

# THE AUSTRALASIAN JOURNAL OF PHARMACY

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## EDITORIAL NOTES

### THE CONTROL OF BARBITURATES.

**C**LARIFICATION of the position in regard to control of the barbiturates is urgently necessary. Surprising lack of uniformity as between States exists in relation to the controls. N.S.W., Queensland and Victorian regulations require cancellation and retention of prescriptions, thus following British precedent; N.S.W. further requires full records of receipts and disposals of the barbiturates, classifying them as 'dangerous drugs.' This restriction has been frequently criticised by pharmacists, who regard the requirements of the Regulations as unnecessarily irksome.

A formal protest to the Pharmacy Board by representatives of the Victorian Branch of the Guild (p. 224), against the Regulations introduced recently indicates that Victorian pharmacists are dissatisfied with the new provisions. One of the main difficulties, it was asserted, is that medical practitioners generally refused to co-operate, many openly expressing the opinion that the Regulations were unnecessary. This attitude necessarily reacts detrimentally against pharmacists. Protests therefore are justifiable. If the restrictions are necessary in the public interest, all sections, doctor, pharmacist and public, must co-operate; if the restrictions are unnecessarily severe in any State relief should be given upon proof of unnecessary restriction. In any case, uniformity throughout the Commonwealth is most desirable, and it is to be hoped that a step in that direction may be taken after discussion at the forthcoming Conference of Pharmacy Boards.

Perplexity in regard to this problem is not peculiar to

Australia. The most recent issue of the "American Journal of Pharmacy" reports that as a result of a programme inaugurated by the Committee of Legislation of the American Pharmaceutical Association, pharmacy has come to grips with the problems arising from misuse of the barbiturates.

The conference which dealt with the subject comprised leading representatives of the American Pharmaceutical Association, American Medical Association, American Dental Association, American Hospital Association, U.S. Public Health Service, U.S. Bureau of Narcotics, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, together with State officials and representatives of retail, wholesale and manufacturing groups in pharmacy.

Existing legislation was reviewed by the secretary of the American Pharmaceutical Association, Dr. Robert P. Fischelis, who stated that the Association would carefully weigh the factual data and the opinions presented to the conference to determine what action would finally be taken.

Dr. Robert H. Felix, chief of the Mental Hygiene Division of the U.S. Public Health Service, spoke on habituation and tolerance.

He classified habituation to the barbiturates into four groups:—

- (1) Persons who are psychologically normal, but have been given medication during an illness over a sufficient length of time to become habituated.

- (2) Psychonemotic persons of various types who have fundamental personality difficulties. Resulting symptoms cause them to lose sleep and be tense and nervous. They are able to escape from themselves to a greater or lesser degree by using barbiturates.
- (3) Persons with psychopathic personalities, but without psychoses. Use of barbiturates by this group has been called "an effort to make a big man out of a little man" at least psychologically, or to put him in a position where he doesn't worry about being a little man.
- (4) Persons with associated psychoses.

Speaking of underworld use of barbiturates, where they are called "goof balls" or "yellow jackets," Dr. Felix pointed out that in his experience many narcotic addicts either began their addiction or relapsed to narcotic addiction through barbiturates.

Various aspects of the problem, familiar in Australia, were dealt with, the conference finally determining that uniform control was necessary. As in Australia, there is considerable variation between the States, fourteen of which have no legislation at all dealing with the barbiturates.

The decisions of the American Association, when published, should contain much that will be of interest to Australian authorities.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHICAL BULLETIN OF LATEST BOOKS.

**T**HE International Association of Medical Press has planned to produce during the current year a bibliographical review of the latest books published in various parts of the world. It is proposed that this bulletin will be sent free of charge to the editors of medical reviews in order to keep them posted on the medical literature of all countries.

Those subscribers or readers of this Journal who are interested in the inclusion of any of their works in the bulletin referred to are invited to send copies to the Association, or at least the necessary bibliographical facts, which, we are informed, will be inserted without charge.

We understand that the Association is at present negotiating with the authorities of the Vatican City, hoping to obtain permission to use the Vatican station for regular broadcasts of sufficient length to enable it to bring to the editors of medical reviews and to medical practitioners everywhere the most interesting news which is being published in the medical press. This information will be of a strictly scientific nature for the use of medical courses, scientific gatherings, academic meetings, etc.

The address of the International Association of Medical Press is 47, via Due Macelli, Rome, Italy.

#### SOCIAL SERVICES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

**I**NTRODUCTION of a comprehensive Social Service Scheme in Great Britain, based on the Beveridge Report issued three years ago, was advanced a further stage when the National Insurance Bill was laid before Parliament in February.

The chief benefits to be provided by this Bill are:—

Sickness and Unemployment.—26/- per week for a single adult, with 16/- per week for a dependant and 7/6

per week for the first child; other children being covered by family allowances.

Retirement Pensions.—Payable at 65 for men and 60 for women, 26/- per week and 16/- for a wife aged 60.

Widows and Orphans.—Widow's allowances, 36/-; widowed mother's allowance, 33/6; widow's pension, 26/-; guardian's allowance, 12/-.

Maternity Allowance.—36/-; attendance allowance, 20/-.

Details of the proposed National Medical Service are not announced, but it is to be anticipated that these will be covered by legislation to be introduced shortly for a service for all persons. Press reports disclose that the members of the medical profession are disturbed by the prospect of substitution of a salaried medical service for the system of private practice, and that a fighting fund is being organised for use in a campaign to preserve the rights and interests of individual practitioners.

Very little information is available concerning the Government's intentions in regard to a pharmaceutical service under the Scheme, although for some time past pharmacists have been prepared, by lectures, articles, etc., from official pharmaceutical sources, to expect fundamental changes in the practice and organisation of pharmaceutical services.

The January issue of the "Retail Chemist" contains some interesting comments in regard to the position of pharmacy in the plan. It states that the Government's intention appears to be to set up medical centres and to build around them the framework of a general medical service. "The Government must know," the writer states, "that to establish the necessary number of centres throughout the country is going to be a lengthy and costly business—a task almost impossible of achievement for some years." He concludes, therefore, that if pharmacy were in a position to go to the Minister with the offer of an alternative scheme acting as a separate organisation, complete in itself, but capable of being fitted into the framework of a general scheme, it would seem likely that the offer would be accepted, as the Minister might well be glad to have this job arranged for him with as little trouble to himself as possible.

Mr. G. A. Mallinson, secretary of the National Pharmaceutical Union, whose suggestions are set out in the article, projects new thoughts in relation to the approach to the problem—thoughts that merit very serious consideration. He believes that pharmacists, at the outset, may ask what terms of payment are to be arranged if they participate in the scheme. Mr. Mallinson suggests that this attitude should be reversed and that pharmacists should ask, "What kind of service, and how much, can we give?" He believes that if pharmacists handle their case well at this juncture and offer generously the assistance the State requires, giving the public a complete pharmaceutical service and proving their ability to satisfy all the nation's needs, it is unlikely that the remuneration offered to them will be inadequate.

This argument is founded on logic and should find some acceptance. If a service is comprehensive, efficient and indispensable, reasonable reward must inevitably be attainable for it—at least under democratic rule.

The principle Mr. Mallinson adopts in his scheme for pharmacy to provide a domiciliary service is that the

bulk of the dispensing work and medical supplies shall be based on retail pharmacies. Shops should be grouped together in each district with a nucleus in the dispensary at the nearest centre.

The reason given for the retention of dispensing work at individual pharmacies is that the association of the general work and the dispensing of private prescriptions with the shop will set the standard of remuneration to be paid for similar work in the public service. So far as the intentions of the Labour Government can be estimated from the few pronouncements that have been made, very little private dispensing will remain to be done in the retail pharmacy when the needs of 90 per cent. of the population are covered by the National Medical Scheme.

Two observations of special interest are made:—

(1) Only in cases of emergency, or in special circumstances, should medicines required by patients be supplied by medical practitioners. At all stages all pharmaceutical operations should be conducted or controlled by qualified pharmacists, whether in hospital, health centre or pharmacy. Patients should be given a prescription which the pharmacist should dispense.

(2) There should be some control over the introduction of new sources of supply of medicines. At the outset of the Scheme all pharmacists under contract for N.H.I. dispensing work should be allowed to continue "on the list," but when the Scheme has been established the setting up of new centres or the acceptance of new contractors in pharmacies should be subject to control. When the pharmaceutical needs of any particular district have been adequately covered by existing agencies, there should be no disturbance of the position by the introduction of new units unless very weighty and satisfactory reasons can be adduced for making the change.

#### REBUILDING OF VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF PHARMACY PROPOSED.

**T**HE Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria has announced its intention of launching a campaign for funds for rebuilding the Victorian College of Pharmacy.

Pharmacists in all parts of the Commonwealth will wish the Society well in its efforts to provide adequate accommodation and training facilities for Victorian students.

The Victorian College, now the only college in the Commonwealth devoted solely to education of pharmaceutical students, has a most interesting history. It was founded in 1884, when the University of Melbourne declined to provide lectures for pharmacy students, and since then all students who have graduated in Victoria have undertaken their studies at the College of Pharmacy. Victorian pharmacists have contributed the greater part of the funds required for extensions from time to time, and have reason to be proud of the institution which they have helped to erect.

A feature of the proposed building will be the C. L. Butchers Memorial Library. This is to perpetuate the memory of one of the most devoted servants pharmacy has ever had.

A fund for the establishment of this memorial was opened shortly after Mr. Butchers died in 1941. The response at that time was not as generous as was expected,

falling far short of the amount of £5000 which the sponsors of the appeal expected to receive. The fund is still open, and contributions may be forwarded through the Journal by any pharmacist who wishes to contribute to it.

#### NEW PROPOSALS FOR A NATIONAL MEDICAL SERVICE.

**I**NTERESTING possibilities are opened up by the Commonwealth Government's revised plans for a National Medical Service, if details published in some newspapers during the month are accurate.

The proposals are to be submitted to Ministers of Health from all States at a conference to be held at Canberra on May 6.

The reports, for which there is no official confirmation as yet, state that the general plan is outlined in a letter sent by the Prime Minister to State Premiers, and that the basis of the scheme will be the establishment throughout Australia of diagnostic centres, whose services will be free and available to everybody. Where diagnosis at the centres shows that a person needs medical attention provision will be made for him to receive it free of charge.

No information is available in regard to pharmaceutical service, nor has any reference been published in regard to such service. It is not known, for example, whether a pharmaceutical service will be linked with the plan, or a separate scheme similar to that provided by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Act, will be introduced. Indeed, the announcement appears to have been made without official sanction, and absence of confirmation or denial leaves the position very much in suspense. A significant statement, however, is that the existing States hospital system now subsidised by the Commonwealth under the Hospital Benefits Scheme will be the backbone for treatment where this is found to be necessary.

This proposed conjunction of diagnostic centres and expanded hospital services financed by Commonwealth funds may well become the starting point of a complete National Service. Verifications of the plan must, however, be awaited before conclusions may be drawn. What is certain, however, is that any such scheme contains possibilities of great changes in the practice of medicine, and possibly of pharmacy. Development of a scheme on the lines stated may bring about in the course of years a marked swing from private to institutional practice. It suggests the possibility, very much discussed at present in England, of much more clearly defined division between the professional dispensing pharmaceutical chemist and the commercial pharmacist—the seller of proprietaries, medical accessories, toilets, etc.

New problems for the profession arise. How can pharmacy be fitted into any scheme to best advantage? How best render maximum service without detriment to members of the profession?

The voice of pharmacy must be insistent in its claims for recognition in the early stages of planning. Only thus will misunderstanding be averted and co-operation be made possible.

Introduction of such a plan necessarily depends upon the carrying of the referendum proposal for widening Commonwealth constitutional powers to enable the Government to provide social services.

The Referendum Bills were introduced in Parliament on March 27. The remarks of the Attorney-General (Dr. Evatt) during the second reading speech on the Bill relating to social services are of interest in that they indicated that power is not sought by the Commonwealth at present to control general registration. He said that the provisions could not affect the right to practise under State laws, but would enable the Commonwealth to make use of the services of both doctors and nurses to provide a national medical service. Under the Bill no power would be given for the Commonwealth to control the general practice of medicine or to lay down qualifications.

It would appear from these statements that for the time being State rights to regulate the practice of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, etc., are to be preserved, and that Federal Acts for these purposes are not contemplated.

#### SIXTY YEARS OF SERVICE.

**I**N January of this year the Journal celebrates the sixtieth anniversary of its foundation. During the whole of that period a continuous monthly service to pharmacy has been maintained, and many improvements have been made in the publication. Unfortunately it has not been possible to return to complete pre-war standards because of impossibility of obtaining in Australia higher grades of paper such as were used prior to the war. We are hopeful, however, that this difficulty in time will be overcome, and that readers will once more receive a Journal of the standard established prior to 1939.

For just over sixty years the Journal has chronicled important movements connected with pharmacy, recorded the activities of official bodies and organisations established for the protection of the rights of members of the profession, and has served as a medium for the dissemination of scientific knowledge.

Pharmaceutical journalism in Australia had its beginning in the "Quarterly Transactions of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria," which was first published in 1858, shortly after the formation of that Society; but owing to financial difficulties publication ceased in 1861, and members of the Society were left without a journal of their own until 1878. In May of that year the Society made arrangements to supply its members each month with the British "Chemist and Druggist," together with an Australian supplement. In June, 1883, the Australian supplement of the British "Chemist and Druggist" was replaced by the "Australasian Chemist and Druggist," which was supplied to members of the Society monthly until December, 1885.

In January, 1886, the first issue of "The Australasian Journal of Pharmacy" was issued, scant publicity being given at the time to this important event. A brief note in the annual report of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australasia for that year stated that the "Australasian Chemist and Druggist" had been incorporated in "The Australasian Journal of Pharmacy," which then became the only Journal published by the Society and devoted to

the interests of pharmacists in the Australian colonies. The first issue of the new Journal, consisting of 44 pages, contained several scientific articles, reports of meetings, and notes on current topics in the various colonies, but made no reference to the important step which had been taken in launching a new publication, which geographically and in the scope of its interest and contents covered a wider field than hitherto had been possible.

