

EDITORIAL NOTES

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The Editor is indebted to Dr. F. B. Power for calling attention to several errors in the sketch of Prof. H. G. Greenish, July issue, pp. 663-666. Thomas Greenish, the father of H. G. Greenish, was President of the British Pharmaceutical Conference in 1880-1881, not the subject of the sketch; the error occurs on pp. 663 and 665. Doctor Power also corrects the statement that the Hanbury Memorial was founded in 1882; Prof. Flückiger was the first medalist, in 1881; "eighteen awards have been made" should read "nineteen awards have been made."

The inadvertent errors are regretted, and we thank Dr. Power for calling our attention to them.

CHEMISTRY OF RHUBARB.

Tschirch states that the value of rhubarb depends upon the presence of anthraquinone derivatives, particularly emodins, which act as a purgative even in small doses, and upon the characteristic smell of the drug, due to the presence of rheosmin, which is peculiar to the Chinese drug, especially to the rhizomes of *Palmatum* varieties. The presence of anthraquinone can be demonstrated by the test included in the Swiss Pharmacopoeia: 0.01 Gm. of rhubarb boiled with 10 Cc. of potassium hydroxide yields a filtrate which on being slightly acidified by the addition of hydrochloric acid and immediately shaken with 10 Cc. of ether imparts a yellow color to the latter. If the ethereal solution is shaken with 5 Cc. of ammonia, the latter is colored cherry-red (emodin) and the ether remains yellow (chrysophanic acid).—From *Chemist and Druggist*, June 5, 1920.

THE DRUG TRAFFIC.

Quoting the *Seattle Post Intelligencer* of July 22, "The China Club of Seattle has undertaken an important work in arousing

public sentiment against the traffic in narcotic drugs. The task which the club has set for itself appears at first to be so great that success must be far off, yet it may be taken for granted that once the American people are fully informed concerning the devious routes of narcotics from the hands of the manufacturer to the unfortunate consumer, the demand for restrictive legislation will be so great that its enactment will come quickly. Once the United States can show clean hands, the task of getting other governments to cooperate in the suppression of the nefarious trade will be made much easier."

The *London Times* recently published a scathing indictment of the opium and morphine traffic in China. Quoting their Peking correspondent in this article, as printed in the *Chemist and Druggist*: "Official records show that during the first ten months of 1919 there were imported into the United States 250 tons of crude opium, which manufactured in the ratio of seven to one represents 35 tons of morphine and other noxious drugs. Statistics prove that one ton of morphine should suffice for the annual medicinal needs of all the Americas from Alaska to Patagonia, and it is notorious that practically the whole of the opium entering America reaches China in one form or another. The American action does not affect the trans-American morphine trade between Great Britain and the Far East. Direct export of morphine to China is forbidden except when it is certified as for medicinal purposes, but there are no restrictions on export to America, with the result that huge quantities are passed through that country in bond, shipped to Japan, and there trans-shipped without landing for Tsingtao, Dalny, and Korea. From the first two-mentioned places it is smuggled directly into the interior, and from Korea by a regular system of motorboats it is clandestinely distributed

along the northern coasts of China. One ton of morphine is equivalent to 32,000,000 injections, so it may be imagined what havoc is being done in this unfortunate country by the traffic. Although import into China has been forbidden by treaty since 1916, it is the fact that Indian opium continues to pour into China by hundreds of tons. It is exported from India to Malaya, the Dutch Indies, and Macao in quantities vastly in excess of local requirements, and it is re-exported to Korea, Japan and Japanese ports in China, and from there smuggled into the interior of China. Sir Francis Aglen, Inspector-General of Chinese Maritime Customs, speaking recently at an international anti-opium meeting in Peking, stated that the Customs, during 1919, had seized 21 tons of opium and 4 cwt. of morphine, heroine, etc., figures which represented 'only an infinitesimal fraction of what is actually coming into the country.' Thus, not only are the morphine regulations evaded with complete success, but the whole British policy in regard to the Indian opium trade is being stultified. China is backsliding in the matter of internal cultivation, and the demand of the Chinese for foreign opium and its derivatives is insistent. No regulations will keep either opium or morphine out of China so long as these commodities exist elsewhere in the world. Responsibility for a situation which is resulting in the wholesale process of debauching an unsophisticated Oriental people clearly lies in two places—upon the Japanese, who do nearly all the smuggling, and upon us, the British, who permit a growth of opium in India vastly in excess of the local consumption, and who allow our own nationals to manufacture morphine and other pernicious drugs in a quantity thousands and thousands percent beyond the legitimate medical requirements of the whole world. It is a dirty trade all through, and for our own prestige, if not for conscience' sake, we ought, without further circumlocution, to strangle it at the root by stopping production in India."

