

It is unfortunate that the connection between the results of the laboratory and the clinical pictures is in part at least conjectural. The necessity for further work is of course obvious; but the results hitherto obtained, though not in themselves conclusive, are of such a nature as to invite the investigation that must lead toward ultimate solution of the problems presented.

EUROPE IN ADVANCE OF US—A TRIBUTE TO
HERMANN KNAPP

The recent death of Dr. Hermann Knapp has occasioned a reflection not complimentary to the American people. Before he began his American career he had studied in several European universities, and had established a dispensary and hospital for eye diseases which is now a part of the University of Heidelberg, at which he taught four years. The science and the art of ophthalmology in this country were indeed a puny pair of twins until 1868, when Knapp brought us the ophthalmoscope which his teacher, von Helmholtz, had invented seventeen years before, and which von Graefe—of whom Knapp was also a student—had applied to eye diseases. Thus, Knapp's advent among us initiated the special work in orbital practice by which such beneficent results are now every day in evidence.

Soon after he established himself in New York, Dr. Knapp founded the New York Ophthalmological and Aural Institute, where under him many of the foremost workers in eye diseases in this country received their early training. Himself an extensive producer of papers, treatises and text-books, he began those *Archives of Ophthalmology and Otology* which are to-day an imposing monument to his zeal for the dissemination of the best literature in this special field. The span of his life was eight decades; and from his youth almost to his death, he gave to humankind the best of his heart and mind and strength; night and day he worked, sustained by a most inspiring enthusiasm for his calling and for humanity, until several years ago his health quite gave way; the prosperous and the penniless received alike his equal ministrations.

Now, outside his profession, the American people, whom he served with such self-abnegation, have permitted the occasion of his death to pass practically unnoticed; the representative lay press has given his career not nearly as much space as would be devoted to that of a pugilist or a second-rate politician. True, there was that in Dr. Knapp's fine temperament which lent itself to effacement; he shrank ever from ostentation. It was sought repeatedly to give dinners in his honor, to celebrate his anniversaries; on his retirement from the faculty of the College of Physicians and Surgeons the students wanted to commemorate his services; but he would have none of that. For his seventieth birthday a like celebration was planned; but he kept out of the way until the day and the occasion had passed. Loving-cups, engrossed resolutions and the like are

indubitably good in their way; but they were not in Dr. Knapp's way.

Now to the point: had Dr. Knapp died in Germany or in France, his beneficent life and labors would have been the themes of grateful and nation-wide eulogy. For example, in Paris, Berthelot was laid in state in the Pantheon, a great assembly giving its presence, the president of the republic, the diplomatic corps, members of the French Academy, judges, deputies, senators, deputations from many societies, taking part; the French Minister of Education related impressively the dead chemist's achievements; the whole Parisian garrison defiled before the catafalque; on that day every school in France was closed.

The honor paid the memory of Pasteur is another instance: There was several years ago a *plébiscite* to determine who were the ten greatest Frenchmen of the nineteenth century; 15,000,000 votes were cast. Who was first? Napoleon? No. Victor Hugo? No. Pasteur headed the list; among the ten were Curie and Roux; Ampère came eleventh; and Arago, the physicist, was fifteenth.

Virchow's funeral was most impressive, in that the whole German people took part. Von Bergman died in Berlin; but on his seventieth birthday (without waiting to bestow posthumous honors, and while he was still in the plenitude of his powers), his fellow-countrymen, both professional and lay, gave him the fullest meed of respect and affection; about forty delegations, bringing gifts of all kinds, consumed nearly five hours in passing before him. The imperial government, and the great seats of learning were represented; men notable in the arts, in music and the drama, and in other lofty pursuits paid tribute to his sympathetic appreciation of professions other than his own; four important works were prepared and published in commemoration of this great birthday.

Thus do they honor science and the humanities on the Continent. We, it would seem, have still considerable progress to make before we reach a like stage in civilization.

THE WISCONSIN PURE FOOD LAW NOT
EMASCULATED

Twice before we have called attention to the fact that the people of Wisconsin are not willing to allow the "interests" to dictate to them the terms of their pure food law. When the federal Food and Drugs Act went into effect the "glucose trust" protested against Dr. Wiley's ruling that the company must label its product "glucose," insisting that it should be permitted to use the more euphemistic term, "corn syrup." Its protest was heeded, Dr. Wiley was overruled, and the first breach in the federal Food and Drugs Act was made. The Wisconsin pure food law also requires that the manufacturer tell the truth on his labels and the officers that enforce this law have insisted that glucose should be

called glucose. In this case, also, a protest was made by the trust, but Wisconsin was not so easily cajoled as was Washington. Finding its protest of no avail the "glucose trust" declared a boycott against the state and refused to ship its product into Wisconsin and, what was of still greater moment, it practically ceased advertising in the newspapers of Wisconsin. But the fact that, previous to the boycott, Wisconsin had purchased thousands of pounds of glucose and was therefore a profitable market, caused the makers of this substance to bring to bear all the pressure they could to change the Wisconsin law.

