of this Conference were adopted by the Committee of Revision U. S. P. IX.

SIR WILLIAM OSLER.

While the same reason does not obtain for presenting a sketch of Dr. William Osler as for the preceding, the standing of this leading scientist in medicine demands a brief record. He was a Canadian by birth, a graduate of McGill University, wherein he later taught pathology. In 1884 he came to the University of Pennsylvania as professor of clinical medicine, and thereafter, from 1889-1905, he was professor of principles and practice of medicine in Johns Hopkins University. In the latter year the call came from Oxford, which he accepted.

He passed the seventieth milestone in harness. His famous but generally misunderstood pleasantry about chloroforming men of sixty was in reality a reference to one of Anthony Trollope's novels. His literary works comprise 730 titles, chief among which are his *Principles and Practice of Medicine* and the *Encyclopedic Modern Medicine*, of which he was co-editor. He was the author of a number of delightful essays.

William Osler was born July 12, 1849, at Bond Head, Canada; died December 29, 1919, at his home in Nordham Gardens, Oxford. He was created a baronet of the United Kingdom by George V. in 1911, and was deservedly honored by many universities and scientific bodies.

THE GIVING OF MR. ROCKEFELLER.

It is needless to say that the extraordinary gifts of Mr. John D. Rockefeller have attracted the attention of every reader. Research in pharmacy is necessary for successful medical research and hence, in our opinion, there should be altruists who can impress those in charge of Mr. Rockefeller's magnificent gifts that pharmacy can be helped, that pharmaceutical research can be promoted, that schools of pharmacy are deserving of a share, however small, in these donations—the gift

* Further recognition will be given in February issue, Journal A.P.H.A.

to the Rockefeller Foundation is chiefly for the promotion of its work of medical research and the prevention of disease, wherein pharmacy must have a part, even though not favored by the generous provisions.

THE TOXICOLOGY OF METHYL ALCOHOL.

An end-product of the oxidation of methyl alcohol is formic acid. When methyl alcohol is taken into the body it remains as such for a considerable time; the conversion into formic acid is not rapid and the latter is quite resistant to oxidation in the body and reappears in the urine. A mere qualitative test will not suffice for determining whether wood alcohol has been taken into the organism, as formic acid is a normal constituent of the urine; however, when methyl alcohol is ingested, the output of formic acid in the urine promptly increases.

The summary of a report (*Journal A. M. A.*, January 3, 1920) of a case of wood alcohol poisoning is presented.

"1. In a case of severe acute poisoning with methyl alcohol, associated with a marked grade of acidosis, recovery followed the use of alkali therapy.

2. The acidosis was associated with an increase in the amount of titratable organic acids in the urine, and specifically with a marked increase in the excretion of lactic and of formic acids.

3. The acidosis, when present, furnishes an indication for the use of prompt therapeutic measures.

4. On the basis of the work quoted, it is submitted that gastric lavage should probably be done over a period of several days."

The fact that of a group of 130 men who drank a mixture of wood and grain alcohol all but 32 died or became blind is sufficient to confirm the dangerous poisonous effects of methyl alcohol. It also opens a question of importance as to the use of methyl alcohol for rendering alcoholic preparations unfit for beverage purposes, even though they are intended for external application.

HORSE SERUM vs. DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.

A. Bingel, a German investigator, reported his conclusions, in 1918, that ordinary horse serum was just as effective as anti-diphtheritic serum. These conclusions were not accepted in Germany, nor elsewhere. E. Feer, working

in the Zurich University Children's Clinic, compared sixty-five cases of diphtheria treated with antitoxin with fifty-seven treated with ordinary serum only in mild cases. (Current Comment, *Journal A. M. A.* Jan. 3, 1920). He found that the cases treated with ordinary serum, although mild and not ill for so long a time as the others, required five to seven days for the throat to become clean, as compared with three days for those treated by antitoxin. In six cases it was necessary to inject diphtheria antitoxin subsequently in order to obtain a satisfactory result. Moreover, he observed that the membrane again appeared in from three to nine days after the injection of ordinary serum. His results were so definitely in favor of antitoxin that the experiment was not continued. Feer was unable to understand Bingel's results and even suggests that they may have been due to his having used serum from horses which had previously supplied antitoxin. In the same way other German clinicians and experimenters, including Joannovics,¹ Friedberger² and Kolle,³ confirmed the prophylactic and curative value of diphtheria antitoxin and demonstrated the inefficacy of ordinary horse serum in experimental diphtheria.

