

## EDITORIAL NOTES

Editor: E. G. EBERLE, 10 West Chase St., Baltimore, Md.

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### PRESENTATION OF BOUND VOLUMES TO THE AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

James A. Black, of Baltimore, has presented a complete set of bound volumes of the *Bulletins of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION* and five bound volumes of the *JOURNAL to the ASSOCIATION*. The ASSOCIATION is indebted to him for the valuable donation and thanks are extended.

It is regretted that Mr. Black recently suffered loss by fire. The volumes and some single copies, saved from destruction, were donated by him to the ASSOCIATION.

### PHARMACISTS WANTED IN PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

The United States Civil Service Commission will hold open competitive examinations of applicants for the position of junior pharmacist in the Public Health Service.

Applications must be on file at Washington not later than February 12th. The date for assembling of competitors will be stated on their admission cards and will be about ten days after the close of receipt of applications.

The entrance salary is \$2500 a year. After three years of satisfactory service and the passing of a satisfactory physical and professional examination, promotion is made to the grade of pharmacist at \$3000 a year, and further promotion is made to the grade of chief pharmacist at \$3500 a year, after ten years of service from date of original appointment as junior pharmacist and the passing of a satisfactory physical and professional examination.

The duties will include the purchasing, selecting and compounding of drugs and medic-

inal agents to be used at the hospitals and relief stations of the Public Health Service; the handling of correspondence, requisitions and bids for supplies and the supervision of subordinate personnel. The duties of chief clerk, registrar, material officer and other such duties may be assigned by the officer in charge at hospitals or relief stations, quarantine, immigration investigation and epidemic control stations of the Public Health Service.

Competitors will be rated on spelling; pharmaceutical and chemical arithmetic; essay or report writing; chemistry, pharmacy and materia medica; and their education, training and experience.

Full information and application blanks may be obtained from the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, or the Secretary of the Board of United States Civil Service Examiners at the post office or custom house in any city.

### FORMULA FOR VANILLIN.

Prof. William J. Husa and F. A. Gilfillan write that on page 419 of the U. S. P. X the formula for vanillin is given as  $[C_6H_5.CHO.OCH_2.OH 1 : 2 : 4]$ . It appears that this is an error and that the correct formula is  $[C_6H_5.CHO.OCH_3.OH 1 : 3 : 4]$ . The latter formula is given by standard reference books and is in agreement with the formula given for vanillin in the U. S. P. IX.

### FEDERAL OR STATE RIGHTS IN MEDICAL PRACTICE.

The Supreme Court has upheld in a five-to-four decision the validity of the provision in the Volstead law limiting the amount of

whisky a physician may prescribe in case of sickness. It has always been held that States have complete control of medical practices.

#### RESEARCH AND SURGICAL SUPPLIES.

According to Director E. R. Weidlein of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research the firm of Johnson & Johnson has established at the Institute a fellowship whereby the exact requirements of surgeons and other medical specialists will be studied with the aim of developing new supplies that are needed and standardizing others now in use. An investigation will also be made of processes of renovation. The work of this fellowship will be in charge of Dr. Frederic H. Slayton and it is his intention to invite the concurrence of interested organizations and the cooperation of hospital executives and of members of the medical profession.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

The U. S. Public Health Service has made public a statement relative to the symptoms of gastric and duodenal ulcers. The statement recites that the symptoms of these ulcers are very much alike in many cases and that they may exist for some time without producing any symptoms; or there may be back ache and chronic dyspepsia which may last for months and a hemorrhage may result suddenly. The pains occasioned often yield to sodium bicarbonate, but such relief is only temporary.

Surgeon General Hugh S. Cumming recently stated that lime water used as a mouth wash is a most effective agent in preventing decay of the teeth and is perhaps as good as any other preventive means that can be used. The suggestion made by the Surgeon General is that after thoroughly cleaning the teeth a small quantity of lime water should be taken in the mouth and forced back and forth between the teeth and tongue.

Four gold medals have been awarded the Public Health Service for various features of its exhibit at the Sesqui-Centennial Exposition. These medals were awarded for chlorinating machines—using chlorine gas for destroying germs in drinking water; for life-like vaccination models showing types of reaction to smallpox vaccination; for selection of subjects and neatness of display; for a modern unit for dental surgery. The material which the Public Health Service had on display in Philadelphia has been placed in one of the Service Buildings in Washington.

#### WALTER REED'S BIRTHPLACE TO BE A NATIONAL SHRINE.

The humble two-room house at Belroi, Va., in which the late Walter Reed was born is to become a National shrine, commemorating the discoverer of the cause of yellow fever in which investigation he sacrificed his life.

The Walter Reed Memorial Hospital, in Washington, is a gift of the Federal Government as a tribute to the memory of Walter Reed.