THE PREVENTION OF TETANUS.

The French correspondent of the *Chemist and Druggist* states that experiments made by MM. Heim, Fernbach and Rullier on rabbits and mice seem to indicate that the development of tetanus and gas gangrene in textiles can be retarded, and even prevented, by suitable antiseptics. The most effective appears to be hydrofluosilic acid $7\frac{1}{2}$ percent,

alone, or mixed with $\frac{1}{4000}$ of sublimate or a first impregnation of the $7\frac{1}{2}$ percent acid, followed by a second treatment in which 5 percent coal oil is mixed with the $\frac{1}{4000}$ sublimate. These experiments, made some time ago, were not divulged while hostilities lasted, and they are not conclusive. They may, however, suggest ideas for the treatment of the uniforms of combatants.

U. S. BUREAU OF STANDARDS FIXES TEASPOONFUL AT 5 Cc.

The Bureau of Standards has fixed five cubic centimeters as the theoretical quantity of a teaspoonful.

CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL ENDORSES METRIC SYSTEM.

By unanimous vote the City Council of Chicago, Illinois, has adopted a resolution urging that the United States of America and the British Commonwealths adopt the metric system of weights and measures as the exclusive legal standard.

NEWS ITEMS FROM THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL.

(From the Secretary's Office, 1201 Sixteenth St. Washington, D. C.)

INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES IN AMERICA.

A bulletin just issued by the National Research Council lists more than three hundred laboratories maintained by industrial concerns in America, in which fundamental scientific research is carried on. The bulletin gives a brief account of the personnel, special equipment and particular kind of research carried on in each of the laboratories listed.

Industrial research laboratories have increased notably in number and activity, both in America and Great Britain, since the beginning of the War, because of the lesson vividly taught by the war emergency. It was only by a swift development of scientific processes that the Allies and America were able to put themselves in a position first to withstand and then to win a victory over Germany's science-backed armies and submarines. And it is only by a similar and further development that America and the Allies can win over Germany in the economic war-after-the-war, now being silently but vigorously waged.

PLANT PROTECTION INSTITUTE.

With the advice and assistance of the National Research Council, a coöperative body of scientific experts on injurious insects and plant diseases and of manufacturers of insecticides, fungicides and general chemicals and apparatus used in fighting the enemies of field and orchard crops, has just been organized under the name of the Plant Protection Institute. The purpose of the institute is to promote the general welfare by supporting and directing scientific research on the pests of crops, shade trees and ornamental plants, and on the methods of their control, and by furthering coöperation between the scientific investigators and the manufacturers of chemicals and appliances, especially for the sake of effecting standardization and economy in the production and use of the means of fighting pests. Also it expects to aid in the dissemination of scientifically correct information regarding the control of injurious insects and plant diseases.

Much excellent work along this line is now being done by government and state organizations, but a further advance can be made by introducing a wider coördination and co-operation of the efforts of both the scientific men and the manufacturers of control devices. It is in this general direction of coöperative work that the Plant Protection Institute expects to be most active.

DUPLICATE REPORTS AVAILABLE.

The Department of Registration and Education of the State of Illinois, Springfield, Illinois, has one copy each of the following duplicate reports which it will be glad to send to any one interested in completing a file:

Proceedings, Missouri Pharmaceutical Association, 1904.

Thirty-fifth Annual Report of Commissioners of Pharmacy of New Hampshire, 1910.

Third Annual Report of New York State Board of Pharmacy, 1903.

Seventeenth Annual Report, Wisconsin Board of Pharmacy, 1898.

Oregon Board of Pharmacy, 1909.

Forty-first Annual Report of Rhode Island Board of Pharmacy, 1911.

Proceedings Missouri Pharmaceutical Association, 1905.

Twenty-eighth Annual Report of Louisiana State Board of Pharmacy.