Throughout the past 60 years the standards and ideals of the founders of the Journal have been faithfully maintained. Difficulties, particularly in the early years, were encountered, but by courageous action on the part of those responsible for the publication of the Journal, these were successfully overcome without any interruption in the sequence of the monthly issues.

An outstanding event in the history of the Journal occurred in January, 1920, when it was adopted as the official organ of all of the pharmaceutical organisations of the Commonwealth. For a number of years leaders of pharmaceutical thought in the Commonwealth had realised the need for a closer consolidation of pharmaceutical interests through the instrumentality of a truly Federal Journal owned by the pharmacists themselves and voicing their hopes and aspirations, untrammelled by outside considerations. In 1919 a conference of representatives from every pharmaceutical organisation in the Commonwealth was held in Sydney to discuss the project, and as the outcome of the conference the Australasian Pharmaceutical Publishing Co. Ltd. was formed. The capital of this new company was subscribed by the various pharmaceutical organisations then operating throughout the Commonwealth, and machinery was set up for the creation of a Board of Management to be responsible for the production of the Journal, with Local Boards in each State, thereby giving direct and adequate representation to every section of the profession.

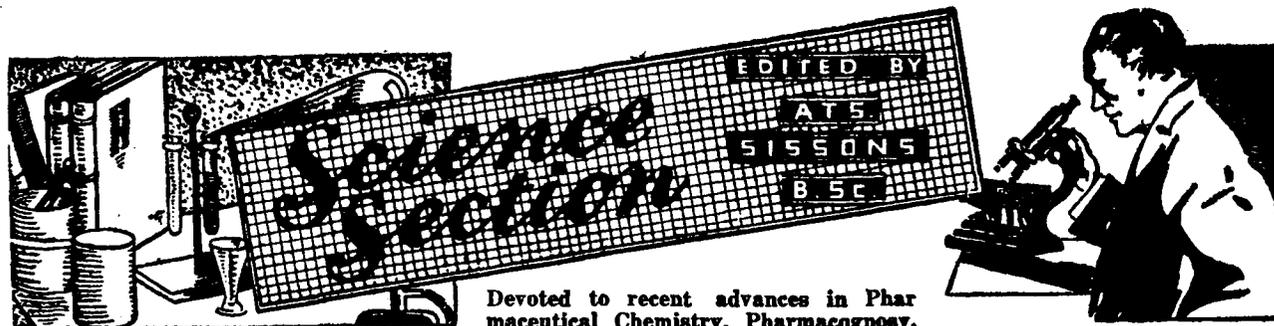
#### NEW MERCHANDISING PLAN.

**T**HE announcement of the launching of a Commonwealth merchandising plan for pharmacy should attract much attention. Details soon will be communicated to pharmacists in all States by the Guild officers who have been commissioned to found the scheme.

Success of the plan depends upon co-operation of retail pharmacists in all States. The scheme presented is so attractive and offers such possibilities that the sponsors do not believe that a full measure of co-operation will be difficult to attain.

Merchandising is a most important section of pharmaceutical activity. The professional service of pharmacy, generally speaking, is dependent upon the associated business activities of the pharmacist for continuance. Realisation of the interdependence of professional and commercial sides of pharmacy was responsible for the formation of the Guild and joining of the small business organisations in pharmacy in one body 18 years ago. Results achieved in the programme of advancing the commercial interests of pharmaceutical chemists are remarkable.

Merchandising should be a central feature of Guild activity, and there is much opportunity for co-ordination and improvement of existing plans by expert directors devoting their energies and enthusiasm to this one job—which, indeed, is a highly specialised one.



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## ARTICLES

International Biological Standards.  
Air Sterilisation by Ultra-violet Light.  
Pharmaceutical Industry in Germany.  
Dangerous Drugs in 1946.  
Oral Penicillin.

New Drive Against Cancer.  
Penicillin Cream Applicator.  
Seborrhoeic Dermatitis.  
Infections From Footwear.  
A New Rat Poison.

### INTERNATIONAL BIOLOGICAL STANDARDS.

Dixon Memorial Lecture, 1945, Delivered by  
Sir Percival Hartley (London).

(From "The Pharmaceutical Journal," January 26, 1946.)

Biological standards represent one of the inter-war advances made in co-operative international effort which have survived the Second Great War, and no one is better qualified to discuss them than the Director of the Department of Biological Standards of the Medical Research Council. It was fitting that the review of progress in this field should be in memory of Professor Dixon, of Cambridge, teacher and research worker in pharmacology, who was one of the earliest advocates of the biological standardisation of drugs, and who served on several of the committees of the Health Organisation of the League of Nations that were finally responsible for setting up the Permanent Commission on Biological Standards.

#### Potent Biological Substances.

The therapeutic substances whose potency cannot be estimated by chemical and physical means are not mere palliatives used for alleviating symptoms, but are specific remedies for the prevention and treatment of disease, or for the replacing of defects or deficiencies from which the human body may be suffering. Moreover, some of these substances are potentially dangerous; for their safe and effective use they must be administered by precise dosage. This need for precise measurement is no less great for the research worker in the fields in which these materials are studied or used. These substances, e.g., the hormone of the posterior lobe of the pituitary, the organo-arsenicals, insulin, and the cardiac glycosidal drugs, exhibit unique and quite characteristic biological reactions which "man has exploited and applied and made to serve as a basis for the determination of their potency."

These methods involve the comparison of two or more samples, and if one of these be taken as "standard," it is possible to find how much of the other sample or samples produce the same biological effect as one milligram or one microgram or one unit of this standard. For any of these biological substances, however, unless there be a common standard, a common basis of measurement, and a common system of notation, the results of investigations made in different laboratories and hospitals in different countries cannot be correlated and compared. The one essential for the successful performance of these potency determinations is that the biological tests upon which they are based shall be carried out under strictly comparable conditions. Ultimately—and for its widest application—this principle requires the establishment of a representa-

tive body having world-wide authority—the decisions and edicts of which carry weight and are respected—controlling international standards and international units, which are to be operated on a world scale and which will enjoy the widest possible currency.

The present international conception of standards and units owed its origin to several important conferences, but primarily to the work of Ehrlich, who showed that the only way out of the maze of standardising complex diphtheria antitoxin was:—(1) To adopt a particular sample of diphtheria antitoxin as a "standard"; in comparison with this the potency of other samples of diphtheria antitoxin could be determined; and (2) to define a unit of diphtheria antitoxin in terms of a definite weight of a particular dried standard, preserved *in vacuo* at constant low temperature. Diphtheria and tetanus antitoxin were well established and deposited before the outbreak of war in 1914, not merely at Ehrlich's laboratory at Frankfurt, but fortunately also at the Hygienic Laboratory at Washington.

#### Retrospect.

After the war, primarily through the initiative of Madsen, of Copenhagen, an international conference was held in London in 1921, when the original Ehrlich unit was established as the international unit of potency for diphtheria antitoxin; a year later this international enterprise was extended not only to other antitoxins and antisera (in 1922 at Paris), but at international conferences in 1924-25 to other potent drugs such as the heart drugs, pituitary (posterior lobe) extract, the arsphenamines and insulin. The Permanent Commission on Biological Standards, instituted in 1924, and enlarged in 1935, had a two-fold purpose:—(1) Of providing international standards and units, as and when required; and (2) of securing their adoption and effective application on a wide international basis. The standards for the antitoxins, antisera, and tuberculin were to be maintained at the State Serum Institute at Copenhagen, and for all other substances at the National Institute for Medical Research at Hampstead.

#### National Control Centres.

Recent additions to the list of international standards have entailed generous gifts of material, e.g., for the heparin standard from Canada, for the male hormone from a Swiss laboratory, and of 30 gm. of the sodium salt of pure crystalline penicillin II from an English laboratory. Free distribution of these standards is the invariable rule for all standards issued from Hampstead on a national basis, or to the British Commonwealth of Nations, or to the individual research worker. Nevertheless, it is one thing to make a standard and get it accepted (by the

League), but quite another problem to get it brought into use on a wide international scale. Distribution of specimens to nominated national distribution centres was effected in 1939 to 35 countries, and thereby threatened shortages of these materials was averted. It was hoped, thereby, to arouse interest in establishing and maintaining national control centres, and in stimulating research into the varied problems arising in regard to standards and the method of their application.

#### Penicillin.

The demand for a standard preparation and a defined international unit of penicillin came at a time when war conditions made it difficult for the Permanent Standards Commission to fulfil its traditional role. Experts on penicillin were brought into conference from the United States and many countries of the British Commonwealth of Nations, and in 1944 a sample of pure sodium salt of penicillin II was adopted as the international standard, and for practical reasons a sample of calcium salt of penicillin as the international working standard.

The international unit was defined as the specific activity contained in 0.6 micrograms of the international standard, and one international unit is contained in 2.7 micrograms of the international working standard. The actual international standard preparations obviously cannot be used for the routine assays of penicillin as the total quantity available is far too small; they are supplied for the assay and periodical check of equivalent national standards which the national control centre of each country is, quite properly, expected to prepare. The national control centre will then supply its national standard, exactly assayed in terms of the international standard, to all those laboratories requiring it in its own country and, with this, each laboratory will assay, and check periodically, its day-to-day working standard.

#### The Therapeutic Substances Act and the British Pharmacopoeia.

The Therapeutic Substances Act requires that the potency of the substances controlled by it shall be expressed in terms of the international standards and units, and in no other. But this Act, excellent and effective as it has proved to be, is limited in scope and in its geographical application. Its control does not extend to vitamins nor the heart drugs, for example, and the sphere of its application does not extend beyond Great Britain and Northern Ireland. A way has been found, however, whereby both of these limitations may be overcome and many of the undoubted benefits and advantages of the Act made to operate in a wider field. This has been done by bringing the substances for which international biological standards have been established within the scope of the British Pharmacopoeia; and the Pharmacopoeia, on its part, has laid down the principle that the standards and units to which pharmacopoeial preparations must conform are the international biological standards and units.

#### Definition of a Standard and a Unit.

A biological standard may be defined on "an arbitrarily chosen representative sample of the substance for which it is to serve as a basis of measurement, preserved under conditions ensuring its permanency." In general terms, a unit may be defined as the specific biological activity contained in a certain weight of such a standard.

#### List of International Biological Standards (1946).

Standard Preparation.	International Unit.
Diphtheria antitoxin . . . . .	0.0628
Tetanus antitoxin . . . . .	0.1547
Antidysentery serum (Shiga) . . . . .	0.0500
Staphylococcus antitoxin . . . . .	0.5000
Antipneumococcus serum (Type 1) . . . . .	0.0886
Antipneumococcus serum (Type 2) . . . . .	0.0894
Gas gangrene antitoxin ( <i>perfringens</i> ) . . . . .	0.2660
Gas gangrene antitoxin ( <i>vibrio septique</i> ) . . . . .	0.2377
Gas gangrene antitoxin ( <i>Edematiens</i> ) . . . . .	0.2681
Gas gangrene antitoxin ( <i>histolyticus</i> ) . . . . .	0.3575

Standard Preparation.	International Unit.
Gas gangrene antitoxin ( <i>Sordelli</i> ) . . . . .	0.1334
Old tuberculin . . . . .	—
Diphtheria antitoxin for the flocculation test	—
Vitamin A (mixed carotenes) . . . . .	0.001
(pure $\beta$ carotene) . . . . .	0.0006
Vitamin B <sub>1</sub> (adsorption product . . . . .	10.0
(pure synthetic Vitamin B <sub>1</sub> ) . . . . .	0.003
Vitamin C ( <i>l</i> -ascorbic acid) . . . . .	0.05
Vitamin D (irradiated ergosterol soln.) . . . . .	1.0
(calciferol) . . . . .	0.000025
Vitamin E ( <i>a</i> -tocopheryl acetate) . . . . .	1.0
Arsphenamine . . . . .	—
Neosarsphenamine . . . . .	—
Sulpharsphenamine . . . . .	—
Insulin (crude dry hydrochloride) . . . . .	0.125
(pure crystalline) . . . . .	0.0455
Pituitary (posterior lobe) powder . . . . .	0.5
Digitalis . . . . .	80.0
Ouabain . . . . .	—
Oestrus-producing hormones:	
(1) Oestrone . . . . .	0.0001
(2) Oestradiol monobenzoate . . . . .	0.0001
Androsterone (for male hormone) . . . . .	0.1
Corpus luteum hormone (progesterone) . . . . .	1.0
Chorionic gonadotrophin . . . . .	0.1
Serum gonadotrophin . . . . .	0.25
Thyrotrophin . . . . .	—
Prolactin (galactin or mammothrophin) . . . . .	0.1
Heparin . . . . .	0.0077
Penicillin . . . . .	0.0006

For 28 substances there is an international unit recorded—a unit properly defined as the specific biological activity contained in a given weight of the standard preparation. This varies from a fraction of a microgram (vitamin D and penicillin) to a whole milligram (progesterone) up to 80 milligrams for digitalis. Potency cannot be determined and units of activity cannot be defined by simple observation of the effects of an animal reaction, because of the wide variation in animal response to the same stimulus; this factor of animal variation, more than any other, dominates the whole field of biological standardisation and can only be controlled and allowed for by the adoption of standard preparations. Biological effects differ widely from animal to animal, laboratory to laboratory, and from day to day in the same laboratory. The international unit, as defined above, in terms of a stable standard substance, is fixed, definite and unchanging.

#### Revision of the List.

Since the 35 standards were established it has been necessary to replace more than 20 of them. Replacement of the first international standard of pituitary (posterior lobe) extract engaged the co-ordinated work of 13 different laboratories (including the Society's) in assessing the final value of the new standard. Other standards replaced were the original vitamin B<sub>1</sub> adsorption product by pure synthetic aneurine hydrochloride, of lemon juice by ascorbic acid, and "irradiated ergosterol" by pure calciferol. During the war the stocks of the three gas gangrene antitoxins, *Cl. perfringens*, *Cl. septicum* and *Cl. edematiens*, had to be replenished, and there is every reason to believe that the replacement standards are representative and satisfactory. The replacement of old "tuberculin" by purified protein derivative (P.P.D.) is now a foregone conclusion, and the new preparation will provide the opportunity of defining a unit of tuberculin activity, which might be useful in human and veterinary medicine for interpreting and comparing the results of tuberculin tests in different animal species.

