

EDITORIAL NOTES

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LEGENDS UNDER CUTS REVERSED IN ARTICLE ON "STRUCTURE OF BERMUDA GRASS COMPARED WITH THAT OF TRITICUM."

Prof. C. J. Zufall advises us that due to an error of their office in typing the legends under cuts of the article on "Structure of Bermuda Grass Compared with that of Triticum," these were reversed, and he asks us to announce the error. See pp. 472-473, June issue JOURNAL A. PH. A. Readers will please make a notation that will indicate the transposition.

FIFTH NATIONAL EXPOSITION OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES.

The forthcoming National Exposition of Chemical Industries at the Coliseum and First Regiment Armory, Chicago, during the week of September 22nd and 27th, inclusive, holds possibilities of as great benefit to American Chemical Industry as in the past during the war period when it contributed so directly to the firm establishment of a chemical industry in this country. This Exposition will prove that the chemical industry in this country is advancing with leaps and bounds; that the industries are flourishing and that the end is not yet in sight. It will show what optimism has done for the country and what a continued spirit of optimism can do. The fields of organic chemistry in dyes, pharmaceuticals and various organic technical products have made great strides in the last year, and will demonstrate that the greatest achievements in the war period were not of organic products for the taking of life alone or for temporarily incapacitating men.

DOCTORS PROPOSE TO MAKE NEW YORK WORLD'S MEDICAL CENTER.

Proposals to make New York a world medical center by construction of a \$50,000,000 medical foundation were announced July 11, by Dr. Royal S. Copeland, New York commissioner of health, after a meeting of physicians and surgeons, at which the New York Association for the Advancement of Medical Education and Medical Science was organized.

Objects of the association include the establishment of a *working affiliation* of the medical schools, hospitals, laboratories and public health facilities of the city and creation of a "medical educational foundation" to finance medical education and investigation.

Wendell C. Phillips, ear specialist, who proposed the association, was elected president; George D. Stewart, president of the New York Academy of Medicine, vice-president, and Haven Emerson, formerly commissioner of health, secretary.

NEW METHOD OF EXTRACTION OF ALKALOIDS.

L. Reutter suggests a new method of extracting alkaloids which consists in replacing the strong mineral acids by acetic, citric, tartaric, oxalic, or β -naphthalenesulphonic acids. The method is carried out by treating 50 grammes of the powdered drug with 200 grammes of boiling water containing 5 grammes of the acid, filter hot, decant from the separated oil or resin, extract the remaining traces with ether or petroleum ether, evaporate the solution to small bulk and precipitate the alkaloid by a suitable base. Redissolve and isolate the pure alkaloid by usual methods. Analytical results of the examination of twenty-six drugs with each of the five acids are tabulated, the results showing close agreement.—*Schweiz. Apoth. Ztg.* through *Chem. Abst.*

OXIDATION OF APOMORPHINE.

It has already been shown that when morphine is digested with unsterilized food substances no apomorphine is produced, nor is such the case with ferments in the presence of chloroform, toluol, or sodium fluoride. Experiments with fungi and bacteria have shown that neither *Aspergillus* nor *Penicillium* splits up cocaine with formation of an oil with a basic reaction, probably a pyrrol derivation; in no case, however, was benzoic acid produced; bacteria, on the other hand, readily do so. Neither fungus produces apomorphine from morphine. Apomorphine hydrochloride yields by oxidation with dilute solution of potassium ferricyanide a substance sol-

uble in benzol with production of an intense amethyst-violet color; this is an exceedingly delicate test for apomorphine. By a rather lengthy process (details in the original), an oxidation product was obtained in absolutely black crystals soluble in chloroform with intense violet color similar to that produced when an apomorphine solution is carefully oxidized with potassium bichromate and shaken with chloroform. F. Winterstein (*Schweiz. Apoth. Zig.*, 57, 133; through *Pharmaceutical Journal and Pharmacist*, July 5, 19.)

NEW YORK SECURES HOSPITAL FOR DRUG ADDICTS.

Mayor Hylan, of New York City, announced on July 18 the acceptance by the city of the gift of a hospital by John D. Rockefeller for the treatment of drug addicts.

The gift includes the buildings of the War Demonstration Hospital, at Avenue A and 64th St., built at a cost of \$300,000, and the expense of moving the buildings to Warwick Farm, Orange County.

Warwick Farm was bought by the city and equipped for the treatment of inebriates, but as the country has gone dry, it is held that the need of such use has gone.

The city will appropriate \$36,500 for the hospital's work for the remainder of the year and \$25,000 for carrying on the work of relief of addicts within the city. The first step in establishing the farm was taken by the Sinking Fund Commission when it transferred Warwick Farm to the jurisdiction of the Board of Health.

July 17 was the last day on which drug addicts could obtain drugs on prescriptions without being registered. Between 600 and 700 sought yellow cards at the registration office in Prince St. Registration entitles the

addict to treatment for two months, in which time, the health commissioner said, it is hoped to effect a cure or to reduce the patient's wants greatly, with promise of a cure in a comparatively short time.

The commission said one of the best features of the registration plan is that it prevents duplication and reduplication, as the registration card bears the history of the addict and his or her picture. The commissioner cited the case of a man recently arrested who had obtained three prescriptions under different names from different physicians as one of the evils of the former system.

Through the information obtained by the registration plan in New York, some of the data of the report of the Special Committee on Narcotics can be checked. Great care was exercised in preparing this report, but with that there have been points overlooked. Each order for drugs requires a new prescription, thus drug addicts required many such prescriptions and the number cannot be made the basis of determining the number of drug addicts. The Government very likely has in its possession a large amount of the narcotic drugs reported and American manufacturers supplied the European armies before the entry of the United States into the war. The number of addicts in New York has been estimated at from 100,000 to 200,000, and up to July 17, only 3,000 addicts registered.

Dr Emil Fischer, professor of chemistry in the University of Berlin, died July 16.

Professor Fischer gained prominence through his numerous contributions to organic and biological chemistry. For his work in chemistry he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1902; the Elliott Cresson Gold Medal was awarded Professor Fischer by the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia in 1913. Doctor Fischer was born in 1852.

OBITUARY.

FRANKLIN MUHLENBERG APPLE.

Franklin M. Apple of Philadelphia, a well and favorably known member of the American Pharmaceutical Association, died at his home, 3233 W. Berks Street, July 9. While Mr. Apple had been in poor health for a number of years, the suddenness of the summons was a shock to his many friends, and their sympathy goes out to the bereaved.

The deceased was born at Centerville, Pa., February 14, 1870, the son of Rev. B. F. Apple and Ella P. Apple. Soon after graduating from the Bangor (Pa.) high school he entered the drug business; later he came to Philadelphia, where he was for a time employed in the store of a cousin. He graduated with honors from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 1890, receiving the Alumni