

Just a final word, or suggestion, from the Conservative's standpoint: There seems to be a natural dislike, on the part of some initiates, to conservatism. No fault can be found with this temperament. But conservatism is often attacked in the wrong way—by attacking the conservative rather than the policy. Let us substitute a progressive policy for a conservative, if it is best so to do, but let it be done without attacking the individual who advocates the latter policy. Let the progressive pursue his campaign so as not to reflect upon the ability and the earnest devotion of the conservative. The latter policy has the complexion of personal attack, not intended, of course, but it is almost sure to lead to retrogression rather than progression.

Conservatism does not mean stagnation by any means. One of our famous statesmen has said: "More advancement is made along the line of conservative progress than by radical, half-baked ideas which sound well, but which only too often lead to disaster."

L. E. SAYRE.

PERIODS IN THE GROWTH OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS.

National organizations reach a period in their growth when their leaders become deeply concerned over what steps should be taken to keep them efficient and of the maximum usefulness to all whom such organizations should serve.

When the membership of these organizations reaches into the thousands, scattered from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico and from ocean to ocean, the problem of handling the business, enlisting the interest of many other thousands eligible for membership, and of greatly enlarging its general influence, becomes an acute one.

The writer believes that the American Pharmaceutical Association has now reached such a period in its growth. It is the one pharmaceutical clearing-house that America has.

Among those who have worked for a generation to make it efficient are several score of men of the very highest type—capable, straight, far-seeing, loyal; representative of the very best in American Pharmacy. They have given unstintingly of their time and labor to make the American Pharmaceutical Association the best organization possible. They have done a good work, and as a result we now have a nucleus capable of doing for American Pharmacy much the same kind of work that the American Medical Association has done for medicine.

In order to take advantage of this pressing opportunity—for it seems to me nothing less—those entrusted with the management of its affairs should begin promptly to plan for much bigger things. Possibilities of the American Pharmaceutical Association are far too big for its future development to be vested entirely in men whose chief work is something else than the business of the Association. I suppose no organization of any kind has more efficient officers; but, with one exception, all of them are men who have large professional or business obligations and simply cannot give the matters of the Association the time, thought, or constructive effort that is needed.

If this be a true statement of the facts, what are the next steps in the Association plans? How shall the magnificent work that has already been done be capitalized to the maximum for the future of American Pharmacy? The writer would like to see a full discussion of this matter through the Pharmaceutical

Press. He believes that unless it is given the prompt consideration which the exigencies of the case seem to demand, the American Pharmaceutical Association will have lost its greatest opportunity for a larger service to all of American Pharmacy.

WORTLEY F. RUDD.

CHEMISTRY OF HEPTANE AND ITS SOLUTION.

BY EDWARD KREMERS.

1. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

The object of this brief introduction is not to describe the preliminary survey which has been made during the past four years, much less to dwell on the theoretical aspects of the subject. Its purpose is merely to acquaint those interested with the subject how few and short were the steps that led from the investigation of certain phases of plant chemistry to the general study of chemistry as it reveals itself within the narrow aspects of so highly selective a solvent as this saturated hydrocarbon. Those theoretical aspects that seem to demand immediate attention, will be considered briefly in connection with the respective chapters. After the preliminary survey, that has been made hastily and for the most part qualitatively thus far, will have been supplemented by more carefully repeated experiments, conducted quantitatively wherever possible and whenever desirable, it may seem apropos to dwell on the more general theoretical phases of this "new chemistry" as it has been called.

Even to phytochemists and to those interested in the chemistry of the "terpenes and camphors," to use a phrase made familiar by Wallach's one hundred and more classical contributions to organic chemistry published in the *Annalen*, it may not be generally known that as early as 1871, Wenzell,¹ an ex-pharmacist in San Francisco, revealed some of the peculiar properties of abietene, erasine and aurantine, by which names the oil from the Digger's pine, *Pinus sabiniana*, was locally known. Wenzell's publication attracted the attention of Thorpe, who demonstrated by elementary analysis and the study of its physical properties that this unusual oil consisted principally of normal heptane. Somewhat later, under the guidance of Schorlemmer, whose classical researches on the methane hydrocarbons qualified him particularly to direct the investigation, the same scientist proved chemically that his physical determinations had led him to a correct conclusion.

Ever since the occurrence of heptane in quantity had been demonstrated in the Digger's pine, it has been of special interest to phytochemists. The discovery of the same hydrocarbon in another California species, namely the Jeffrey pine, *Pinus Jeffreyi*, also its discovery in the fruits of *Pittosporum resiniferum* of the Philippines, known as petroleum nuts, has added to the phytochemical interest in this hydrocarbon.

Though there are said to be thousands of acres of forests of *Pinus sabiniana* and *Pinus Jeffreyi* in the mountains of California, it has been by no means an

¹ For a review of the early history of heptane from conifers, see W. T. Wenzell, on "Abietene," *Pharm. Rev.*, 22, 408, 1904.