#### Deletion and Replacement.

Sir Percival foresees that the present list may in time be pruned of some of the standards (e.g., for some antisera, antitoxins and for "606") which have earned honourable retirement, and that the vitamin standards may come

up for review and possible replacement entirely by chemical and physical methods. This will bear our Dale's dictum that "the ultimate aim of all progression work on biological standardisation, as of all preventative medicine, may be regarded as self-extinction."

Extensive work was carried out on whether the international standard was adequate for gas gangrene antitoxin, especially as a means of assaying X-antitoxin, other activities of the organisms, such as its power to produce hæmolysins and hyalurodinase and the bearing of these on infection. The results of the work on guineapigs of Dr. D. G. Evans, at Hampstead, based on the use of the available standard and unit, have provided new ideas and suggestions concerning the action of antitoxin in controlling a rapidly progressive fatal infection in susceptible animals; and, secondly, the work has indicated an approach by *in vivo* methods to the study of multiple antigens and their corresponding antibodies, for some of which standards should be established.

Scientific workers throughout the world, who owe an immeasurable debt to the Department of Biological Standards, will applaud Sir Percival Hartley's characteristic conclusion: "In some of these general advances biological standards have played a modest but useful part; and it is not unreasonable or an exaggeration to claim that this work has proved to be essential to research, and the consequent extension of our knowledge in many of these biological sciences on which the progress of medicine depends."

#### AIR STERILISATION BY ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT.

(From "The Manufacturing Chemist," December, 1945.)

The corollary to the scrupulous sterilisation of plant, equipment and containers which is standard practice in pharmaceutical manufacture is the sterilisation of the air which must come into contact with the product at some stage of processing. A piece of equipment which has achieved widespread use in America as a source of bactericidal ultra-violet radiation and a means of removing bacteria from the air is the Westinghouse *Sterilamp*. The applications of the lamp in various branches of pharmaceutical manufacture were described by A. R. Dennington in a paper read before the American Pharmaceutical Association.

Tests by pharmaceutical manufacturers to determine the efficacy of the *Sterilamp* indicated very strongly that bactericidal radiation protected products from infection and prevented cross-infection from test animals. At present, several manufacturers use from 200 to 500 lamps in various parts of their plant. The most effective bactericidal wave-length of 2600 Angström units is approximated as closely as possible by the output of 2537 Å from the ultra-violet generators of the *Sterilamp* unit. This figure of 2537 Å is practically constant, since over 95% of the total radiation approximates this amount.

Protection of culture media from air-borne contamination without danger to the cultures which may be exposed in the process is achieved because of the lack of penetration of these bactericidal rays generated at 2537 Å. Such short wave-lengths have only slight penetration into liquids or solids, but with clear water containing only a small quantity of dissolved minerals the rays penetrate to a considerable depth, since there is about 50% absorption in a 3-in. depth of physiological salt solution and the same amount in a 6-in. depth of distilled water. Through air, however, penetration of the rays is good.

Tests show effective killing of organisms on the surface of culture media on petri plates placed more than 15 ft. from an ultra-violet source shielded to have only 1 in. of effective length. It was shown that a definite quantity of the weak radiation over a period of several hours was more effective in killing micro-organisms than the same amount of more intense radiation for the same period. Explanation of this result is based upon the assumption that since bacteria are more easily destroyed at one specific moment in their life cycle, extension of radiation time enables advantage to be taken of this fact.

#### Serum and Vaccine Manufacture.

By the very nature of the process the filtration of serums exposes the material to the air for some considerable time, and it is here that bactericidal ultra-violet radiation finds an important use. Referring to one installation, the paper describes how the lamps are mounted at the same height as the fluorescent lighting fixtures and spaced between them to give uniformity of radiation. Regarding protection of the workers' eyes, tinted or coloured glass shields are unnecessary, since ordinary clear glass is opaque to ultra-violet radiation. Most, but not all, plastic shields afford this protection.

Ultra-violet sterilisation of the air in spaces where vaccines and other products demanding aseptic sealing are packed provides an additional safety precaution to the usual method of filling ampoules behind glass screens, which permits visibility during the operation, but traps the workers' breath. General radiation in the processing areas and concentrated radiation at the point of operation give a double assurance of sterile conditions. Sutures are a similar instance to ampoules.

#### Penicillin.

Penicillin is a classic example of a material extremely sensitive to air-borne infection, and *Sterilamps* are used by most American manufacturers. Right through the process from incubation to the packaging room bactericidal radiation is provided. During the transference of organisms from one culture medium to another in the laboratory ultra-violet light, either concentrated or generally radiated, maintains sterile conditions.

Establishments which make use of animals either for experiments or as sources of blood for serums or vaccines employ *Sterilamps* wherever the animals are kept. Although the workers' eyes must be protected by shields in the manner described, the eyes of the animals are unaffected because ordinarily they are more exposed to sunlight than human beings.

#### Glass Container Manufacture.

Almost complete sterility of their glass containers when delivered to pharmaceutical houses is achieved by a firm which was quoted as using *Sterilamps*. In the molten stage the glass is obviously at a temperature which makes life for bacteria impossible. It is, therefore, during cooling and capping that ultra-violet light must provide a sterile atmosphere. Thus, the air which goes to thelehr is first sterilised with *Sterilamps*. In the capping stage the bottles pass into an enclosed space irradiated with ultra-violet light, and are fitted with caps similarly sterilised. Ultra-violet radiation is, of course, essential during the filling process at the factory.

Maintenance of health among workers is aided by *Sterilamps*, either fitted in the workroom or office, or installed in the air duct supplying conditioned air. In the first instance the lamps are installed to allow radiation above eye-level to ensure freedom from possible injury or irritation. The second method has proved itself under test. The high intensity of radiation attained by placing the lamps in the duct has reduced air bacteria by more than 90%, and has practically eliminated odours.

#### PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY IN GERMANY.

W. K. Fitch, Editor *The Pharmaceutical Journal (England)*, put the following questions to the Control Commission (British Element), Berlin, regarding the future of pharmaceutical industry in Germany. The Public Relations Research supplied the answers.

1. Are German pharmaceutical plants and factories to be retained and used to produce pharmaceutical preparations?

• Allied Control authority has not yet reached a decision; this will be conditioned by the export/import balance on which economic experts of all four Allies are working. For the present and immediate future, production of pharmaceuticals is encouraged, but, owing to war damage, raw materials and coal shortage, is not at a high level.

2. How will manufacture be controlled so as to prevent munitions of any kind being made, and who will decide in the future as to which products shall be manufactured?

The biggest producer, the I. G. Farben, is under direct control of the Allies; all I.G. German assets have been seized, and resident control staffs have been installed. A law prohibiting the production or importation of a wide range of war materials is being drafted.

3. In future will each factory be autonomous, subject only to the overriding control of the Commission, or will factories in, e.g., the British Zone be linked together through a British pharmaceutical expert or committee of experts?

The question is not understood; in the British Zone we have—

- The direct resident Control of such I.G. factories as Leverkusen, Uerdingen and Elberfeld, and included in this Control staff are three technicians with considerable experience of the fine organic chemical industry.
- The Chemical Industries Branch of the Control Commission (British) covers chemical industry generally in the British Zone, and in addition to the men referred to in (a) contains a number of technicians with experience of the fine organic chemical industry.
- The Association of British Chemical Manufacturers set up a panel of representatives of the pharmaceutical industry in the U.K., on which the Control Commission can draw for advice.
- The Public Health Branch of the Control Commission is in close and continuous touch with the Controls outlined at (a) and (b).

4. What is the position of pharmaceutical and chemical patents applied for or granted in Germany since September, 1938, whatever the nationality of the applicant?

5. What is the position of applications from Germany since September, 1938, for patents in countries outside Germany?

The Legal Division of the Four Allies have these matters under active consideration.

6. Is it possible to see (a) a list of pharmaceutical trade marks registered in Germany since 1938, and (b) a list of pharmaceutical trade marks registered by German firms in countries outside Germany since 1938?

(a) No lists are available. (b) This list can only be obtained from the countries concerned. There is no list in Germany.

7. What policy has been formulated to control the future registration of pharmaceutical patents and trade marks in Germany and by Germans in other countries?

As for 4 and 5.

8. What steps are being taken to prevent participation by I.G. in any of the 2000 companies with which the firm was associated before the war?

See remarks under 2. Additionally the Potsdam agreement requires that cartels and concentration of economic power shall be broken up; these objectives are being pursued vigorously.

9. What steps, if any, have been taken to revise the German Pharmacopoeia?

It is intended to re-establish a standard law as quickly as possible, and details are being worked out by the Allies.

10. Has the Control Commission considered the desirability of making it illegal to use a registered name for a single chemical (e.g., Luminal for phenobarbitone), and of stopping future registrations?

No information available.

11. Are any plans being made to use German manpower under Allied control in research, e.g., in chemotherapy?

A small amount of research on pharmaceuticals has been permitted under close Allied control. This question generally is being studied by the Allies—acting in concert.—“Pharmacy J.,” December 29, 1945.

## DANGEROUS DRUGS IN 1946.

### Estimated World Requirements.

The Supervisory Body under the International Drug Convention met in November last under the chairmanship of Sir Malcolm Delevingne, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., to consider the world requirements of dangerous drugs for 1946. Its annual statement on these requirements, prepared under the 1931 convention for limiting the manufacture of narcotic drugs, has been based on estimates received from the governments of 57 countries (out of a total of 72) and 85 territories (out of a total of 104). The table below indicates for each drug separately the world totals of the estimated requirements in 1946, totals which are provisional, inasmuch as they may be modified in the course of the year by supplementary estimates:—

Drugs (anhydrous alkaloid)	For use as such. Kg.	For con- version. Kg.	Conse- quential
			additions to stocks. Kg.
Morphine . . . . .	11,382	45,573	48
Diacetylmorphine . . . . .	910	—	8
Cocaine . . . . .	5,435	—	18
Dihydrohydroxycodone . . . . .	442	—	4
Dihydrocodeine . . . . .	282	—	2
Dihydromorphine . . . . .	168	—	1
Acetyldihydrocodeine . . . . .	92	—	—
Morphine-N-Oxide . . . . .	5	—	—
Thebaine . . . . .	63	315	—
Methylmorphine . . . . .	42,216	42	1,008
Ethylmorphine . . . . .	3,840	1	93

In the case of countries which did not supply estimates, the Supervisory Body based their requirements on pre-war figures. Many countries found it necessary during the war to increase their estimates above the normal level; in the case of morphine this resulted in an estimated annual requirement for 1945 (up to October 31) of over 70,000 kg., a figure greatly in excess of pre-war requirements.

As regards the requirements of Germany, the Supervisory Body has asked the occupying authorities of each of the four zones to supply estimates, and for Japan the United States of America were requested to supply the necessary information.

### Individual Estimates.

Some of the totals for individual countries and territories are of interest. For the United Kingdom the estimate of morphine for consumption as such is 1287 kg., and for conversion 6133 kg.; of cocaine 442 kg. and of codeine 2876 kg., with a level of reserve stocks amounting respectively to 1793 kg., 758 kg., and 3917 kg. The United States of America estimate their requirements of morphine at 2250 kg., with 12,892 kg. as the quantity necessary for conversion, and 2250 kg. as the level of reserve stocks. For cocaine they require 900 kg. (800 kg. for reserve), and of codeine they ask for 11,850 kg., with a reserve of 10,600 kg. Belgium's demands are relatively small, 110 kg. of morphine, 78 kg. of cocaine, and 900 kg. of codeine, with 1560 kg. of morphine required for conversion and 450 kg. for reserve. Their reserve of cocaine is estimated to be 300 kg., and of codeine 700 kg. In the case of German territories administered by the Allied authorities the quantity of morphine estimated by the Supervisory Body is given as 650 kg., with 2800 kg. for conversion, of cocaine 65 kg., and of codeine 2600 kg.

All the South American Republics sent in estimates of their dangerous drug requirements. It is of interest to compare the requirements of Argentina and Brazil in respect of cocaine. Whereas Brazil (population 41 millions) has estimated for only 25 kg. of cocaine, with a level of reserve stock amounting to only 2 kg., Argentina (population 13½ millions) has asked for 80 kg. of cocaine with a reserve stock of 175 kg. Japan's requirements, estimated by the Supervisory Body and in consequence based on pre-war figures, amount to 1700 kg. of morphine, 890 kg. of cocaine, 1988 kg. of codeine, and 180 kg. of diamorphine.

In its concluding paragraph, the Supervisory Body points out that its relationship to the new system of world organisation will come up for consideration by the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations. Most chemists, especially manufacturers of dangerous drugs, will endorse the conclusion that "the work of the Supervisory Body should be carried on without any gap or any interruption, or the whole system of international drug control may break down."

There are two new members of the Supervisory Body: Prof. J. Bougault (of the French Faculté de Pharmacie), and Prof. G. Timbal (of the University of Louvain), former Director-General of the Belgian Public Health Service. They take the places of the late Dr. Henri Carrière and Prof. Marc Tiffeneau.

### ORAL PENICILLIN.

Now that penicillin seems likely to be available for wider use, the question of administration becomes more important as intravenous drips are not likely to be widely used in general practice. In tablet form it is already being employed for local treatment in throat affections, and is reported to be of considerable value. Tests have already been made to render penicillin stable when given by mouth. A recent report from the U.S.A. refers to the combination of penicillin with aluminium hydroxide or magnesium hydroxide, both of which seem to have given good results. As the use of penicillin internally appears to be connected with the complete neutralisation of acid in the stomach and the slow release of the drug from the adsorbent, metallic hydroxides were employed, as they had been shown to be effective in the selective adsorption of diphtheria toxin. When such preparations were given by mouth in four doses of 25,000 units each, blood concentrations of 0.03 to 0.19 units per c.c. were maintained twenty-four hours later, and in some persons as much as 0.06 units were found at the end of thirty hours.

