

THE HOFMANN MEDAL.

To the Editor of the Journal of the AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

My Dear Sir:—Please find herewith copies of a letter written by me to Dr. A. W. Hofmann and of his answer.

The subject of this correspondence was a beautiful gold medal, struck at the United States Mint in Philadelphia. On the obverse the medal bears an excellent effigy of Dr. Hofmann, while on the reverse is following inscription: "To A. W. Hofmann—From his friends and admirers in the United States of America—October, 1883."

There were 44 subscribers to the medal, of whom 28 were members or associates of the American Chemical Society. As all the larger sums, with one exception, were contributed by these, more than three-quarters of the funds came from members of this Society.

It is almost useless to say that these 44 subscribers represent only a very small portion of Dr. Hofmann's admirers in this country. As the sum needed was a limited one, only a comparatively small number of persons could possibly contribute.

The thanks of the subscribers to the medal are due to Dr. James C. Booth, Chemist of the Philadelphia Mint, and now serving a second time as President of the American Chemical Society, for his untiring zeal and earnest efforts in supervising the execution of this beautiful work of art.

With much respect,

I am yours very truly.

P. CASAMAJOR.

117 WALL STREET, NEW YORK, February 12th, 1884.
DR. A. W. HOFMANN, *University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany.*

Sir:—Your friends and admirers in the United States of America, wishing to testify their appreciation of the services you have rendered to the world by your labors in chemical science, and especially to organic chemistry and its unlimited applications to the useful arts and being desirous, moreover, of commemorating your visit to their country in the year 1883, and of expressing their

sense of the privilege they enjoyed in personal intercourse with you in October of that year, have caused to be struck at the United States Mint, in Philadelphia, a gold medal, which they ask you to accept in confirmation of the sentiments expressed above.

You will receive, at the same time, a bronze copy of the medal, like those which the subscribers to the gold medal receive.

With much respect, I am your obedient servant,

(Signed.) P. CASAMAJOR.

(For the subscribers.)

(Inclosed was an alphabetical list of the subscribers.)

BERLIN, 10 DOROTHEA STRASS, March 10, 1884.

My Dear Sir:—When a happy combination of circumstances, in the Fall of last year, brought about the fulfillment of a wish long and fervently cherished, the expectations—accumulated as it were during a lifetime—with which I crossed the ocean, were by no means limited. But what I observed and what I learned in America, how far did it surpass even my boldest expectations! From the moment I first saw the transatlantic metropolis arise from the waves, to the parting hour when I had to take leave again of your glorious country, overwhelming impressions crowded upon me which forever will remain treasured up in my memory. Moreover, during the whole of my stay on the hospitable soil of America, whilst traversing the great continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific; whilst descending from the new Territories in the Northwest to the Gulf of Mexico; whilst visiting the great cities in the East, though often bewildered by the great current of American life, in its endless diversity, I have experienced a uniformity of kindness for which I cannot be thankful enough. Foremost, however, among those whose cordial good will and helpful advice assisted my progress through the States, were always my brethren in science, my fellow-workers in the field of chemistry, and indeed the most delightful recollections which I have carried home from the New World are those of the friendly intercourse with my transatlantic colleagues, which in the great convivial farewell gathering under the auspices of the American Chemical Society found its most eloquent expression.

And now whilst indulging in these charming remembrances, with all the amiable attentions of my American friends still fresh before my mind, I receive your message informing me of the new and most conspicuous honor which they have conferred upon me. I am quite at a loss how to express my thankfulness, for this exceptional distinction is utterly out of proportion with any merit I could possibly claim.

It is true I have devoted my life to the cause of science, but less fortunate than some of my fellow-soldiers, I have to record no victories won in its service worthy to be commemorated by a medal. My labors have been of a more modest kind and by the blessing of having been permitted to prosecute the studies of my predilection for a period of forty years, I considered myself amply rewarded.

I need not assure you, however, that although somewhat perplexed by the monumental form which the feelings of good fellowship of my American friends and their indulgent appreciation of my life-work has taken, I am deeply touched and feel myself honored in the highest manner by the solid and permanent token of their sympathy.

Pray convey to those who have conferred upon me this signal mark of their approbation the expression of my heartfelt gratitude.

The gift of honor I have received will descend an inalienable heirloom in my family.

(Signed.) A. W. HOFMANN.

To P. CASAMAJOR, ESQ.