

EDITORIAL NOTES

Editor: E. G. EBERLE, Bourse Building, Philadelphia, Pa.

Committee on Publication: A. G. DUMEZ, *Chairman*; J. H. BEAL, CHARLES H. LAWALL, CASWELL A. MAYO, H. B. MASON, and the Editor-in-Chief of the JOURNAL, General Secretary, Treasurer and Reporter on the Progress of Pharmacy, *ex-officio*.

Collaborators: C. HERBERT PACKARD, President, A. Ph. A.; WILBER J. TEETERS, President, A. C. P. F., H. C. CHRISTENSEN, Secretary, N. A. B. P., E. FULLERTON COOK, Chairman, U. S. P. Revision Committee; CHARLES H. LAWALL, Chairman, Council A. Ph. A. The Chairmen of the Sections A. Ph. A.: A. G. DUMEZ, IVOR GRIFFITH, EDWARD SPEASE, CHARLES O. LEE, CURT P. WIMMER and E. F. KELLY.

A NEW YEAR HOPE.

Pharmacy is developed by the purposes we form; the conceptions that we entertain relating to pharmacy; the hopes for it that we cherish. It grows through our visions in the things that we purpose for it. Let us have it grow in our hopes and for the benefit of mankind.

INCREASING CONSUMPTION OF CARBONATED BEVERAGES.

The interment of John Barleycorn and his various cousins in this country has brought about an increasing use of soda water, and it may be interesting to note that it is an American product made originally in 1807 by Townsend Speakman,* a druggist, who was purveyor of drugs for the American Army during the War of the Revolution. The firm faith of Dr. Physick, then an eminent Philadelphia physician, in the healthful properties of soda water and his strong recommendation for it, brought many to Speakman's store. The druggist found that the addition of fruit juices made it more palatable, which increased its popularity, until to-day it may be considered the National drink. After all, Dr. Physick and Speakman builded better than they imagined.—*Pharmaceutical Advance*.

THE PHYSIOLOGICALLY INACTIVE DRUGS.¹

"One of the places in which laboratory authority has been invoked to condemn clinical observation is in the use of drugs which

* Antecedent of the late Joseph P. Remington, on mother's side of the family.

¹ From an address by J. H. Beal before National Eclectic Medical Association.—Reprinted from *National Eclectic Medical Association Quarterly*, September 1919.

do not exhibit marked physiological or poisonous qualities when administered to the lower animals.

"The doctrine that toxicity is an index of medicinal value, or that a medicine is simply a poison in small doses, and, consequently, that an agent without poisonous quality must necessarily be devoid of medicinal activity, is a dogma the essence of which traces back to Basil Valentine, or beyond. It is one of the last remaining vestiges of the old devil doctrine of disease which implied the use of powerful antagonistic drugs for disease expulsion.

"It is true that many recognized medical agents are toxic in overdoses; but this no more warrants the deduction that all medicines must be toxic than the observation that some common foodstuffs contain poisonous constituents warrants the deduction that all foodstuffs must exhibit poisonous qualities.

"Those who insist upon this dogmatic tying together of toxicity and therapeutic efficiency must surely overlook the so-called vitamins, so clinically potent, yet seemingly inert when administered to the healthy normal test animal.

"They must likewise have overlooked the historic dispute regarding the activity of erythroxyton coca. Here the issue was squarely joined between the clinical observers on the one side and the laboratory biologists and physiologists on the other. The clinicians insisted that properly prepared preparations of coca were active under clinical conditions; the laboratory biologists and physiologists asserted the contrary. The biologists tried cocaine on frogs, mice and rabbits, and proved to their satisfaction that its effects were comparable to those of thein and theobromine. The physiologists, after elaborate precautions to procure pharmaceutically perfect preparations, followed by detailed experiments under

supervision of the most expert laboratory workers available, brought in a report showing that in heroic doses coca preparations were about as active as weak tea, and that the same reactions could be produced by equal doses of milk and water, or even of pure water, and categorically declaring that coca had "an action so slight as to preclude the idea of its having any value, either therapeutically or popular.

"The clinicians, of course, were duly abashed by this highly scientific condemnation of their observations, and even so astute an observer as Edwin R. Squibb, the leading pharmaceutical manufacturer of his day, deleted coca preparations from his list on the strength of this scientific pronouncement.

"We know now that clinical observation was correct, and that the laboratory experts were mistaken. If cocaine and coca preparations have declined in therapeutic favor, it is because of their pernicious activity, not because of their inertness."

NEW DRUG PLANTS FROM EAST AFRICA.