There was a marked increase in the blood levels, following each dose, and these could be maintained by repeating the doses, whilst quite high levels could be maintained by increasing the frequency of the dose. The preparation of such mixtures was quite simple, the two products being slowly combined with constant agitation immediately before administration; hence the problem of the stability of the mixture does not come into the question. In order to reduce the amount of acid present in the stomach doses were given three hours after food. Whilst such a method might not provide a concentration adequate for treating established infection, it would at least be sufficient for prophylactic purposes.—"The Retail Chemist," November, 1945.

### NEW DRIVE AGAINST CANCER.

Advice to the Public by the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria.

The Executive Committee of the Anti-Cancer Council has decided at a recent meeting to begin in Victoria a new and intensive publicity campaign against cancer.

The main object of the campaign is to advise and encourage patients suffering from any signs or symptoms, which may lead them to suspect the presence of cancer, to report for treatment as early as possible.

#### "Necessity to Report Early for Treatment."

Anyone suffering from this disease who neglects to report for examination to a local medical practitioner or to the nearest public hospital considerably reduces the chance of ultimate cure and inevitably prolongs the duration of treatment.

#### "Cure Dependent Upon Duration of Disease."

Cancer has been well described as public enemy number one. Every person in Victoria should be made aware of the most significant fact in the present world fight against this enemy. This is that the success of all methods of

treatment for the cure and relief of cancer is directly dependent upon the length of time the disease has been present before treatment has been begun.

The Anti-Cancer Council desires to emphasise with all its authority that the greatest obstacle to the successful treatment of cancer is delay by the patient in seeking early medical advice.

#### "Cancer Not Incurable."

Cancer is not an incurable disease if treatment is given at the beginning of the trouble. Early diagnosis and early treatment are essential; no other factors in the struggle can be compared with these in importance.

#### "Delay in Seeking Treatment."

The results of professional treatment for this disease by means of surgery, radium, or deep X-rays must in many instances be unsatisfactory, so long as patients only come for advice and treatment when the trouble obviously has already been in existence for several months.

Statistical investigation in America has shown that with regard to the common types of cancer, those which can be easily observed by the patient, the delay in seeking medical relief is on the average nine months. Medical experience in Victoria supports this statement.

If the results of treatment for all forms of cancer are to improve, it is necessary that patients suffering from growths, swellings, ulcerations, or from symptoms which suggest the possibility of the existence of cancer should not hesitate to seek medical help at once.

#### "Publication of Free Handbook."

The Anti-Cancer Council has prepared a handbook entitled "What Every Adult Should Know About Cancer." This is available free from the office of the Council at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Spring street, Melbourne. Any inquiries concerning this disease should be addressed to the Cancer Information Bureau at the same address.

### PENICILLIN CREAM APPLICATOR.

Penicillin Cream Applicator.—An improvised applicator for introducing penicillin cream into the depths of small abscesses of the fingers was described by Williams in the "Lancet" recently (1945, I, 306). The cream is contained in a piece of glass tubing about 5 cm. long and 5 mm. in internal diameter. One end of the tube is blocked with cotton wool, and the cream is expelled from the tube by pushing on the cotton wool with a wooden swab-stick. The open end of the tube is first slightly turned-in by holding it in a flame for a few seconds; this prevents the cotton wool being pushed into the wound. For use by the doctor, each tube is carried, with the swab-stick, in a wide-mouthed 1-oz. screw-capped bottle. Bottle and contents are autoclaved, and the penicillin cream is introduced into the tube, as it lies flat in the bottle, by means of a serum syringe.—"The Chemist and Druggist," December 8, 1945.

### SEBORRHOIC DERMATITIS.

Seborrhœa of the scalp occurs often as a complication in acne, impetigo and eczematous eruptions; it should be treated before the other skin troubles can be expected to heal. A routine of treatment is given in the "British Medical Journal" (October 20, p. 540). It is there recommended to keep the hair short; wash the scalp on alternate days with liquid or soft soap; and apply to the scalp an ointment such as—

Liq. picis. carb. . . . .	℥ 30
Ac. salicyl . . . . .	
Ac. benzoic . . . . . aa	gr. 10
Sulph. præ cip. . . . .	
Emulsion base . . . . .	ad oz. 1

The preparation is best massaged into the scalp by a nurse, not by the patient. For the popular and squamous varieties of seborrhœic dermatitis on trunk and limbs an ointment that has been found successful consists of—

Liq. picis carb. . . . .  
Calamin  
Zinc. oxid. . . . . aa dr. 1  
Ol. arach.  
Paraff. moll. . . . . oz. 1

The ointment is gently smeared on the affected part twice daily.

—“The Chemist and Druggist,” December 22, 1945.

### INFECTIONS FROM FOOTWEAR.

Perhaps the commonest foot infection at present is the so-called “Athlete’s Foot,” an infection by a mould which flourishes in the dark, warm and moist atmosphere of the shoe. Its treatment is now pretty well standardised, and the response to the remedies in general use is usually good, although resistant cases are occasionally met with. The chief trouble with these infections is the frequency with which they recur after a lapse of a few weeks or months. The cause is usually reinfection from the footwear, and if a complete cure is to be obtained adequate steps must be taken to stamp out the infection from socks and shoes. Soaking the socks in sodium thiosulphate solution will usually work with the former, but leather is rather more difficult. A method that we have found to work quite well is to place a wad of cotton wool soaked in formaldehyde solution inside the shoes and place them in an airtight tin for a day or two. It is true that such treatment hardens the leather and tends to produce cracking, but this can be avoided by the subsequent application of dubbin, or, in the case of ladies’ shoes, saddle soap. If, in spite of these measures, reinfection takes place, the cause is probably a resistant strain of mould which remains in the deeper parts of the skin. It is, therefore, advisable to pay attention to the hygiene of the feet after the initial lesion has cleared up. Some years before the war it was stated that fungus infections of the feet were amongst the five commonest conditions met with in the dermatological outpatient departments, and there is still need for a wider education of the public to the importance of these conditions.—“The Retail Chemist,” December, 1945.

### A NEW RAT POISON.

The toxicity and pharmacological action of *alpha*-naphthylthiourea in several species of laboratory animals under conditions of acute, sub-acute and chronic poisoning have been recorded by McClosky and Smith (*Pub. Health Rep.*, 1945, 60, 1101), as it had been suggested that the compound might be used advantageously as a rodenticide. Rats and dogs were found to be most susceptible, and rabbits the least susceptible of the animals used. Pleural effusions were characteristically present in all species if death was not delayed much beyond 24 hours after an active toxic dose. Fatty degeneration of the liver of the droplet type occurred in rats, rabbits and cats. Necrosis was prominent in rabbits and conspicuous fatty changes in the renal epithelium were also present.

The report of an investigation to develop a new rat poison, which has been carried on since January, 1942, at the Psychobiological Laboratory, Phipps Psychiatric Clinic, the Johns Hopkins Hospital, is the subject of an article by C. P. Richter (*J. Amer. Med. Assoc.*, 1945, 129, 927). The search started for a thiourea derivative which would have the same high toxicity as phenyl thiourea without its bitter taste, and *alpha*-naphthylthiourea, a fine, grey, insoluble powder with little odour or taste was most readily accepted by rats in 1 per cent. mixtures with a finely-ground yellow corn. The poison has been used in five ways—(1) in a mixture (2 to 5 per cent.) with finely-ground grain, such as corn or wheat; (2) as a spray or dust on ground grain or on fruit or vegetables, such as diced apples, sweet potatoes or tomatoes; (3) as a dust by

itself, or mixed half and half with flour, placed on floors and runways; (4) as a dust on the surface of water; and (5) as a dust blown into burrows and holes with a standard cyanogas dust pump. *Alpha*-naphthylthiourea kills rats by its action on the capillaries of the lungs, producing pulmonary œdema.—“The Pharmaceutical Journal,” January 12, 1946.

### BORIC ACID—ITS DANGERS.

In “The General Practitioner,” January 15, 1946, is reprinted an article from “The Journal of the American Medical Association,” September 29, 1945, drawing attention to the toxic effects which may arise from the use of boric acid.

The author, E. H. Watson, M.D., asserts that boric acid is an almost entirely ineffective drug and, at the same time, dangerous even when used in ordinary ways.

Many cases of accidental poisoning with boric acid, and a number following its intentional use in ointment or powder form are on record. Fatal poisonings have been reported following the placing of boric acid powder in wounds and boric acid solution into the bladder, the empyema cavity, and the bowel.

Following the death of two infants attributed to poisoning by boric acid in an Illinois hospital, Dr. R. R. Cross, Director of Public Health, of Illinois, requested hospitals to eliminate boric acid from the inventory of drugs kept on hand for use in maternity divisions. As a result of the fatal poisoning of an infant in the University Hospital, Michigan, boric acid preparations were removed from use in the children’s ward of this hospital.

This case, that of an infant 4½ months old, was admitted to the hospital suffering from very severe infantile eczema, involving almost all of its body. Initial treatment consisted of the continuous application of warm, wet dressings of saturated boric acid solution to the entire body. Colloidal baths were given daily. After two days of this treatment orders were given to apply boric acid ointment, U.S.P. (10 per cent. boric acid) twice daily to all inflamed areas which were not crusted or weeping.

Only three applications were made, altogether somewhere between 60 and 100 g. of ointment being applied. Twenty-four hours after the first application of boric acid ointment the temperature rose to 102 F., and convulsions followed two hours later—lasting for about three hours—while the infant’s temperature rose to 107 F. Convulsions occurred at intervals throughout the next few days. During this time an intense and generalised erythema developed, which caused the child to assume the colour of a boiled lobster. Almost from the beginning of the convulsive seizures the eyes were wide open and staring, but they did not follow a light, the corneal reflex was present and the ocular fundi were normal. The infant soon became deaf. During the next week following the onset of convulsions the seizures gradually became fewer. Between convulsions the infant apparently existed in a vegetative state, in a deep coma, from which it could not be aroused. Death occurred approximately three weeks after the onset of convulsions.

The hoiled lobster appearance of the infant led to the diagnosis of boric acid poisoning—this clinical feature having been remarked upon following the death of three infants accidentally poisoned with saturated boric acid solution given parenterally, in mistake for isotonic solution of sodium chloride, in a New York hospital.

Quotations from recent textbooks on pharmacology indicate that boric acid is only slightly antiseptic and should not be depended upon to act as a bactericide or as a significant bacteriostatic. Also death may result from the ingestion of 15 to 30 g. of borax, or 2 to 5 g. of boric acid. Death may also arise following the local administration of boric acid, especially from the use of powdered boric acid on extensive burns.

It is evident that the use of boric acid preparations should be discouraged, because of their very limited use, and the real dangers of poisoning which may arise from their accidental or intentional use.

# A.P.F. Revision

By E. E. Nye, B.Sc., F.P.S.

The revision of the A.P.F. being a matter of urgency, the Executive of the Pharmaceutical Association of Australia and New Zealand has suggested that State Revision Committees re-examine in detail the recommendations sent out during 1945 by Mr. Finnemore, and undertake, where possible, practical investigation of the various formulae circulated, in order that reports may be ready for the meeting of the Association in August.

Among the formulae which have caused some discussion are the following:—

## Calamina Preparata.

It was suggested in the Editor's memorandum of 2/3/45 that zinc carbonate makes an expensive diluent for zinc oxide. Reducing the amount of zinc carbonate to half the present quantity interfered with the spreading power of the product when applied to the skin. The use of talc was then advocated in place of the zinc carbonate, and the product was stated to be superior to the present A.P.F. calamine:—

Ferric Oxide . . . . . 120 grains  
Talc . . . . . 8 oz.  
Zinc Oxide . . . . . to 16 oz.

One State recommended that no change be made in the existing formula. On the other hand, one other State reported very favourably on the new suggestion.

In his fourth circular of 27/4/45 the Editor pressed for a decision, but no further reports were received. It would therefore appear that suggested formula needs a more extensive trial. If proved superior to the existing preparation, as has been reported by one State, then it should replace the present more expensive product.

## Syr. Glycerophos. Co.

It was suggested by the Editor in his memorandum of 2/3/45 that this preparation could be simplified. This was generally agreed, and the Editor then submitted the following formula for trial:—

Calcium Glycerophosphate . . . . 160 grains  
Solution of Ferrous Phosphate A.P.F. 1 fl. oz.  
Solution of Strychnine Hydrochloride  
48 minims  
Caffeine . . . . . 16 grains  
Cochineal . . . . . 2 grains  
Concentrated Spirit of Chloroform — minims  
Sucrose . . . . . 5 ounces  
Distilled Water . . . . . to produce 8 fl. oz.

Boil the cochineal with 4 fl. oz. of water for five minutes. Add the sucrose and continue boiling for a further five minutes. Cool. Rub down the calcium glycerophosphate and the caffeine in a mortar with the solution of ferrous phosphate and solution of strychnine hydrochloride. Gradually add the warm syrup. When a clear solution is obtained add the concentrated spirit of chloroform and sufficient water to produce the required volume.

It was noted that confirmation of the formula was required, using different samples of glycerophosphate.

The preparation was adversely reported upon by several States, though a suggestion was made that citric acid be added to prevent oxidation. No reports have been circulated which indicate whether this would prove of any value.

A later circular from the Editor stated that though the syrup made according to the suggested formula deposits at first, if filtered 12 hours after making no further precipitation occurs.

In the absence of more complete trials at the time, it was generally agreed to retain the present A.P.F. formula without alteration. The matter, however, would still seem to be a subject for serious consideration.

## Syr. Hypophos. Co.

In his third circular of 16/3/45, the Editor transmitted a suggestion that the A.P.F. revert to the use of ferrous sulphate and calcium hypophosphite, in order to avoid the precipitate that occurs in Syrup Triflex, A.P.F. The question arises whether the product precipitates calcium sulphate on standing; the formula was used some 40 years ago, and was discarded. A search of the literature seems to be indicated. Further, the suggestion was made that the quantity of each drug in a 120-minim dose should be looked at critically and compared with the B.P.C. formula.

One State recommended that the glycerin be omitted from the present formula, a small amount of chloroform added, and the sugar increased. A formula on these lines, which had given satisfaction over a long period, was submitted. At the same time, the opinion was expressed that the precipitate which occurs sometimes in Syrup Triplex, A.P.F., is due to the Syrup Ferri Phos. Co. or the Syrup Eastonii.