#### RESURVEY OF PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATIONS.

The Bureau of Chemistry is preparing to resurvey the entire field of pharmaceutical preparations and include a wider range of products than was investigated in the first survey. In addition to hypodermic tablets and galenical preparations, drugs and preparations in the forms of compressed tablets, tablet triturates, capsules, ampuls, etc., will be examined. The Bureau commends the splendid cooperation given by the manufacturers. The ultimate purpose of the work is to eliminate sub-standard drugs from the American market with as little confusion as possible. To this end the cooperation of the industry is invited. The circular closes by saying that there can be no doubt of the possibility of mutual helpfulness and indeed of general benefit from an exchange of information and the results of research on such subjects as the supervision and control of the manufacturer of potent drugs.

#### FOREIGN TRADE REVIEW AND PROSPECTS.

Director Julius Klein of the U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has made public the statement that the year 1926 witnessed the continuance of that rapid expansion in our exports of manufactured goods so conspicuous for many years past, and particularly since the world war. The prospects for further growth in this direction seem highly favorable.

In closing his review the Director states that taking all together the foreign trade of the U. S. in 1926 was held satisfactory. The statistics show clearly the further strengthening of the position of the U. S. in world markets for manufactured goods, and the general prosperity of the country as reflected in increased imports. The only weak spot in the situation is the relatively low price of some of the major agricultural exports.

### SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION RECEIVES BOTANICAL LIBRARY.

The botanical library of Captain John Donnell Smith of Baltimore, presented to the Smithsonian Institution twenty-two years ago has just been received by the Institution. The Library consists of 1600 volumes; from the same donor there are also 100,000 botanical specimens. The library is particularly rich in works describing tropical American plants.

Captain Smith is 97 years old and is said to be the oldest living Yale graduate, being a member of the class of 1847.

The House, on December 20th, passed a bill (Senate Bill 4153) providing for the re-location and enlargement of the Botanic Garden in the District of Columbia. The reason for the move is that the present location and the general plan of the garden ought to be changed to make it possible to complete the Meade Memorial and the landscape engineering connected therewith.

### PHARMACY IN EUROPE.

After a four months' tour through Germany, Tyrol, Switzerland, Italy and Holland, Prof. Otto Raubenheimer of Brooklyn, N. Y., gives some of his experiences in the "Drug Edition" of the *New York American Merchandiser*. The article is divided into the following chapters: Pharmacies, Drug Stores, Colleges of Pharmacy, Working Hours, Standardization of Prices, Conditions in Pharmacy and Society for History of Pharmacy.

Pharmacies in most of Continental Europe are restricted, namely, one Apotheke to about 6000 inhabitants. They are under strict government control and in order to open a new apothecary shop the pharmacists must first obtain a concession from the authorities. The following points are taken into consideration: Need and location of the new pharmacy, age, nationality, fitness and financial responsibility of the applicant. Needless to mention, there is always a very long list of applicants and a pharmacist usually gets to be fifty years old before he obtains a concession for a new apothecary shop. German pharmacy has the prime object to supply medicines for the sick. No side-lines, no candy, cigars, soda water, lunch; no clam chowder!

Drug stores are more numerous, but are not allowed to sell poisonous articles nor compound prescriptions. Dr. Raubenheimer found in two instances, both in Bavaria, a pharmacy and drug store combined, but in separate

buildings, under the same ownership. He was also fortunate to thoroughly inspect an apotheke in his birthplace which was just ready to be opened. The owner was then trying out the distillation apparatus which is still one of the requisitions of a German pharmacy.

The formation of the Society for History of Pharmacy at Innsbruck, Tyrol, is also mentioned; to this attention was called in the December number of the JOURNAL.

### PERSONAL AND NEWS ITEMS.

President Theodore J. Bradley, of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION visited the Association in Baltimore this month.

Mrs. John F. Hancock, widow of the late Dr. John F. Hancock, member for 60 years of the A. P. H. A., and one of its earlier presidents, celebrated her 85th birthday on January 13th. While not as active as she would like to be, and those near to her, she takes a lively interest in the events of the day.

Sympathy is expressed to Ex-President, Charles H. LaWall, because of the death of his mother.

A. W. Pauley, of St. Louis, visited the ASSOCIATION offices this month and talked over matters relating to the Diamond Anniversary meeting of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

The New Jersey College of Pharmacy will become part of Rutgers University. Action looking forward to the merger has been taken by the Board of Trustees of the University.

Howard University School of Pharmacy and the University of Texas School of Pharmacy have been elected to membership in the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

Approximately a sum of one-half million dollars is being spent on new structures for the School of Pharmacy, University of Illinois. There are four buildings in the Pharmacy group; the building recently constructed has a frontage of 80 feet on South Wood Street.

The January *Druggists Circular* sketches two Presidents of State Pharmaceutical Associations—Joseph W. England, of the Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association, and Joseph T. Mathis of the Mississippi Pharmaceutical Association.

Dr. George D. Rosengarten of Philadelphia, has succeeded Prof. James F. Norris as President of the American Chemical Society.

The firm of J. L. Lascoff and Son has installed a Library for the use of the physicians.