During the early days of the present session of the Wisconsin legislature two bills were introduced by Mr. Perry and Mr. Stevenson, respectively, each having for its purpose the legalizing of the term "corn syrup" as a synonym for glucose. One of these, the Stevenson bill, was withdrawn from the committee and from the assembly, but there was a public hearing on the other. The Perry bill was reported back to the assembly for passage. When the measure came up in the assembly for action on the report of the committee, the bill was killed by the vote of 68 to 22.

This result is cheering to all who believe that pure food laws should be passed and enforced in the interest of the public rather than in the interest of manufacturers. As we have said before, Wisconsin is to be congratulated not only on having an enlightened legislature and a supreme court that interprets the law in the public's interest, but also on having virile and fearless officials who enforce the law without fear or favor.

It now remains to be seen whether the boycott, which the manufacturers of glucose declared, but which was raised during the time that the present legislature was in session, will again be declared against Wisconsin. If a few more states could be prevailed on to insist on the same degree of honesty on the part of manufacturers that Wisconsin requires, it would be but a short time before the Corn Products Refining Company would be only too pleased to label its products "glucose" in accordance with the facts. In the present more or less chaotic condition in the various state food laws, one unfortunate feature is the unfair commercial advantage that a state having loosely liberal laws has over those states which try to protect their citizens by making stringent laws and enforcing them strictly. If competition in the manufacture of glucose were commercially practicable, a boycott on the part of the glucose trust would not be of any great moment, as men of capital would undoubtedly recognize the commercial possibilities of manufacturing glucose within the boycotted state and selling it under its true name. Unfortunately, competition against a practical monopoly, said to be backed by the Standard Oil interests, is probably not commercially practicable.

Against the use of glucose, *per se*, as a food product, we know of no great objection. It is a very inexpensive substitute for real syrup and undoubtedly has a definite food value. Of course, practically all the flavor possessed by the so-called corn syrup preparations, is due

to the admixture of cane or some other real syrup with the glucose; for in its pure state glucose is insipid and but very slightly sweet. The fraud on the public consists in selling glucose under the name "corn syrup," for it is not a syrup in the sense understood by the public, namely, the concentrated sap of a sugar-producing plant. The makers of glucose have argued that the word "glucose" is in such ill repute that people will not purchase it under its own name. If this is true, it is all the more reason why the public should not be deceived into purchasing, under a euphemistic name, a substance that they otherwise would not have.

The Corn Products Refining Company, popularly known as the "glucose trust," would have exhibited greater foresightedness and more long-headed business sense if, instead of lobbying against certain features of the Wisconsin Pure Food Law, it had spent the same amount of money on a campaign of education by which the public might learn the harmlessness and food value of glucose. We sometimes wonder how long it will be before all manufacturers that have wholesome products will be willing to sell them honestly and on their merits instead of attempting to build up an artificial demand for them by means of falsehood and political chicanery.

THE USE OF ORANGE-RED UNDERCLOTHING IN THE TROPICS

The theory of Woodruff, that the deterioration of the white man in the tropics is due more to the actinic rays of the sun than to exposure to excessive heat, has found many adherents. With the view of ascertaining the truth or falsity of this hypothesis, the experiments conducted in the Philippines by the Medical Corps of the Army were continued for over a year, and the results are embodied in the last annual report of the Surgeon-General of the Army.¹

Orange-red underclothing and hat-linings were chosen on account of the known resistance of this color to the actinic rays of the sun. The tests were carried out by making comparisons between 500 soldiers equipped with these garments and 500 controls using white, care being taken to choose the two sets of men from the same companies and to divide them in such a way as to make the two groups as nearly as possible equal in physique. The exceptionally weak and those having had long tropical experience were excluded.

A comparison of the sick reports showed insignificant differences between the two groups, except that there was a higher admission rate for heat exhaustion among those wearing the orange-red underclothing than among the controls. Those wearing orange-red suffered more from perspiration than those wearing white, and extensive experiments, both on and off the body, showed that exposure to the sun caused a greater temperature beneath the colored garments than beneath similar white mate-

1. Report of the Surgeon-General, U. S. Army, 1910, page 118; experiments carried out at certain Philippine posts by Major Collins and First Lieutenants McKenney, Phillips and Cowles.