A second State submitted a formula using ferrous sulphate; while a third recommended the formula as submitted at the Adelaide Conference in 1924.

Finally the Editor adopted a modification of the second suggestion:—

Ferrous Sulphate . . . . . 144 grains  
Calcium Hypophosphite . . . . 154 grains  
Manganese Hypophosphite . . . . 32 grains  
Sodium Hypophosphite . . . . . 32 grains  
Dilute Hypophosphorous Acid . . 32 minims  
Strychnine Hydrochloride . . . . . 1 grain  
Citric Acid . . . . . 8 grains  
Quinine Hydrochloride . . . . . 8 grains  
Concentrated Spirit of Chloroform  
80 minims  
Distilled Water . . . . . A sufficient quantity  
Syrup . . . . . to produce 16 fl. oz.

Dissolve the ferrous sulphate in  $\frac{1}{2}$  fl. oz. of warm water and add the dilute hypophosphorous acid. Dissolve 90 grains of calcium hypophosphite in 2 fl. oz. of water. Mix the two solutions, stir well or shake and set aside for one hour. Filter the precipitated calcium sulphate. Dissolve the remaining 64 grains of calcium hypophosphite and the rest of the solids in the filtrate and wash the precipitate with sufficient water to make the total volume 4 fl. oz. Add the concentrated spirit of chloroform and the syrup to volume.

This formula would appear to be worthy of more extended trials.

## Cosmetic Section.

The suggestion that a cosmetic section be included in the A.P.F. needs careful consideration. A number of formulae have been submitted, but some of these are no more than a title. In others the quantity of colouring or perfume has not always been included, nor their exact nature specified. All of these formulae require extended and critical trials. No information has yet been circulated regarding their uniformity or stability.

The formation of a cosmetic section in the A.P.F. involves a matter of policy. Conference will need to give careful thought to the suggestion, and even more to the scope of such a section in the A.P.F.

### Ointment Bases.

The whole question of bases, both oil-miscible and water-miscible, for the preparation of ointments and creams needs review. While it is understood that this matter is in hand in one State, other States could with advantage investigate the newer bases and emulsifying agents, particularly as regards supply, suitability for medicinal use, and the preparation of satisfactory products.

### Colouring Agents.

The colouring of some A.P.F. preparations, such as Glycerin. Thymol. Rub. and Syr. Glycerophos. Co., has presented some difficulty in the past. Extended trials of the so-called "artificial" colourings of the A.P.F. and B.P.C. should be instituted without delay in a concerted effort to obtain satisfactory colours for these widely-used preparations.

It is felt that this is a matter of some urgency, as trials need to extend over as long a period as practicable.

### New Monographs.

Several new monographs have been suggested, such as Aminoacridinae Hydrochloridum and Pentachlorodiphenylethanum (D.D.T.). The preparation of such monographs calls for very careful consideration.

### General.

It is suggested that samples of all new preparations suggested for inclusion in the A.P.F., or modifications of existing formulae, could with advantage be submitted to the Association Revision Committee at Adelaide in August. It is further suggested that progress reports and formulae be exchanged through all State Revision Committees, so that a series of samples could be submitted in August. It is considered that this would help to expedite the production of the new edition of the A.P.F. following the Adelaide meeting.

# Major Birch's Challenge to Pharmacy

## A Reply

By C. T. Kinnear, M.P.S.

The article by Major Birch, entitled "A Challenge to Pharmacy" ("A.J.P.," 30/1/46), is of greater importance than even the able editorial comments thereon indicate, for it shows not only what many people in and out of the profession are thinking, but how they think.

Major Birch asserts "that the socialisation of all health services is both inevitable and essential," and on this assertion his article is based. Now, there are certain facts which all must admit in every discussion. For instance, that a being cannot exist and not exist at the same time, or that two straight lines cannot enclose a space. These facts in their respective sciences of metaphysics and geometry are self-evident, Major Birch's statements, however, are by no means self-evident, but he does not base them on any proof.

Taking the term "essential" as meaning "necessary" (1) the gallant writer substitutes for proof of the necessity of socialising medical services the hardship incurred by Mrs. X in having to extract "out of the already-strained pay envelope" five or ten shillings for medicines. This, however, proves nothing. The ordinary chemist knows as much about the strained pay envelope as Mrs. X—probably more. He had to make a beginning. He is a worker. Major Birch seems to suggest that he is a "bloated" capitalist, an "effete aristocrat," or whatever the current bunk may be. Be that as it may, the fact is that one example of hardship, even though it may be typical, does not prove his universal principle that socialisation of medical services is necessary. Students of elementary logic recognise his reasoning as "*ignoratio elenchi*"—ignoring the argument.

A similar instance will be remembered by readers of W. W. Jacobs in recalling how the watchman refuted the arguments of the strange woman who claimed him as her husband. The reasons the woman laid claim to the unfortunate man were that his name was Bill, that he was a sailor, and that he had an anchor tattooed on his arm. The watchman pointed out that there are about five million Bills in England, an appreciable number of whom are sailors, and that every second sailor has an anchor tattooed on his arm. Although the watchman knew nothing about the technical terms of logic, his reasoning was based on principles much sounder than those of Major Birch. For the latter's benefit the really sound principles may be summed up in the aphorism "hard cases make bad laws."

Major Birch's statement that socialisation of medical services is inevitable can be denied out of hand with perfect justice on the logical principle that an unproven statement may be denied without proof. (2) Other factors, however, call for consideration. It is admitted that certain governments—English and Australian, for instance, irrespective of party nomenclature—are determined to "socialise" medical services. The point is can they and should they get away with the attempt? Only if they can is socialism inevitable, but Major Birch assumes what he should prove. It would be less unreasonable to argue that because rain is inevitable we must all be drenched. It does not need an expert logician to point out that one can buy an umbrella, or at least have the sense to come in out of the rain. The moral is that there are effective means at hand to combat the trespass on individual rights inherent in socialism.

Should the government get away with the scheme for socialising medical services is another question. The rights and duties of the government—by which here is meant the State—are included in and bound by the administration of distributive justice. In non-technical language this means that the government has the duty of safeguarding the rights of each citizen without infringing the rights of any, with the object of safeguarding the common good—the well-being of all. Beyond this the State has no right to go, least of all in a so-called democracy in which the government is elected by the people with the express object of carrying out its programme within these ample limits.

A simple example will illustrate what is meant by distributive justice. Every citizen has an equal right to the pavement. If, however, everyone selected for occupation the same part of the pavement at the same time the result may be imagined. The local government accordingly makes the law that everyone must walk on the right-hand side. Nobody's rights are usurped by this law, but each person's right is defined. Provided that the arrangements which the government, local or supreme, makes to ensure the observance of this law infringe nobody's rights, these arrangements fall within the ambit of distributive justice. It is necessary to bear this simple principle in mind in order to estimate the value of Major Birch's arguments.

Major Birch "constructs," as he says, a grandiose scheme of medical administration in a district or sub-

district, which scheme in the most modest proportions conceivable would take up enough space for a city block. This, he says, would be the result of the government's being "given the control of the national health." Where is his evidence? The State has had ample time to instal as much "plate glass and chromium steel" in the schools, post-offices and railway stations under its control as would make a glitter on our part of the earth easily discernible from Mars. By this time our teachers should be living in quarters containing the comforts of Buckingham Palace and teaching in school buildings, the luxury of which should be paralleled by the efficiency of their equipment. If anybody can give a decided opinion about government enterprise it is surely the teachers in the State schools, who, apart from a few Communist fat-heads, will not share Major Birch's unlimited confidence in the government. There has been enough socialisation and to spare in this country—in education, communications, and, during the late war, in the distribution of food and other commodities. The result is widespread dissatisfaction, graft and inefficiency. The State has invented offices and occupations innumerable for civil servants, whom, however, it cannot prevent from becoming, in many cases, uncivil bosses. Half a lifetime of socialised government, such as Australia has experienced, ought to have resulted in the establishment of machinery to avoid these evils, and yet they flourish.

It is bad enough that Major Birch's arguments should be unsupported evidence, but that they run contrary to all evidence is an insult to human reason.

As far as the right of the government to socialise medical services is concerned, the State is entitled to employ as many doctors, chemists, dentists, and what not as may be necessary to promote the health of the people, just as it has the right to employ policemen to supervise to the functioning of the law. This employment of professional men, however, has its limits, just as has the employment of police. It would be unjust to turn the police force into a Gestapo or even an Ogpu. It would be unjust to allow a policeman to punch a pedestrian on the jaw for walking on the wrong side of the pavement. This is axiomatic, but the Socialist, to be logical, should not object to this sort of thing. He should even approve of a policeman whacking a pedestrian with his baton on the rump in order to make him to walk five miles per hour instead of four in the interest of efficiency.

Now, consider the case of the typical pharmacist, who owns a shop which he has built or purchased. He has a perfect right to that shop and to the stock it contains—assuming that it is paid for. The government has the duty of safeguarding that right. If it neglects that duty it is incompetent. If it acts contrary to that duty it is criminal.

Major Birch asks us to think of many things which, presumably, a socialised medical service would establish, and which includes "the possibilities for pharmaceutical research." We have been thinking for a long time about such things, but, unlike the Major, we do not neglect any factor necessary to arriving at a correct conclusion. The aid that the government could give to pharmaceutical research is immense. It is part of its duty to give such aid. It is welcome to give it, but not at the price of infringing the rights of the individual pharmacist.

There is much with which one can agree in Major Birch's article, for instance, with his remarks about pharmaceutical departments in big stores, about certain patent medicines and good ethicals. Incidentally, he makes a good case for skilled dispensing by the individual pharmacists. Although it is possible to attack his main contention from this angle alone and confound him out of his own mouth, we refrain and merely refer him to our previous remark about uncivil bosses in the Civil Service.

It must be with his tongue in his cheek that Major Birch writes, "it is not intended to fetter private enterprise," for he points out the hopelessness of the individual chemist trying to compete with a big health centre sponsored by the government. Whatever about the chromium steel and plate glass this "centre" would get preferential

treatment in the matter of prices and stock; in other words, he admits that the individual chemist would be victimised by the government whose duty it is to safeguard his rights. For purposes of illustration we respectfully remind the reader of our previous crude remark about the policeman and the baton.

We now submit a precis of the principal points of the concluding paragraphs of Major Birch's "Challenge to Pharmacy," with comments on them:

(1) Pharmacists must fight for more cash from the government in order to gain (a) lost status, (b) opportunity for post-graduate work, in order to obtain, perhaps, a Doctorate in Pharmacy.

We, on the other hand, contend that (a) pharmacists have not lost status because they are not making money, but because many of them sell contraceptives and abortifacients. (b) The government could and should extend inducements to pharmacists to engage in study, but not at the price of their freedom. That it would help in the event of socialisation of medical services is an unproved assumption.

(2) The master pharmacist who wishes to be socialised should take down the chemist sign, delete the dispensary, and let one of his children or another employee run the department adventitious to pharmacy, such as cosmetics and photography.

Major Birch ignores the duties and the rights of the married chemist, which are, in this specific instance, to give to his children a more advantageous start in life and business than he had. And what of the poor employee about whose lot all the socialistic song and dance is performed? Is he to be for ever condemned to the helotry, or whatever it is, of serving a private master, or instead of being enabled to rise from his chains to the eminence of an uncivil boss? Major Birch is a typical socialist inasmuch as he ignores not only life's realities, but the logic of his own cause. He reminds one of Chesterton's comparison of Shaw with the typical economist. The economist says, "suppose there is a man on an island." Shaw says "There is a man in the street."

(3) The adoption of the health centre scheme would make the pharmacist a man of leisure for research and study.

The Major gives no proof of this claim. Anyhow, to come down to the practical question of efficient direction, what about the twenty-four hour service so necessary to the success of the health centre? The Major's visions remind one of Lawrence's account in "The Seven Pillars of Wisdom" of the grandiose schemes for up-to-the-minute veterinary colleges elaborated by citified Syrian Arabs whose own camels were suffering from mange.

(4) "Think it over," he writes. "Be professional man or storekeeper, but don't hinder plans which are designed to confer a great boon on mankind generally."

The more we think it over the less we see anything undignified in being a storekeeper. In countries where doctorates of pharmacy are conferred—e.g., Germany, Switzerland, U.S.A.—the doctors have their names and qualifications painted over their shop-fronts like any other trader without loss of professional status. As a matter of historical fact the pharmacist has always been a storekeeper. The apothecary took his title from his store—"apotheker." For a socialist Major Birch has mighty "posh" notions, but his appeal to snobbery might well be included in the socialist pharmacopoeia with which we are threatened as a cheap and powerful emetic. "Mankind generally," it is hoped, will exercise whatever wits it possesses in expecting "boons" based on something more substantial than socialistic vapourings.

As an essay on "what a well-meaning man could do with a few millions," Major Birch's article has its points, but as a challenge to pharmacy it is, as we used to say at chota-hazri in the dear old Poona days, a damp squib.

(1) 'Essential' means that which pertains to the very being of something. Socialisation is essential to nothing except to its self.

(2) *Quod gratis asseritur, gratis negatur.*

# Merchandising Plan for Guild Members

## An Outline of the Proposals

By O. C. V. Leggo, Hon. Merchandising Supervisor, and R. G. Ross, Federal Merchandising Manager.

The Federal Council of the Federated Pharmaceutical Service Guild of Australia has considered it essential to immediately create a Federal merchandising organisation for the purpose of providing the opportunity to all individual Guild members throughout Australia to participate in a general service designed to help them in all possible ways with their merchandising problems.

A circular letter signed by the Federal President was, therefore, forwarded to all members, telling them of the project and advising them to give the merchandising plan their wholehearted support.

It was pointed out in this letter that trade prospects indicate increasing merchandising difficulties for pharmacists generally, coupled with further and more intensive competition from many sources, and that complete unity of all Guild members, backed by strong organisation, was the only effective means whereby the future could be faced with confidence.

The letter also advised that each member would receive a copy of a merchandising plan setting out the main objects of the new undertaking shortly before the Merchandising Executive visited each State to expound the scheme in greater detail.