GREAT BRITAIN CONSIDERS NATIONALIZATION OF MEDICAL PROFESSION.

In commenting on the proposition to nationalize the medical profession of Great Britain, Dr. John Playfair, president of the Medical Guild, says "numbers of doctors would be quite willing to accept state medical service if such service were limited to the needy classes. Indeed, all along, service of such a nature has been approved and has formed one of the principles of the guild. The sweeping measure, however, which is proposed would not only be antagonistic to all feelings and aspirations of the doctors,

¹ Joannovics, G., *Zur Behandlung der Diphtherie mit gewöhnlichen Pferdeserum*, Wien. klin. Wchnschr., 32, 220-222, 1919.

² Friedberger, E., *Hat das normale Pferdeserum einen Einfluss auf die experimentelle Infektion des Meerschweinchens mit Diphtheriebazillen?* Berl. klin. Wchnschr., 56, 151-158, 1919.

³ Kolle, W. and Schlossberger, H., *Zur Frage der Heilwirkung des Diphtherieserums*, Med. Klin., 15, 553-555, 1919.

but would, among other disadvantages, tend to reduce all professional activities and attainments to a dead-level, and would entirely abolish all feeling and sympathy between doctors and patients which members of the guild cherished and upheld, and would be a bad bargain for the nation as leading to inefficient and perfunctory medical attendance."

BRAZILIAN MEDICINAL PLANTS.

According to the *Paint, Oil & Drug Reporter*, the State of Bahia, Brazil, offers to the medical world an abundant and varied supply of plants, roots, barks, and gums, including many of recognized value and some regular articles of export, such as ipecacuanha root, aroba powder, jaborandi leaves, and Jatoba gum. Most of the plants exist in practically inexhaustible quantities; but orders must be placed in advance with local exporters, for there is no regular trade even in those now figuring among the State's exports. The supply depends entirely upon the demand. There follows a list of the most important medicinal plants found at convenient distances from the city of Bahia:

Angelica (*Gentiana rubra*).—Aromatic antiseptic, and antispasmodic; a powerful remedy against intermittent fevers.

Arco leaves.—A substitute for the coca leaves of Peru; a stimulating and powerful tonic, yielding cocaine.

Araroba or Goa powder.—This is a powder taken from the heart wood of a tree known locally as "amargoso do matto" (*Vouacapoua araroba*), which contains a substance known as chrysarobin, used in the treatment of skin diseases.

Barbatimao bark.—The inner bark contains phosphate of lime, tannin, and an alkaloid similar to quinine; it is a sedative, and reduced to powder makes an excellent dentifrice.

Cajuero (*Anacardium occidentale*).—The bark is astringent and is an efficacious remedy against diabetes.

Caroba leaves.—Antisymphilitic and antihubonic; well known in Brazil as a powerful blood cleanser, used externally and internally. It is a vegetable mercury and is said to be superior to sarsaparilla and other blood purifiers.

Cambara leaves.—A strong sedative and expectorant, for bronchitis, coughs, and pulmonary ailments.

Cameleao da costa.—Remedy for stomach trouble.

Cestrum leaves.—A strong narcotic, said to be poisonous, also used in baths against hemorrhoids, a powerful insecticide. The damp leaves are applied to wounds, first inflaming them, but afterwards cleaning and healing them.

Congonha.—A stimulant, diuretic as a tea.

Gervao.—One of the best disobstruents known, aids digestion and eases laborious births.

Imbauba.—Remedy against coughs, bronchitis, and asthma.

Imburana.—Inner bark contains coumarin; it is aromatic, an expectorant and a stimulant.

Ipecacuanha.—This is a shrub growing in the shade of the forest, the root of which is dried and powdered for use in medicine. It is valued as an expectorant, diaphoretic and emetic. It is not cultivated, but care is taken in digging up the plants to leave sufficient roots in the soil for another crop.

Jaborandi leaves.—Aphrodisiac, sudorific, and stimulating. From these leaves is extracted pilocarpine, which is used in tonic preparations for the hair.