Iowa Commissioners of Pharmacy.

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TOXIC PROPERTIES OF MILK.

In an abstracted report the *Journal of the American Medical Association* states that milk heated to 80° or 85° C. for twenty to thirty minutes and kept at 37° C., decomposes with the elaboration of definite poisonous substances, a fact which, Ford says, should be kept clearly in mind in the consideration of the problem of milk pasteurization; and, under all circumstances, milk heated to temperatures sufficient to destroy vegetative bacteria but not their spores should be kept at a low temperature to prevent the development of these spores and should be used within a brief interval after the heating. Whether the bacterial products found in this decomposed milk have any poisonous action when taken into the digestive tract has not been determined, but in view of their presence in milk the practice of keeping pasteurized milk for any considerable period of time before using is condemned strongly by the authors. Finally the occurrence of toxic substances in heated milk arising from the development of spore-bearing bacteria requires a rigid supervision of milk production before pasteurization to prevent the entrance of organisms of this character.

THE COST OF DELIVERY.

Druggists do not, as a rule, pay enough attention to the cost of delivery; a large percentage of these deliveries reduce the profit or increase the overhead, and, in some instances, there is no profit when account is made of this expense. The National Dry Goods Association recently determined from a questionnaire, that the average cost of delivering a package is twelve cents.

SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS.

An editorial of the *Columbus Dispatch* states that "the shortage of doctors is felt more keenly in the country than in the city. In fact, the country doctor is disappearing and the people of rural communities are suffering from lack of medical attention. There are any number of prosperous towns and rich agricultural communities in this state that have no local doctor at all; others where only the old practitioners have been left to look after

the health of the people. The automobile helps to take care of the situation, in that it is now possible for a physician to cover a much wider territory than formerly, and to attend to many more patients. But even discounting the increased efficiency due to the automobile, the situation is still alarming. " * * * the real cause of the shortage is the fact that there are not enough students in the medical colleges—not enough doctors being graduated every year. This is partly due to the fact that the requirements for entering the colleges have been advanced and the terms lengthened. One must now spend several years at college before he can enter a medical college; then he must put in four years before he can practice. Eight or ten years at least must a young man put in schools and colleges before he can hope to be self-supporting at the practice of medicine, and that is a greater length of time than many are willing to sacrifice. It is all in the interest of science, we are assured, and it may be that it is. But if science continues to lengthen terms at school and to hedge about the young man with other requirements, then we are all going to die because of too much science."

Town Gossip, July 24, 1920, says:

"It's going to be a tight squeeze for a man to get a medical education in California. Five medical schools have gone out of existence within the past year or two. There now remain only three medical schools—University of California Medical Department; Leland Stanford, Jr. University School of Medicine, and College of Medical Evangelists, Loma Linda. Leland Stanford provides in its medical school for all its pre-medical graduates from the academic departments, and in a pinch could take in an 'outsider' (male). At U. C. about 110 students completed the pre-medical courses in the academic departments in 1920. Of this number only 65 could be accommodated at the U. C. Medical School. In August, 1922, the pre-medical requirement at U. C. will be raised from two to three years. On this basis a student will be close to thirty years of age before he starts out to practice medicine."

An editorial *Journal A. M. A.* August 7, 1920, reads: "There is no scarcity of physicians so far as numbers are concerned, and the supply of better qualified medical men is being rapidly increased. Meanwhile, as shown by the statistics published this week (August 7), the

pendulum is swinging back and the numbers of both medical students and graduates show marked increases over the previous year. It is satisfactory to know, however, that the increased quantity represents also an improved quality from the standpoint of both preliminary and professional education.

PERSONAL AND NEWS TIMES.

Dean Henry Kraemer, one of the nominees for president of the American Pharmaceutical Association, has resigned his position at the University of Michigan, due to impaired health. Professor Kraemer states that complete rest for an extended period has been advised. It is to be hoped that he will soon be restored to health and be able to resume his labors.