The following is a copy of the plan, which is being sent to all members of the Guild:—

### “ATTENTION, GUILD MEMBER.

“Your Federated Pharmaceutical Service Guild of Australia, the INDIVIDUAL CHEMIST'S best friend, urgently calls your attention to the following plan, the object of which is to establish a Merchandising Service for Guild Pharmacies on a Federal basis.

“The chemist, with his limited capital resources, finds it increasingly difficult to—

- Buy in the best market at best prices,
- Advertise his merchandise and service,
- Compete against non-chemist traders,
- Implement modern merchandising methods.

“The merchandising organisation is designed to overcome these major problems of pharmacy, and to improve—

- Buying,
- Selling,
- Service to the Guild chemist,
- Service to the public.

“By wide and constant publicity it is intended to focus the eye of the Australian people on YOUR pharmacy as a ‘GUILD SERVICE PHARMACY.’

“In your own interest, give your support and put your weight wholeheartedly behind this scheme to establish an organisation which will improve your business and build public goodwill for Guild pharmacists as a body.

### “Objects of Federal Merchandising Plan.

- “1. To make ‘GUILD SERVICE PHARMACIES’ the focal point of all pharmaceutical merchandise and service.  
The entire buying public of Australia must be taught to think in terms of GUILD SERVICE PHARMACIES with regard to their daily pharmaceutical requirements.

- “2. To establish a powerful organisation, which, by its unity and strength, will be able to command the highest quality merchandise at the minimum price.

To have this power is a most important factor in modern business, and by its possession YOU will be able to contend more effectively with competition from chain store organisations and emporiums.

Our buying representative will be guided by our experts as to requirements, and will place at your disposal good-selling, well-packed quality goods at best possible prices.

- “3. To sustain and increase customer traffic by up-to-date selling methods, such as PRESS and RADIO PUBLICITY, INDOOR DISPLAYS, SALES TALKS, WINDOW DISPLAYS and LETTER CONTACTS.

- “4. To create Australia-wide demand and goodwill for our Trade Mark products, which will be sold exclusively by ‘GUILD SERVICE PHARMACIES’ everywhere.

Some members already enjoy benefits by being members of existent group organisations, but this will not prevent their participating, as it is our desire to co-ordinate our efforts.

- “5. To provide, at contract prices, any general services required by members, two examples being Bookkeeping and Taxation Services.

- “6. The first essential for this Merchandising Plan is CAPITAL, and we ask you to contribute an amount of Twelve Guineas, Ten Pounds of which will be placed in a separate fund.

The ten pounds will be refunded to you immediately you cease to be a member of the Guild.

Your real commitment in this plan is thus the small amount of £2/12/-, which will be used for initial expenditure.

The ten pounds placed in the separate fund will be controlled, on behalf of subscriber members, for the purpose of financing firm orders and services created.

- “7. All royalties resulting from bulk buying and those accruing from all future trade mark products, produced for sale by all Guild members throughout Australia, will be utilised for approved purposes relative to any form of merchandising activity, including publicity, in the interest of ‘GUILD SERVICE PHARMACIES’ as a whole.

“Seize this opportunity, and through your Guild, the greatest Pharmaceutical Union in the world, establish a powerful merchandising organisation, which is the only answer to competition from chain stores, emporiums and mobile sales units.

“Remember that this competition will rapidly increase during post-war years, and the chemists' only weapon of defence is complete unity and organised planning.

“ACT IMMEDIATELY. Write your cheque, fill in the enclosed form, and POST RIGHT NOW to the Secretary of your State Branch of the Guild.

“O. C. V. LEGGO, Hon. Merchandising Supervisor.  
“R. G. ROSS, Merchandising Manager.”



## WHAT'S HAPPENING To YOUR Medicine Profits?

*A recent survey showed that no less than £29,065,748 is spent in Australia each year on household medicines—an average of £4 per head for every man, woman and child. If all these sales were made solely through retail chemists, you—as one of the 2,500 retail chemists in Australia—would have a turnover of £11,626 per year in household medicines alone.*

But you know, even better than we do, that at least half of this legitimate pharmacy trade goes to retailers other than chemists. By training and experience, you are best qualified to sell this merchandise. But, year by year, outside competitors are making even greater inroads into your livelihood. You are being forced to sell open-selling merchandise at short margins of profit. Repeat sales can be made in *any* store that stocks these lines.

What is the answer to this problem?

The answer, as we see it—and as many pharmacy leaders see it, too—is to concentrate your selling effort on merchandise that

can only be bought in the chemist's shop. We have always maintained that such chemists' only merchandise is the life blood of the chemist's retail business. It provides him with a powerful weapon to fight the encroachment of outside competition.

The advantages of featuring NYAL FAMILY MEDICINES are well known to every chemist. Apart from the handsome profit margin—you make 93% on cost—NYAL offers you:

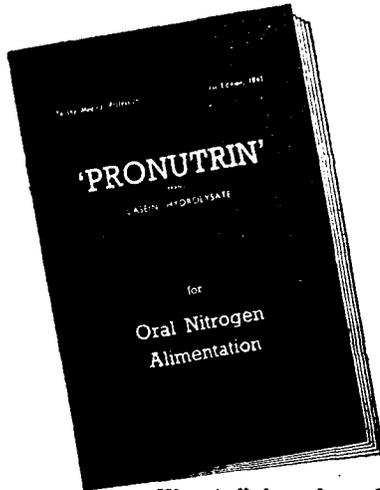
1. Chemists' only—all repeat sales *must* go to pharmacy.
2. Radio advertising all the year round.
3. Well-established consumer demand that is increasing all the time.

There, in short, is one answer to the problem of how to get an increased share of the £4 per head that is spent annually on medicines in your trading area.

**N y a l C o m p a n y**  
S Y D N E Y , - A U S T R A L I A



# PROTEIN DEFICIENCY—an interesting and helpful booklet



We shall be pleased to send a copy on request.

The potential value of enzymic digests in the treatment of acute and chronic hypoproteinaemia is very much in the minds of medical men at the present time. Recent research work on the simple breakdown products of protein metabolism—the amino acids—has shown that they provide the best source of nitrogen in all conditions where the digestion of ordinary protein is impossible or is impaired. These simple "building units" of the protein molecule are rapidly absorbed by the alimentary tract. They stimulate tissue repair, relieve nutritional deficiency and oedema, and build up body reserves depleted by inadequate and enforced low diets. 'PRONUTRIN' is prepared by the enzymic digestion of casein; a method that retains the essential amino acids of the protein and provides the nitrogen needs of the body in the form of a palatable water-soluble powder for oral administration.

## 'PRONUTRIN'

Trade Mark Brand

### CASEIN HYDROLYSATE

For oral administration. Available in 1-lb. tins.

HERTS PHARMACEUTICALS LIMITED · WELWYN GARDEN CITY · HERTS · ENGLAND  
Distributing Agents—Messrs. MARTIN & CO, (Surgical) LTD., corner of Hunter and Phillip Streets, SYDNEY

M5\*



# Pepsodent with Irium makes teeth far brighter

THAT'S THE ONE TOOTHPASTE CLAIM THAT REALLY CONVINCES CUSTOMERS! NOW FRESH ADVERTISEMENTS TELL AND SELL IT TO MORE PEOPLE THAN EVER BEFORE



YOU, of all people, know how to value "goodwill". That's why Pepsodent advertising is so popular with retailers; it really does build "goodwill" at the same time as it sells. Today's new press, radio and display campaign emphasises even more strongly that feeling of honesty and sincerity that Pepsodent has always aimed at. You'll see the result in your Pepsodent sales!

And National Radio Advertising too!

# The Manufacture and Selling of Own-Name Proprietaries

By T. D. McGee.

To all pharmacists in business for themselves, the production of a higher income is dependent on an increased turnover or a higher gross profit.

The first method depends on advertising, personality, service and a host of other factors, including the whims of your customers. The second idea concerns itself with an increased sale of higher-profit lines, and an increase in dispensing. Owners and managers of shops know that the sale of higher-profit lines has its limits, while increased dispensing turnover is largely a matter of time—a long time. Advertising must be very effective to gain a higher proportion of a district's dispensing business without professional detriment. The manufacture and sale of one's own products, however, increases the actual turnover, as customers must return to the one shop to repeat their purchase, and also because the sale and advertising of these lines increase the number of people that hear and remember the name of the pharmacy. That it increases the gross profit goes without saying, unless, of course, you undercharge.

Nothing spectacular is needed for a start. A series of medicines or cosmetics, with typewritten labels, will, at any rate, assist your counter prescribing by saving time. Make them in dozen lots for a start, although insoluble powders in mixtures are best added separately to each bottle.

The making of your own-name lines divides itself into five parts: Working out the formula, shelf testing the product, manufacturing, packing and selling.

No matter how clever you are at display or selling, no matter how much you spend on advertising, a poor product will not sell—not twice to the same customer, anyway.

A cough mixture is, of course, your first thought, but if you have not already got one on your shelves, I shall consider you unprogressive. You may have decided on a tonic though, or some other little thing that you have gathered on your pharmaceutical way, in which case I shall reserve judgment.

Suppose you want a tonic, and your best sellers all have the magic word "hypophosphites" on them. So, put in one of the hypophosphite salts if you need that crutch in your selling. If you don't, well, are hypophosphite salts of any value? That is for you to decide. All tonics have iron, so put in some of the sulphate. Then you can say "Yes" if your customer demands its presence. You can use calcium, too, if you dissolve the iron sulphate in water, make a solution of calcium chloride and mix the two together. You can filter off the calcium sulphate, and, provided you have used excess calcium chloride, you have a solution of iron and calcium chlorides.

Now you can put in the things that really do the trick. Most people seeking a tonic need a bitter stimulant. Caffeine and strychnine are the two most used. Work out your proportions, dissolve the salts and put them in. A little flavouring and colour (making sure that it is a fast colour in the circumstance), and you have your formula.

Other things can be included. If you want vitamin B in your mixture, be sure of two things. Firstly, the mixture should be acid, about pH 4; secondly, use enough to give a therapeutic effect. It costs ten shillings a gramme.

So you proceed; check through all the formula you can put your hands on for an idea, read every book you can. Aim for economy and effectiveness. It is sometimes cheaper to divide a galenical into separate parts. It may

be easier to use acetic acid, honey and tincture of squills instead of oxynel of squills. Look for short cuts.

Make a few sample bottles of your best product, and stand them about the dispensary, in the shade, in sunlight, near a stove. If your formula does not stand up to it, find out why. You may have used caffeine citrate in your tonic, and the calcium citrate duly deposits. Perhaps it is too bitter, and may need adjusting with acid or alkali to a different pH to rectify it. Find out first before you start selling. Shelf testing saves pounds.

Buy only the best ingredients that you can. If you have a good product, do not hesitate to devise and use tests that will keep it up to the mark. For instance, pH tests will show if the triethanolamine in your hand lotion is quite neutralised by the fatty acids. Keep a sample of each batch, and check viscosity, colour, etc., by reference to a standard bottle. Use chemical and physical controls.

When you are sure of your product, make a dozen and sell it by recommendation. If the response is favourable, make a gross and see how they go.

Be careful about the container in which you make your product. No one that thinks would make a salicylate mixture in an iron drum, but do not make that henna rinse there, either. Keep alkaline solutions away from aluminium.

Do your job the easiest way. A filter paper and funnel is not as quick as lint stretched over a frame, and the product may not need the better filtering device. Do not filter if decantation will do.

Jug and funnel will be the full extent of your first packing equipment; a rubber tube syphon is not so quick, although it can be cleaner. Of course, if you buy a vacuum packer, the dust is sucked out of the bottles as you pack. One pipe to the filler head, which is placed in the neck of the bottle, exhausts the container of air, while the other pipe to the head allows the fluid to take its place. Lifting the filler head from the bottle breaks the vacuum.

Labelling is tedious, and will always remain so. I do not recommend the shop boy unless he has a sterling character and clean hands. Your label sells your product. The best idea is to paint a smooth board with paste, and place the labels, face up, on it. Remove them one at a time to apply to the containers, only do not put too many on the board at once, as they dry out.

Selling is the last step in your profit-making process. You can advertise, display your goods in the window and pharmacy, give out samples, and, above all, personally recommend them.

I suggest that you experiment. Try placing one of those hard-to-get rationed lines in your window. Don't make it stick out like a sore thumb, but have it where it can be seen if the customer is window-shopping; in amongst an assortment of other lines, of course. Fill the other window, if you have two, with about a gross of your own line, with two or three showcards. Spend a few shillings and get a good-looking card.

A bottle of hard-to-get saline lasted two weeks in my window without being spotted, although I sold dozens of my own line in the other window in that period. If I want to sell things now, I know what to do.

The same thing can be done in the shop itself. Try and find the blind spots and the good ones of your shop. Not even golf can compare to the excitement of customer after

customer asking for a comb, when one is resting inches from their head. That is, if you have plenty of them.

I need not mention selling. The old question, "Have you tried this new line of mine?" sells many; small sample bottles (tablet bottles containing one dram) help a lot. If you have more than one size, the question, "Which size do you want?" takes the customer's mind off the other question, "Will I buy it?" and so a sale is made.

Now the price. I prefer to cost my product, add a percentage as profit on cost of goods with an additional amount to cover manufacturing profit. One could also cost on the Guild list, with a suitable manufacturing fee. If I make a gross and sell them quickly, the single product carries a lower manufacturing fee than a slow-seller made only by the dozen.

I compete with the advertised line with a better product if I can devise it, a cheaper one if it pays enough, dearer if it does not. At any rate, the product is a favoured one in my pharmacy. There are at least 30 such lines on my shelves.

In conclusion, I would like to suggest that the prospective small manufacturer reads widely. Attempt to make anything feasible, no matter how difficult. Succeed or fail, you will know more about your job after the attempt than you did before. Study colloids, pH values, etc., and go deeply into every question that presents itself to you. Personally, I found that membership of the New South Wales Science Group was a very great help indeed. Make contacts like these, and let others help you.

I would like to start a small group that could be formed in the Pharmaceutical Society or Guild, to help the pharmacist in manufacturing problems. If you care to write to me, through the Pharmaceutical Society of N.S.W., or direct, about the formation of such a group, I will see what I can do.