Jurubeba (*Solanum paniculatum*).—Remedy for congestion and maladies of the liver.

Loco leaf.—A vegetable caustic.

Carnauba wax.—A tasteless, aseptic wax extracted from the leaf of a palm tree known locally as the "carnaubeira" and employed in the preparation of ointments, pomades, and pills.

Mamoma.—This is Portuguese for the castor plant, which was introduced into Brazil from India and China by the earlier colonists, but spread so quickly as to have the appearance to-day of a forest plant. Both the seed and oil are exported from Bahia in increasing quantities each year.

Manaca root.—Antisymphilitic vegetable mercury.

Jatoba gum.—Jatoba is a name applied to several species of trees found in the valley of the River San Francisco, which traverses the northern and western parts of the State of Bahia. The gum which is extracted from this tree is employed in the composition of syrups for pulmonary affections. It is variously known locally as jatoba, jatahy, and jutahy.

Jatoba bark.—The bark of the above-mentioned tree is also of value in the preparation of medicines and is employed as an astringent and carminative.

Mango tree (*Mangifera indica*).—The leaves are antiasthmatic.

Mentrasto.—A plant, stimulating against colics and used in fevers, also in baths to cure weakness.

Milhomens (*Aristolochia cymbifers*).—Used against paralysis, dropsy, and stomach trouble.

Mulungu (*Erythrina mulungu*).—The inner bark is a powerful sedative, narcotic, and antispasmodic, and is a substitute for belladonna; it also exercises a special action on the liver; in doses of 5 centigrams it will induce sleep.

Pareira brava root (*Cissampellos pareira*).—A powerful tonic, remedy for stomach trouble, bladder trouble, beri-beri, brain fever, and meningitis.

Pao ferro.—A bark used against diabetes; the seeds furnish a strong tonic and diuretic.

Purga de campo.—Remedy for fevers, pleurisy, tumors, and cancerous wounds.

Pindahiba.—Remedy for stomach trouble and for intestinal flatulence.

Quina-quina.—A bark used against fevers.

Quitoco.—Carminative, antihysterie, and digestive, used in baths for muscular pains in the body.

Samambaia.—Used for rheumatism.

Velame de campo.—Blood cleanser, antisyphilitic and antirheumatic, for skin diseases and swelling of the glands.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—The statements relative to medicinal properties, application, etc., are those of the circular of information.

Prof. Charles F. Chandler has been awarded the Perkins Medal by the American Section of the Society of Chemical Industry. One of the specific reasons for awarding the medal to Prof. Chandler is the important work he has done in the standardization of kerosene. It is largely through his efforts that this important product has become of commercial importance. He has also accomplished much in training men for the industry, and while the Perkins Medal is never given for that alone, his work in this connection is of such merit that the committee has seen fit to call special attention to it.

The medal was presented at a meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry at the Chemists' Club on the evening of January 16. Prof. M. T. Bogert, formerly a student of Prof. Chandler's and now a co-worker of his at Columbia, delivered the presentation speech, and talks were made by Dr. Wm. H. Nichols,

president of the General Chemical Company, and Prof. M. C. Whittaker, of Columbia. Professor Chandler has been a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association since 1867.

Dr. W. A. Pearson has been elected Presiding Officer of the Philadelphia Section, American Chemical Society. Doctor Pearson has been a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association since 1908, and is a frequent contributor to the *JOURNAL* and the Scientific Section of the Association. He is professor of chemistry in and dean of the Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia.

Dr. Jokichi Takamine, member of the American Pharmaceutical Association, has organized a company to manufacture nitrogen from the air. American and Japanese capitalists are said to be interested, including Mitsui, Mitsubishi and Sumitomo. The undertaking will involve capital of yen 20,000,000. American manufacturers of heavy chemicals are invited to send exhibits to the Chemical Industrial Exhibition to be held at Tokyo, Japan, in March 1921. Dr. Jokichi Takamine is trying to interest leading American companies in the enterprise.

Oswald Chapman, member of the General Membership Committee, A. Ph. A., from Panama, has been reappointed member of the Panama Board of Pharmacy and elected chairman. He writes that they have a new pharmacy bill in preparation, which they propose to have adopted by the next National Assembly.