Caswell A. Mayo, of the William S. Merrell Chemical Co., has been appointed dean of the Queen City College of Pharmacy, Cincinnati, O. He succeeds Dr. Frank Cain, who gave notice of his resignation some time ago in order that he might give more of his time to his medical profession. Mr. Mayo is ex-president of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

Harrison E. Patten, formerly in charge of the physical chemistry laboratory of the Bureau of Chemistry, Department of Agriculture, has resigned his position with the government to accept the position of chief chemist with a firm in St. Louis. Dr. Patten has been connected with the Department of Agriculture for 14 years, during which time he has been engaged in laboratory work in connection with analyses of drugs and food, and has also written many articles on chemistry, physics, and electrochemistry. During the war he was a major in the Quartermaster Department of the Army.

O. F. Fuller recently celebrated his ninety-first birthday, surrounded by his old-time Chicago friends in the Chicago Veteran Druggists' Association, of which he is the honorary life president. He was honorary president of the American Pharmaceutical Association, 1918-1919.

Matt Noll, senior member of the Kansas State Board of Pharmacy, has retired from the retail drug business in Atchison. He conducted the store, which he sold, for thirty-five years.

H. M. Lerou, retail pharmacist of Norwich, Conn., has been elected Mayor of his home city.

Benjamin Edmunds, for several years secretary and active in the editorial management of the *Journal* of the Detroit Retail Druggists' Association, has resigned to engage in other work.

Prof. Charles T. P. Fennel has recovered from a serious illness and is enjoying an extended vacation in Colorado.

W. Bruce Philip has been chosen permanent secretary of the San Francisco Retail Druggists' Association. Under the guidance of Mr. Philip, valuable information for the retail druggists of northern and central California is provided. The weekly letters issued by these bodies are of value, and should be suggestive for organizations in other states.

Dean O. C. Dilly has been appointed a member of the Kentucky State Board of Health by Governor Morrow.

Louis Emanuel has sold his store and retired from active business. He conducted this store for forty-four years. Mr. Emanuel is a member of the Pennsylvania State Board of Pharmacy and active in State and National Associations.

Miss Irene C. Diner, daughter of Dr. Jacob Diner, has made a discovery whereby the standardization of commercial rubber is made possible. The elasticity and tensile

strength of rubber, it is said, will be more easily regulated and the whole field of rubber uses vastly improved. Though only twenty-two years old, Miss Diner holds the degrees of A.B., M.A., and Ph.D.

Charles G. Merrell, president of William S. Merrell Company, was presented by the employees of this firm with a Rockwood Plaque, showing a Summer Idyl in pastel tones, painted by E. Dries. The presentation was made at a recent outing given by the firm to its employees.

Mrs. Fletcher Howard, for many years a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association, and also during her husband's life-time a regular attendant at the annual meetings, died in Los Angeles, June 19, 1920, after a lingering illness, following a stroke of paralysis. She was deeply interested in pharmacy and association work, both state and national. In a communication to the American Pharmaceutical Association in convention at Washington, she expressed her regret because of enforced absence, and extended "best wishes for a most interesting and profitable session." Letters of sympathy were sent to her by the Association and the Women's Section, A. Ph. A. The body was taken to Des Moines, Ia., her former home, for burial.

SOCIETIES AND COLLEGES.

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETAIL DRUGGISTS IN ST. LOUIS, SEPTEMBER 20-24.

The Twenty-second Annual Convention of the National Association of Retail Druggists will convene in St. Louis, September 20-24; the sessions will be held in Planters' Hotel.

It is needless to comment on the importance of this national association in the affairs of retail druggists. The splendid work accomplished by this organization as a body and coöperatively with other associations is of record, and it remains for druggists to give more of their support in order to accomplish greater things. The complexity of the drug business requires the activities of a number of organizations, the foundation of which is in the State associations.

In a letter sent out to the press, O. J. Cloughly presents a number of interesting events and data from which we quote.

The N. A. R. D. was organized in St. Louis, October 17, 1898, and the annual convention was last held in St. Louis in 1904 during the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. It is now returning to St. Louis for its Twenty-second Annual Convention.

Among the important matters to be discussed will be national legislation, and the druggists' responsibilities thereunder, with an explanation of the details in keeping proper records in compliance with the numerous exactions, more particularly relating to prohibition and narcotic laws.

The entire second floor of the hotel will be devoted to exhibits of seventy-five or more leading manufacturers of proprietary and drug sundries. This in itself will be quite worth while, as it will afford druggists an opportunity of studying and becoming acquainted with the marketable merchandise in a way that it would be impossible for them to do otherwise.