John Roscoe, lecturer to Cambridge University for the Board of Anthropological Studies, has returned from East Africa, where he had been on a mission since May of last year for the Royal Society. The expedition was financed by Sir Peter McKie. His collection includes fifty or so varieties of herbs, some of which seemed to effect miraculous cures; many native poisons, great cases full of fetiches, implements and instruments going back to 2000 B. C. He says he has material for five years' work at six hours a day. His herbs and poisons are being tested and analyzed by Edinburgh University and by Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. A dozen cases of ethnological specimens are going to the Pitt-Rivers Museum at Oxford.

PHARMACY NATIONALIZATION IN FINLAND.

A Bill has been placed before the Finnish Riksdag for the conversion of the pharmacies in Finland into State property. The circumstance is said to have produced great unrest among the chemists' assistants and pharmacists, who have agreed to leave the profession in the event of the Bill being passed into law, and transfer their services to drug stores and the chemical industry, as they consider that the idea of State pharmacies is impracticable.

DISCOVERY OF ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS VACCINE FOR CATTLE ANNOUNCED.

The press of November 12 carries the announcement by Dr. Calmette of the Pasteur Institute, that the discovery of anti-tuberculosis vaccine for cattle is complete. Further statements of the report follow:

"The experiment in the vaccination of man against tuberculosis can only be made under satisfactory conditions in places not infected—this means in a place on the earth where tuberculosis does not exist.

"Such an experiment must be conducted on an island off western Africa, where there is not an indigenous population and where we can keep the monkeys for a long time. The monkey's sensibility to tuberculosis is as marked as that of man.

"The Pasteur Institute hopes to interest both great capital and great scientists to complete this work for the good of humanity. Such a laboratory as we plan can also be used to experiment on typhus, smallpox, yellow fever and leprosy, inasmuch as it will be in Africa, where we can get proper animals. This, of course, is all in the future, but as for today we can say that the discovery of anti-tuberculosis vaccine for cattle—which means an enormous reduction in child mortality—is complete."

Provisions have been made for establishing the experiment stations in New Guinea.

NAVAL RESEARCH LABORATORY TO HAVE NEW BUILDINGS.

Contracts have been signed by Secretary of the Navy Daniels under which five large reinforced concrete structures will be built at the naval research laboratory reservation on the banks of the Potomac River just below Washington, at a cost of \$652,711. Secretary Daniels says that the department's purpose is not to undertake at the new navy laboratory work that other government departments and laboratories are doing.

INSPECTOR, ANTINARCOTIC ACT.

AGENT, ANTINARCOTIC ACT.

The United States Civil Service Commission announces open competitive examinations for the positions listed above. Vacancies in the Internal Revenue Service of the Treasury Department, at the salaries indicated below, and in positions requiring similar qualifications, at these or higher or lower salaries, will be filled from these examinations, unless it is

found in the interest of the service to fill any vacancy by reinstatement, transfer, or promotion.

The entrance salaries for both inspectors and agents will range from \$1,800 to \$2,250 a year, with allowance for subsistence and actual necessary traveling expenses when away from post of duty on official business. Receipt of applications to close December 28, 1920.

NEW DRUG COMPANY CHARTERED IN MARYLAND.

A new coöperative drug concern has been chartered under the laws of Maryland with a capitalization of \$2,000,000. The company will be known as the Pontiac Druggists, Inc., and the incorporators are R. E. Lee Williamson and E. F. Kelly, Baltimore; Paul Pearson, Washington; Edward M. Sterling, Newark, N. J.; Walter McMillan, New York, and John E. Kennedy, Baltimore. Mr. Williamson is president and general manager of the Calvert Drug Co., a coöperative concern. Mr. Pearson is president of the Washington Drug Co., while Mr. Kelly, who is dean of the Department of Pharmacy, University of Maryland, will act as scientific supervisor.

PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

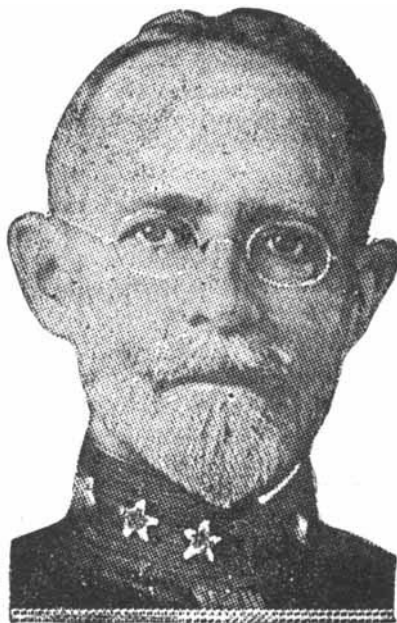
Dr. Charles Introit of Paris, France, gave his life as a sacrifice for science. He had undergone twenty-two operations as fingers and arms were successively removed to save him from the effects of burning with the X-rays. He had rejected the proposal to wear a thin casing of lead that would have protected him, because he could not use his limbs and body freely in his work. His researches were continued to the day of his death, that others might thereby be saved from the fate that had overtaken him.