Howard S. Browne, former dean of the School of Pharmacy, University of Oklahoma, resigned last fall and entered the practice of medicine; Prof. D. B. R. Johnson has been elected as his successor. W. R. Jarrett, president of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, has been appointed a lecturer in the School of Pharmacy.

Ex-President John G. Godding met with an accident December 2, when he was struck by an automobile and his right shoulder dislocated. Mr. Godding reports that he is again able to be at work.

Henry J. Meyer, son of the late C. F. G. Meyer, founder of Meyer Bros. Drug Co., St. Louis, died at Johannesburg, South Africa, where he had large mining interests.

J. L. Hopkins, of J. L. Hopkins & Co., was tendered a surprise luncheon on January 3; the occasion was the thirtieth anniversary of the firm. The celebration took place at the New York Drug and Chemical Club.

Edward Mallinckrodt, Jr., of the Mallin-

ckrodt Chemical Co., is back in St. Louis from a big game hunt in British Columbia. He left St. Louis late in the summer with a party of friends for a vacation in that part of the country and hunted in the famous Cassiar district.

OBITUARY.

OWEN HILARY TANSEY.

Owen Hilary Tansey, member of the American Pharmaceutical Association and druggist of Montreal, Canada, died October 25, 1919. Mr. Tansey had been in ill-health for a year or more preceding his demise. He was a prominent figure in the profession and one of the board of examiners in pharmacy for the past seven years. He was a member of the Montreal Board of Trade and the Canadian Council Knights of Columbus. The deceased was born January 14, 1878.

CHARLES WILLIAM JACOB.

Charles W. Jacob, member of the American Pharmaceutical Association since 1914, died at his home, Forest Park, a suburb of Chicago, on December 6, 1919. He had been ailing for the past two years. Mr. Jacob was born in Germany in 1849 and came to Chicago in 1872. He clerked for such of the old time druggists as C. W. Grassly, Plaut and Thiele. He was graduated from the Chicago College of Pharmacy in 1875 and engaged in the drug business at Ashland and Belmont Avenues, Chicago, being one of the first retail druggists in that section of the City. In 1897 he moved to Forest Park where he was engaged in the drug business until his death. His business will be carried on by his son, Herman Jacob.

W. B. D.

WILLIAM HERBERT PIERCE.

William Herbert Pierce, for thirty years a pharmacist, conducting a business on Shawmut Ave., Boston, died November 23, 1919. He graduated from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy in the class of 1879 and joined the American Pharmaceutical Association the same year. He was first vice-president of the Boston Association Retail Druggists, a man of quiet and unassuming manner, of strict integrity and greatly respected by the profession.

J. G. G.

C. M. MCKELLIPS.

Prof. Clarence M. McKellips, one of the best known pharmacy educators in the Northwest, died December 14 at his home in Portland, from cancer, after a protracted illness. He had been dean of North Pacific College of Pharmacy, Portland since 1913, when he came to Portland. Previously he had been for several years the head of the department of pharmacy of Oregon Agricultural College. He was born 53 years ago in Connersville, Ind., and received his diploma in Pharmacy from Purdue University. Professor McKellips' personality endeared him to those who knew him and he was a helpful and inspiring instructor. His widow survives him; they had no children. He joined the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1909.

PROFESSOR GOOD MEMORIAL MEETING.

A memorial meeting for the late Prof. James M. Good, an ex-president of the American Pharmaceutical Association, was held at the St. Louis College of Pharmacy November 19. George R. Merrell, president of the college, opened the meeting and read resolutions on the death of Professor Good which had been adopted by the board of trustees. Then followed Prof. Francis Hemm, speaking of Professor Good as a teacher. The next was F. H. Swift, president of the St. Louis R. D. A., who discussed Mr. Good as a retail druggist. Solomon Boehm represented the Cinchona Club. William K. Ilhardt, a former clerk for Professor Good, spoke for the St. Louis branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association. Dr. W. D. Aufderheide, who also learned the business in the Good Pharmacy, spoke for the Alumni Association of the college. Among other speakers were Dr. H. M. Whelpley, dean of the school, and Dr. Charles E. Caspari, professor of chemistry.

The auditorium of the school was well filled and the entire program evidenced earnest and appreciative sentiment.