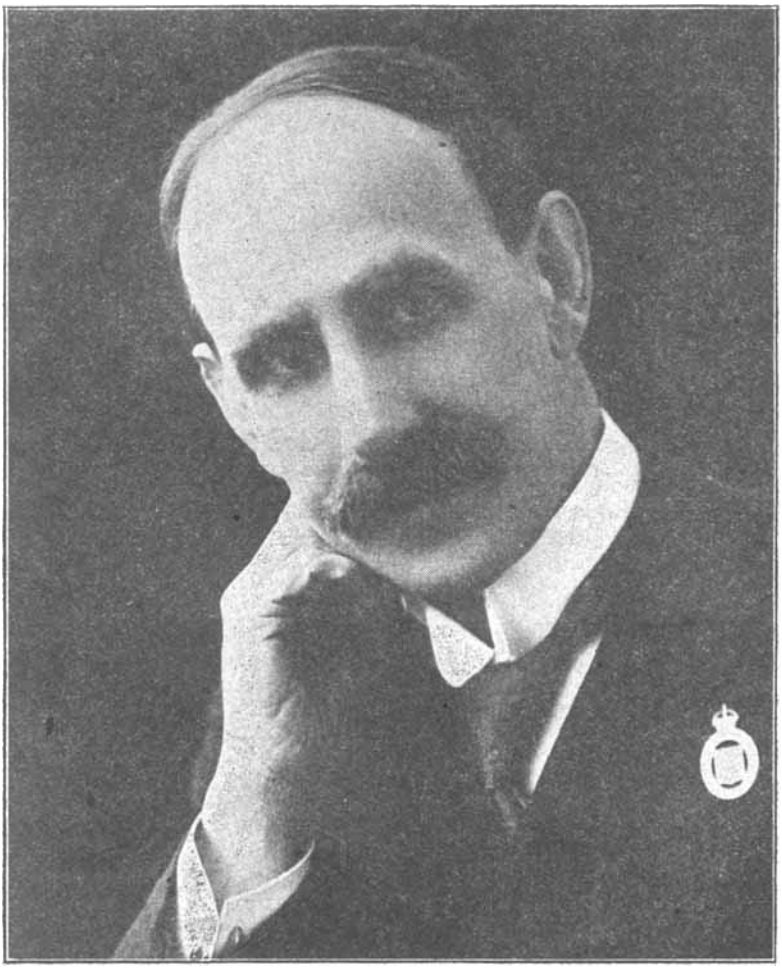
DAVID HOOPER, F.I.C., F.C.S.

WESTON, SUPERMERE, ENGLAND

President of the British Pharmaceutical Conference in 1916

Honorary Member American Pharmaceutical Association (1899)



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David Hooper was born at Redhill, Surrey, May 1, 1858, and received his early education at a private school at Chelmsford, Essex. In 1873 he was apprenticed for five years in a London pharmacy, and during the first year passed his preliminary examination. On leaving London he went to Cambridge and Clifton, and during his spare time he took up the study of botany by attending lectures, and with the use of "Babington's Manual" he made a collection of seven hundred British plants, which was awarded, in 1878, the Bronze Herbarium Medal of the Pharmaceutical Society. Next year he entered the School of Pharmacy, and succeeded in carrying off the silver medals in botany, materia medica and practical chemistry, in addition to the Pereira Medal, the blue ribbon of pharmacy. His first paper read before the Students' Association, "The Medicinal Flora of Afghanistan," indicated the direction of his future life-work, and a subsequent paper on the "Coffee-leaf Disease of Ceylon" showed a predilection for a life in the East.

After serving in the laboratories of Messrs. Corbyn, Stacey & Co., London, where for a time Mr. W. A. H. Naylor was his colleague, he became chemist to Messrs. Southall Bros. & Barclay of Birmingham. Responsive to his application and credentials he was elected quinologist to the Madras Government. A clause in the agreement with the Secretary of State was to the effect that the selected candidate should receive special training in quinology in Holland before leaving for India. Mr. Hooper accordingly spent the summer of 1884 at the Hague, in the laboratory of Dr. W. F. Koppeschar, from whom and the veteran Dutch quinologist, the late Dr. J. E. De Vry, he acquired a knowledge of the latest methods of cinchona bark analysis.

Arriving in India in October (1884), he soon plunged into the various problems of cinchonology and his work in that connection is a splendid record of achievement. Every phase of the subject was studied and experiments were made relative to the effect of various fertilizers on the growth of the trees; the aspect and elevation were investigated; the values of trees under different conditions of age,

and composition of the alkaloids were determined. The final results were that cinchona culture received helpful encouragement, and a quinine factory was established in India.

Further investigations by the subject of this sketch were also concerned with the materia medica of India and, in coöperation with Dr. Dymock of Bombay, was productive of the comprehensive work, "Pharmacographia Indica," a compendium of three volumes and an appendix, completed in 1893. About this time Mr. Hooper made the chemical examinations of ghanga, bhang and charras for the Indian Hemp Drugs Commission. These Indian Hemp drugs were collected from various provinces and the analyses are published with other data in the reports of the Commission. While in South India he was consulting chemist for the planting districts, where cinchona, tea and coffee were cultivated, and for two years he was also examiner in chemistry to the University of Madras.

In 1896 he was appointed Reporter on Economic Products and in the next year Curator of the Industrial Section of the Indian Museum. His reports during the succeeding seventeen years are replete with scientific advice constantly requisitioned by planters, merchants and officials. Mr. Hooper became Economic Botanist to the Government of India in 1912 and made a number of expeditions to the Tinnevelly Hills, Garo Hills, Karachi and the Sundarbans, collecting plants and drugs. In January of 1914 the first Indian Science Congress was held in Calcutta, of which Mr. Hooper was secretary and treasurer. It was attended by leading scientists and proved so successful that similar annual meetings have since been held, in turn, in the principal cities of the Empire.

After 30 years' residence in the East, Mr. Hooper retired and, after a short holiday, paid a visit to Canada and the United States, when he was honored by McMaster University of Toronto with the degree of LL.D.

The subject of this sketch was elected to honorary membership in the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1889. He was awarded the Hanbury Gold Medal in 1907 for research into the chemistry and natural history of drugs; it is interesting to observe that the former Anglo-Indian recipients of this honor, Dr. Dymock (1881) and Sir George Watt (1901) were co-workers with Mr. Hooper in materia medica. In 1916 he was elected president of the British Pharmaceutical Conference; the subject of his address was "The Medicinal Resources of the British Empire."

When the war cloud burst in 1914, Dr. Hooper offered his services to the Ministry of Munition, Department of Explosive Supply, and was appointed chemist-in-charge of the nitro-glycerin laboratory of the factory at Gretna, and here he remained until the armistice was signed in 1918. E. G. E.