#### POST-WAR PHARMACY.

Addressing students of pharmacy at Leicester (England), Professor H. Berry (Dean of the College of the Pharmaceutical Society, London) said: "We were now at the beginning of another phase of post-war planning, and pharmacy was due for overhaul. One of the few compensations of war was that it always activated research and was prolific in its new discoveries. That was particularly true of the war just ended. Good pharmaceutical service was indispensable, and pharmacy had to keep pace with the changes. Was pharmacy to mean that section of medical practice which was concerned with drugs, their preparation and manufacture, properties, action, uses, dosage, their compounding and dispensing, and was the pharmacist to be the expert in all these things, no matter where the operations were carried out, whether in retail, wholesale, hospital or research laboratory? Or was pharmacy to be a section of some commercial activity not primarily concerned with these activities? He knew of no other profession, except medicine, which could offer such a variety of activities or cater for such a variety of personal characteristics and inclinations.

#### THE METRIC SYSTEM.

In its first issue for 1946 the "British Medical Journal" announces that in future metric equivalents will be inserted after each old-style dose printed in the "B.M.J." Two reasons are given for this innovation:—(1) The familiarity which doctors who have been abroad during the war have had with the metric system (we are told that more than 15,000 copies of the "B.M.J." are sent overseas each week), and (2) the hope "that increasing familiarity with the metric system will encourage British doctors to hasten the end of the system which isolates us from the rest of the scientific world." While we ourselves have experienced no such sense of isolation, we welcome heartily the move now taken by our contemporary, but we wish at the same time they would inaugurate a campaign aimed at ensuring that doctors' writing

is sufficiently clear to make safe and understandable any method of prescribing, imperial or metric. We are all for reform, but there is the danger, a very real one if education does not start on a lower plane, that the pharmacist will be faced with a prescription written by a tyro of the metric system who has sprinkled his dots with a tyro's impartiality. Or some confusion in transposition may arise (as evidently occurred on p. 3 of the same issue of the "B.M.J." where 473 c. cm. is given as the equivalent of one pint), due, we feel certain, to the malevolence of one of those gremlins which often lurk uncomfortably near to physicians and pharmacists, and, all too frequently, printers. And—we have the information from an unimpeachable authority—these gremlins, admittedly a rapidly dying race, are more prone to attack the prescribers who use the symbols 3 and 3̄, or who abbreviate gramme to g., and grain to gr., than those who write their grains, drachms and ounces in full.

#### WHAT U.S. DOCTORS ARE TALKING ABOUT.

##### T.B. Declining.

Statisticians of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of New York have estimated that if the present rate of improvement continues, only about 20 people in every 100,000 in the United States will die from tuberculosis in 1960. At present about 40 in every 100,000 die from tuberculosis, while in 1921 about 100 per 100,000 died from this disease, as compared with 200 in every 100,000 at the beginning of the century. An important step toward combating this disease was the establishment, last July, of the Tuberculosis Control Division in the U.S. Public Health Service, whose function is to develop, on a nation-wide scale, more effective measures for the prevention, treatment and control of the disease. The new programme will give added impetus to the widespread use of X-ray mobile units for mass surveys, an incidental advantage of which will probably be the discovery of other diseases in those examined.

##### Penicillin.

The U.S. Foreign Economic Administration has announced that penicillin is now available for export commercially to all areas. Distribution controls set on the export of penicillin will be relaxed in accordance with current relaxation in domestic controls. Exporters who desire to sell penicillin abroad will be limited by the allocations for various countries made by the F.E.A. on the basis of the amount made available for export by the War Production Board. The F.E.A. said that since June, 1944, when penicillin was first exported, the amount distributed abroad has increased 760 per cent. In June, 1942, penicillin in token quantities was sent to 19 foreign countries. Today, 43 countries receive the drug from the United States. Shipments in April, 1945, ranged from 50,000 to 60,000 vials to individual countries.

##### Vitamins Supplements Peps Production.

A gain in manpower of 4.1 per cent. by conservative estimate was achieved in one year at the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation (California) through a vitamin supplement given a group of its workers, according to Dr. H. Borsook, of the California Institute of Technology. The gain was made up of 6.6 working days per man per year through improved work performance; 2.3 days from a reduction in absenteeism; and 1.6 days from reduced turnover. Improvement in industrial morale is considered the major factor responsible for the effect of the vitamin supplement, which consisted in vitamins A and D from fish liver oil; three synthetic B vitamins (B<sub>1</sub>, B<sub>2</sub>, and niacinamide) and synthetic vitamin C. Besides this the supplement contained calcium. These were given twice a day, five days a week, for one year to one group, while a similar group received pills and capsules identical in appearance, but containing no vitamins. After six months, absenteeism from all causes was 19 per cent. less for the vitamin than for the non-vitamin group. At the end of the year personnel ratings were significantly higher on the average for the vitamin-fed workers than for the non-vitamin group.—U.S. Information Service Medical Newsletter.

# Salesman or Chemist ?

By William Beecham

Are you a salesman, or are you just a chemist?

I presume that this question will annoy quite a few pharmacists who pride themselves upon being "a cut above a mere salesman," and if it does it is indeed a matter for regret.

For from what, after all, does the chemist make his living? From dispensing, or from the sale of, not only medicines, but of cosmetics, perfumes and the many lines which to-day constitute a large percentage of the average chemists' stock?

The answer, as we all know, is that a very good percentage of most chemists' turnover comes from the sale of merchandise other than medicaments, but what is more pertinent at the moment is the fact that, in most cases, this percentage could be considerably increased if only the chemist could be persuaded to give a little more attention to the fine points of salesmanship, points which are well worthy of study by all who realise that in knowledge lies the key to larger profits.

## Salesmanship Is All-Embracing.

Of course, nothing is easier than to stand behind a counter and hand over something for which the customer asks, but a fourteen-year-old boy could do this almost, if not equally as well as the chemist himself. Unfortunately, it is a fact that many chemists do little better themselves in this respect than the veriest novice, and much business must be lost to the department stores, the chain stores, and to other merchants which should, with a little thought and care, come to the chemist.

Salesmanship, of course, covers many angles of business—not only the actual "over-the-counter" sale, but window dressing, store display, advertising and attention to many details of trade, and a study of its fine points is more than likely to pay first-rate dividends.

First, let us take a look at the chemist's window. Here is something worth a deal of money to the man who gives it sufficient attention. For past it, day in and day out, file your potential customers. Are they to pass it without a second glance, or are they to be attracted by and to it so that they will be given an incentive to make a purchase?

Window displays should be changed fairly frequently. In a small town it is often good policy to make a regular day for this change—perhaps every second Monday, or whatever day proves suitable—for by this method the public will get to know your routine and will perhaps get into the habit of watching for the change, of looking for new offerings, a habit which will be to your advantage.

With medicinal lines, seasonal conditions should, of course, be a guide to your display, but with gift lines, cosmetics and the like, it is far better to make a tasteful display of a few items than to overload a window with countless different goods. Every chemist will make a special display for Christmas, and not only should Mother's Day, Father's Day and St. Valentine's Day be entitled to a special display, but it should also be remembered that all through the year someone or other is celebrating a birthday, so an occasional "Special Birthday Presents" display is worthy of consideration.

When it comes to displaying lines likely to be purchased by men, it is as well to use price tickets, for, while the average woman does not object to inquiring about prices, many men are somewhat shy of making such inquiries, fearing that if the price should be beyond them, they will have to suffer the embarrassment of a refusal to purchase.

Allowing a national advertiser to dress your window with his own particular lines may save you a deal of trouble, but it should not be taken advantage of too often, for it is unlikely that any extra sales of these lines will equal sales you may have made through a well-diversified display of your own.

Store display is also worthy of more attention than many chemists care to give it. Shelves under the counter may be used for everyday "bread-and-butter" lines, but as much of your merchandise as possible should be placed where it can be seen, for stock put away out of sight is only too likely to stay put away. Packet, tinned and bottled lines should always be stacked with the fronts of the containers to the front of the fixtures, for, naturally, in this manner, they make the most attractive display. When fresh stock is put into the fixtures, all old stock should be brought to the front, so that this can be disposed of before the new arrivals.

## The Man Behind the Counter.

Most essential of all in salesmanship is the attitude of the man behind the counter. Is he a pleasant sort of person with whom customers find it a pleasure to do business, or is he one of those unfortunates who people prefer to avoid? It must be remembered that the chemist is in business to make money—a living, if you like, but in the majority of cases preferably a little more. There are penalties in every kind of work; one of the penalties of being behind a counter is the fact that while the customer definitely does not want to hear anything of your troubles, he certainly will tell you his. And here it is that the "bed-side manner," transferred to the counter, will be worth a deal of money. Not only do women expect courteous and sympathetic treatment when shopping, men, too, expect the courtesy, at least, and the wise merchant who hides his own particular feelings and makes a habit of being attentive and pleasant is the man who is going to build up a big business.

The old saying that "there is no sentiment in business" is sheer hooey. There is a lot of sentiment in business, a lot of friendship, too. The more friends you make in business the more business you will have.

But mere friendliness isn't enough. Efficiency is equally necessary, a knowledge of how best to make your sales.

Take the matter of the "plus" sale. Never heard of it? Well, you should know about it, for it is standard practice with many efficient grocers, hardware men and so forth, so why not with you? The principle, in brief, is that with almost every sale there is the possibility of disposing of something else, usually an allied line. For instance, a woman buying face cream might tactfully be asked if she also requires cleansing tissues—a man buying shaving cream might also be in the mood to purchase after-shaving lotion, razor blades, or even a shaving brush—anyone buying a hair brush might like a comb to match. Many an extra sale can be made by suggestion.

Years ago a large British firm instructed its staff to ask every customer, no matter what they bought: "Have you tried Whatsisname's tea?" while at the same time a packet was to be held out for inspection. Many customers said, "No, thank you"; others replied, "I already have some," but very many extra sales were made, so many, in fact, that this sales procedure was made a regular part of business. In these days, when stocks have for such a long time been depleted, it would be sound business to draw the customers' attention to lines which have once again made their appearance.

The "plus sale" formula can also be applied to display, and it is often good policy, particularly with counter displays, to place allied lines in close proximity. A display of nail polishes would also call for the showing of lacquer removers, cuticle creams, nail files, buffers and all the odds and ends which are called for when my lady starts on the job.

And in this respect, don't forget when the mere male buys birthday or Christmas presents a few suggestions may help him as well as help you. He may purchase a powder compact. Suggest powder, perhaps lipstick and rouge. He may be racking his brain in a desire to buy something suitable. Your assistance may solve his problem, increase your turnover, and help in building that great essential—regular business.

#### Movement Assists.

Remember, too, that movement is essential in salesmanship. Move the merchandise off the shelves into the customer's hands. Let the customer handle the merchandise, particularly merchandise of the more expensive kind. Take the case of perfumes—almost every chemist has perfume to carry a wide range of these. An inquiry is made, we will say, for Eau de Cologne. Of course, you have some—what would the customer like? If you only mention price it is more than likely that a cheap or medium-priced container will be purchased. But if a better line is taken from the shelf and actually placed into the customer's hand the possibility of selling it is greatly increased.

A woman purchasing material for a frock likes to feel the texture, likes to drape the cloth about her, likes to see it at work, as it were, rather than lying dead in the roll.

The "feel" of any high-class merchandise can be sales-compelling. A mere mention of price may leave the customer thinking, "Oh, that's too dear," but to have the item in one's hand—that immediately creates desire and lowers sales-resistance. If the line is particularly attractive, there will be little desire to hand it back for something cheaper.

#### Know Your Merchandise.

It is essential that you understand your merchandise. As a chemist you will know medicaments, but what do you know about the other lines you handle? What type of face powder suits a particular complexion? What is the difference between imitation and genuine crystal ware? What type of safety razor will the three-hole blades fit? During the course of business you will be asked all manner of questions, and to some extent the volume of your sales will rest upon your ability to answer them.

Far too many business men neglect their reading. By this I do not mean that they should read more thrillers or more romantic novels, but I do mean that they could, with advantage, spend a few minutes each day on reading up something about their own merchandise. A peep at an encyclopaedia—even a borrowed one—will tell you just what real crystal ware is, and why bone-china is so called. A study of wholesalers' catalogues will give you a number of valuable pointers; but, above all, you should make a point of reading your trade journals from cover to cover. None of us are too old to learn, and there is something new coming out almost every day of the year. Many of the advertisements, apart from the sheer exuberance which sometimes creeps in from the pen of the copy writer, have a lot of information to impart, and time spent in reading articles pertaining to your own type of business is never wasted.

As for your own publicity—retail chemists, as a whole, are not large users of advertising, but there are times when you find it necessary to purchase space, often because the publication seeking advertising support is run by some philanthropic body which you simply have to back. But

because your advertising happens to be a charitable gesture, do not make the mistake of wasting the space you have bought. Even if it will only be read by comparatively few people, it may as well do its job properly.

Too many chemists, using this casual advertising space, are content to put something after the fashion of: "John O. Jones, Chemist. For all your toilet and medical needs." Now this conveys nothing that the reader does not already know. If you are in a large city he is not going out of his way to patronise you because you say you are a chemist, for he probably knows of many others. If you are in a small country town, then everyone knows where you are and what your business is.

So then, make your advertising specific. Look around your shelves. Is there something which has hung fire for some time? If so, why not make a "Special" of it and feature it in your advertisement? Is the particular publication—it may be a sports programme—going mainly to men? Then why not advertise your shaving preparations and those toilet articles which appeal particularly to the male? A snappy heading, "For Men Only," may draw some attention. Are there some lines which have been in short supply for a long time, but are now on the market again? Well, then, why not tell the public about them?

And these lines which are reappearing. Don't forget that a window display of these, with a slogan such as "They're Back Again," will bring you business.

#### Don't Hoard Old Stocks.

As for those goods which have hung fire, don't let them clutter up your shelves unduly. Job them out at a reduced price, even at cost or less, if necessary. Retrieving the cost price means that this can be expended in other, faster-selling lines, which will soon bring in the necessary profit. Merchandise costing £1, left unwanted on your shelves, means that £1 of your money is idle. Even if you are forced to clear it at a loss, retrieving, say, only fifteen shillings, this sum put into fast-moving goods, goods which will turn over, say, once every two months, will at the end of another year have brought you in, even if they only show ten per cent., a clear nine shillings profit which, after deducting your five-shilling loss, will still net you four shillings. And nothing spoils the appearance of your shelves more than old stock.