Dr. William W. Coblentz, of the U. S. Bureau of Standards, has been awarded the Janssen medal by the French Academy of Sciences. His work on the invisible rays of heat and his method by which he measures the heat of the stars played a practical part in the war, since he invented a mechanism whereby dark bodies such as ships, at night, could be detected by their heat emanations.

M. Charles Moureau, until recently professor at the Paris School of Pharmacy, has contributed a chapter on "Chemistry and Metallurgy" to the volume on "Chemistry and the War" of the French work in process of publication, "Lessons of the War."

Dr. F. Mollwo Perkin, D.Sc., the well-known chemist, has just received the honor of the Order of Commander of the British Empire. He is the son of Sir William Henry Perkin, the discoverer of aniline, who, in 1856, while conducting an experiment at his home for the production of quinine synthetically, discovered "aniline purple" or "mauve." This discovery led to the development of the industry for the production of colors from coal-tar products.

Rear-Admiral Edward Rhodes Stitt, head of the Navy Medical School, has been appointed Surgeon General of the U. S. Navy, to succeed Surgeon General W. C. Braisted. Rear-Admiral Stitt is a graduate in pharmacy as well as medicine, having graduated, in



REAR-ADMIRAL E. R. STITT.

1887, from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. His medical degree was earned in the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the present U. S. P. Revision Committee.

During the war he served in the preparation of the medical officers entering the service, and in directing the laboratory of the naval service.

He was one of the Navy medical men called in consultation in President Wilson's recent illness.

Charles Edouard Guillaume Breteuil, head of the international bureau of weights and measures, received the Nobel prize for 1920 for physics.

Dr. Edgar Fahs Smith, ex-provost of the University of Pennsylvania, spoke in Philadelphia, November 21, on "Joseph Priestley in America." He told of Priestley's friendship with Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and other prominent Americans, after he was exiled from his English home. He paid a tribute to the tremendous impetus which Priestley gave to early chemical investigation in this country and concluded with an estimate of him as a man and scientist.

The ex-provost has accumulated probably the greatest collection of Priestleyana in this country, and exhibited many of the scientist's relics.

Dr. G. H. Meeker, member of the A. Ph. A., dean of the Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, was guest of honor at a dinner given by the faculty, November 23.

Prof. Henry P. Hynson, Baltimore, has been honored with the presidency of the Eastern Shore Society, which consists of former residents and natives of that section of Maryland east of the Chesapeake Bay.

Dean Frederick Wulling has been quite active recently in the organization of the Minneapolis Division of the National Safety Council. Among his addresses in the interest of the work, he spoke to an audience of about 700 members of the Minneapolis Citizens' Auxiliary, to a group of traffic men on another occasion, and on other dates to various bodies interested in civic work.

J. T. Lloyd, son of John Uri Lloyd, recently delivered a lecture before the Cincinnati Section of the American Chemical Society, at the University of Cincinnati. The subject of his talk was "A Trip across the Colombian Andes."

F. E. Mortenson of the Dundee Pharmacy, Pueblo, Colorado, was elected state representative by a majority of over 2,000.

Dr. A. B. Stevens, formerly dean of the college of pharmacy, University of Michigan, spent about three weeks in Ann Arbor recently, visiting friends. He left November 4 for his home in Escondido, California.

Dr. H. Engelhardt, Baltimore, spoke before the German Apothecaries' Society in New York, at its last regular meeting, on the valuation of drugs by chemical and biological methods.

Jacob Rehffuss has sold his pharmacy at Sumner and Lexington Avenues, Brooklyn, to his two clerks, Louis and Edward Meister, who have been employed by him during the past three years. Mr. Rehffuss contemplates making his home in California.

W. G. Peckham, Second Vice-President and General Sales Director of the Norwich Pharmaceutical Company, was recently elected President of that corporation, filling the vacancy caused by the death of R. C. Stofer in September.

Frank L. McCartney, of the Monsanto Chemical Works, has been elected to fill the vacancy on the executive board of the American Drug Manufacturers' Association caused by the elevation of W. A. Sailer, of Sharp & Dohme, to the presidency; mention of the latter was made in the October number of JOURNAL A. PH. A.

Treasurer H. M. Whelpley has been entertaining original landlords of America. The Society of North American Indians met in St. Louis, November 15-19, on which occasion he delivered an address on "Original Landlords of America." Greetings were extended by Carl F. G. Meyer, also a member of the A. Ph. A. On November 19, a visit, under the direction of Dr. Whelpley, was made to the Cahokia Mounds of Illinois. On November 20, Mr. and Mrs. Whelpley entertained "originals" only; the evening was largely given to a powwow. The first evening of the convention was in conjunction with that of the Academy of Science, when the subject of his address was "Pre-Columbian Man in the Vicinity of St. Louis—The Preservation of His Vanished Records."