If you are in business to make money—and who is not—try to stock merchandise for which there is a demand. Don't fall into the error of telling a customer that you "don't stock that rubbish." No customer likes to have it insinuated that he is in the habit of buying rubbish. And there is always a demand for the cheaper grades of merchandise, as well as for the more expensive. Your particular opinion of a brand of goods is not the main point—the customer sometimes has his own ideas, and the wise salesman tries to please rather than antagonise.

And don't neglect the commercial traveller. Many of these gentlemen can put you wise as to what is moving these days. Don't fail to examine lines which, offered elsewhere, may take business from you.

And don't purchase solely from one source. Too many chemists object to opening new accounts, but while purchasing such items as fancy goods through one particular house may save a little bookkeeping, see that this saving is not offset by high prices. Slightly lower costs may aid you in your competition with the chain stores.

Finally, don't let the chain-store bogey worry you. You have something to offer that the chain store cannot give—your personal attention and advice. Perhaps even delivery and credit, as well. But, remember, your sales volume depends, very largely, upon your own efforts. Your salesmanship can be so efficient, so well applied, that no one for a moment will ever suspect that you are anything more than a very charming chemist.



## Most Kodak Film Customers Visit Your Pharmacy at Least Three Times

Pharmacists have always liked to sell Kodak Film because it's not merely a profit-maker—it's a business-builder. Kodak Film is the "3-Call" Line. It brings people...

- ...into the store the first time for film,
- ...a second time to order D. & P.,
- ...a third time for prints!

In the months ahead . . . with the probability of more and more merchandise on your shelves . . . you'll find the famous "3-Call" Line of great assistance in increasing sales of other items.

**KODAK (Australasia) Pty. Ltd.**

Branches in All States



# The Profession of Pharmacy in the Philippines

By H. L. Flack in "The American Journal of Pharmacy"

My first view of a Filipino pharmacy was from a troop train moving from the North Harbour area, where my company had debarked from landing craft, to the provinces of Luzon. We were proceeding slowly down a main street when I saw a sign over a store window, with the word "Botica" painted on it. I could see the window display, behind which were rows of ornamental containers, such as are used for tinctures, fluid extracts, and miscellaneous liquids. The window display consisted of bins of native herbs and botanicals. It is interesting to note here that most shops in Manila have open fronts, with no windows. At the end of a business day, large shutters are set in place, so as to close off the front of the store. These shutters, when formed together, usually spell out the name of the store. This pharmacy looked as though it had been brought from the States in the 1800's and had not been remodelled since. I later found that its design and interior decoration was characteristic of many Filipino pharmacies.

## Typical Pharmacies.

About one-half of the pharmacies that I visited used dispensing bottles as their interior wall decoration. The other had display shelves with patent medicines of all varieties on them. Of course, each store had a private prescription department. The difference in type of store was chiefly that some stores just filled prescriptions and consequently used their dispensing bottles as a display. Similarly, many purely professional stores in the States use this type of interior decoration. It is of interest to note that the names of the preparations on display were in Spanish. The other type of store was typical of small pharmacies in the States that could not exist on income from prescriptions alone, and of necessity added patent medicines. Many of these proprietaries are from the large manufacturing companies in the States.

Though some stores have window displays of purely professional matter, others have an open front. These stores close at the end of a day, either by drawing a screen across the open front or by placing a series of boards across the open front to form a closure.

Most stores are the size of a typical neighbourhood pharmacy in the States. There are a few, however, that are as large as a modern chain store. Another few stores, copying a trend from the States, serve lunches and ice-cream, and one store even served liquors and mixed drinks along with everything else. I was told by a pharmacist that two stores (Universal Drug Store and Botica Boie), in pre-war days, actually had a soda fountain and booths as part of their armamentarium.

It would be of interest to note the close relationship of a doctor or pharmacist. Almost every pharmacy has either a physician's office above it, or has a physician present as an integral part of the pharmacy. One pharmacy had three physicians present prior to the Japanese occupation. The physician has an office in the pharmacy and gives prescriptions to the pharmacist to fill. Thus there exists a very close relationship between pharmacist and physician.

A typical salary before the war was from sixty to one hundred pesos per month. Now salaries range from eighty to one hundred and fifty pesos per month for a forty-eight hour week (one dollar is equivalent to two pesos).

## Prescription Practice.

Before the war the average Filipino neighbourhood pharmacy filled twenty to forty prescriptions daily, though the larger stores down town filled one hundred and fifty to two hundred prescriptions daily. At that time the average cost of a prescription was one or two pesos in the city and eighty centavos to one and one-half pesos in the provinces (suburbs) (five cents is the equivalent of ten centavos).

During the Japanese occupation many stores closed or were bombed out of business, and thus it is hard to find an average number of prescriptions filled during that time. However, the price of a prescription (in pesos) was ten times or more than the pre-war price. This was due not only to the scarcity of materials, but also to the so-called "Mickey Mouse" or occupation currency with which the Japanese flooded the islands.

After the American liberation of Manila, the pharmacies opened their doors to the public and began the task of reconversion to normal ways of life. The currency was still to be stabilised, which the United States Government is doing by paying G.I.'s in Philippine pesos at the rate of two pesos for one dollar of pay.

At present, in August, the neighbourhood stores fill an average of ten to twenty prescriptions daily, while the few large stores fill between fifty and seventy-five prescriptions per day. This decrease in number of prescriptions filled from the pre-war number is due to the high cost of living and the scarcity of physicians. The present cost of a prescription is between four and eight pesos. This is attributed to the scarcity of materials and again to the high cost of living. Even at the present, despite army distribution of chemicals and medicinals, there are many scarce items, and numerous prescriptions cannot be filled, due to shortage of ingredients.

## Armamentarium.

The present armamentarium of pharmacies consists of U.S.P. X or XI, N.F. V or VI, a Remington's Practice of Pharmacy or Army's Principles of Pharmacy, U.S. Dispensatory, or a Doujardin Formulary. The Doujardin is printed in Spanish and published in Madrid, the latest copy I saw being dated 1941. It contains a listing of drugs, plus a grouping of pharmaceuticals, according to their pharmacological action and use. A brief summary of the pharmacology of the medicinal substances, toxicology and dosage is given in the monograph of each substance. Many pharmacists considered the Doujardin as their most important reference book. Some few stores have only an Army's or Remington's or Doujardin salvaged from the ruins of war.

No new books or pharmaceutical literature have been available since the Japanese occupation in 1941. I had some recent copies of the "American Journal of Pharmacy" and the "American Professional Pharmacist" in my duffel bag and distributed them to the pharmacists with whom I had the pleasure of conversing. I can assure you that these journals were a most welcome gift, the only fault being that I could give only one copy of each journal to each pharmacist.

Almost all pharmacies have a two plan equal arm balance, while some few have a torsion balance, plus either hand scales or an unequal arm balance for heavier objects. Graduates and other pharmaceutical implements are readily available, many of them made in Japan.

Several manufacturing pharmacies "detailed" their physicians with pamphlets regarding the professional items that they manufactured.

#### Manufacturing Pharmacies.

Before the war many pharmacies produced their own proprietaries. In several stores they made all ampular preparations that their clientele used, with the exception of preparations that required bioassay. Almost every store had at least one preparation, or more that it had manufactured and packaged in its laboratories. A pre-war listing of manufacturing pharmacies and their products listed the following:—

Farmacia de Manuel Zamora; Tiki-tiki for beri-beri; Vino Estimulante, a nutritive tonic; Extracto de Lom-boye, for diabetes.

Arambulo's preparations "Botica Insular"; Metronina, for anaemia and a blood tonic; Analgina, for rheumatism, neuralgia, headache; Hemaltona, a hematic alterative and tonic restorative.

Botica Boie's products; Dolor Quita, a pain reliever; Emulsion Boie, a revitalising tonic; Ojokol, an eye lotion.

This is only a partial listing of the proprietaries that were being manufactured in pharmacies before the war.

One pharmacy was originally called the Rexall Pure Drug Laboratories, until a close similarity was noted between that name and the name of a corporation in the States. It was then changed to Lexal Pure Drug Laboratories. Before the war there were three pharmacists, one chemist, and three physicians on the staff of this store. They manufactured a complete line of ampular preparations, with the exception of those requiring a bioassay. There were also many patent medicines produced in this pharmacy. During the Japanese occupation the Lexal Pure Drug Laboratories continued to manufacture ampular preparations, using pre-war State-wide stocks of empty glass ampuls and certain of the better grade of Japanese-made ampuls.

In August this pharmacy was still unable to produce ampular preparations, because there was no gas or electricity available to it. Those two items are available only to military and hospital installations in Manila. This store plans on immediate resumption of ampul manufacture when gas and electricity are again available. Meanwhile, this store still has certain stocks of ampuls made during the Japanese occupation, and is using them. A communication in October, however, told of the resumption of manufacture of ampuls and galenical preparations.

#### Chinese Drug Store.

My last night in Manila I was privileged to attend a symphony concert held at a theatre in the Chinatown of Manila. I arrived there early, and to pass time I walked around a few blocks. I passed a store called "Chinese Drug Store." Looking in through the open front, I saw jars of crude drugs. I went inside and asked for the pharmacist. I speak very, very poor Chinese and Tagalog and thus could not get much information from the occupants of the store.

On further investigation, I found that, as early as 1901, there was already an outstanding number of Chinese in the Philippines, bringing with them their religion, customs and idiosyncrasies. They very seldom use Continental medicines. The Chinese community was using, and still uses, their drugs and herbs for cure of their ailments. In the enactment of the pharmacy laws the Government has taken into consideration this circumstance, and included in the law the supervision of the sale and distribution of Chinese drugs and herbs. Thus the Chinese drug store that can open to the Chinese public is run by a Chinese druggist, and is duly licensed by law. This law is still in force and is one of the peculiarities of the profession in the islands.

#### Japanese Occupation.

When the Japanese first occupied Manila in 1941 they confiscated all pharmaceuticals from wholesalers and

stocks of oils and vaseline from every pharmacy. Botica Boie, at that time the largest wholesaler in Manila, was made the headquarters for Japanese distribution of drugs. Though many pharmacists were among the casualties of war, and others took off for the hills (provinces), there were some left to carry on the profession. Many of these were former Japanese and Chinese pharmacists, with few Filipinos remaining.

A Philippine Drug and Medical Association was organized, with a Japanese as president, a Filipino as vice-president, and all other officers Japanese. One source claimed the name of this organisation to be Manila Drug and Medicine Retailers' Association, Inc. Every store that wished to remain in operation had to belong to this association. Stores purchased shares in this association at one hundred pesos per share. The number of shares of stock purchased determined the class of a store and also the size of the monthly allotments of drugs that a store could purchase. At the end of each year the P.D.M.A. gave out a dividend. One year it was 7.77 pesos per share and the other years it was negligible.

The first few months after the P.D.M.A. was formed it very liberally included confiscated American proprietaries in its monthly allotment of drugs. This was a "come-on" for all stores, but did not last long. As soon as available stocks of American drugs were depleted, the P.D.M.A. members found themselves forced to purchase Japanese proprietaries.

The first drugs introduced by the Japanese were original packages from Japan. The names, ingredients and directions were in Japanese characters. Filipinos were at a loss as to what the drugs were for, but the few Chinese pharmacists and their customers were able to make sense out of the Japanese characters. There was very little demand for these Japanese articles, and the P.D.M.A. members complained.

This led to an extra label being pasted on the original container. This label had the name of the preparation and directions for use in Tagalog. It was hoped to increase the sale of Japanese medicines by this procedure, but it did not add materially to their success.

Finally the Japanese began printing the name, ingredients and uses of their proprietaries in English on the label of the container. A few of these preparations are listed below. "Haliva" was manufactured by M. Tanaka and Co. Ltd., Tokyo. One pearl represents 5000 International units of vitamin A and 700 International units of vitamin D, equivalent to one teaspoonful of good Cod Liver Oil. Natural vitamin A and D adjusted with fish-liver oils. Another product was "Trianon," manufactured in Osaka. This was 2-p-aminobenzenesulfonamide pyridine. Another was "Riken Vitas," manufactured by the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research in Tokyo. This product was vitamin B2 Complex, each tablet containing 0.3 milligram of B Complex (B1, B2, B6), isolated from liver and rice polishings.

One particular proprietary was of interest to me. It was called "Kaol." A translation of the directions from the label (printed in Tagalog) is as follows:—(1) For any sickness that spreads take four or five pills, put in mouth and drink with water. (2) If you have no appetite, take thirty pills in one dose. (3) If you have intestinal trouble, for adults one hundred pills at one time; take two or three for small children. (4) For bad breath take two or three pills at one dose. (5) For poor appetite, for children lower than fifteen, five pills; for children higher than fifteen, one-third more dose; for children lower than five, one-fifth dose.

(Note: This is an exact translation of the Japanese-written Tagalog on the label. The pharmacist who made the translation laughed with me, and said the bad grammar, the "cure-all" directions were typical of most Japanese proprietaries that he had seen.) Incidentally, this drug is the same as "Sen-Sen."

The Japanese did distribute some few good proprietaries, one of which was "Wakamoto," the ingredient being vitamin B Complex. Even now customers ask for

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# DIENŒSTROL B.D.H.

## A New Synthetic Oestrogen

The synthetic oestrogens have come to occupy an important position in medicine generally and are prescribed almost daily by general practitioners as well as by gynaecologists.

Stilboestrol is prescribed extensively and has come to be regarded as the standard synthetic oestrogen. It suffers from the disadvantage, however, of giving rise to some degree of nausea and occasionally of vomiting in a small proportion of patients. For this reason, Dienoestrol B.D.H. is replacing stilboestrol for such patients and is also being prescribed *ab initio*.

Dienoestrol B.D.H. has been shown to be a satisfactory synthetic oestrogen, negligibly toxic and having the oestrogenic properties of stilboestrol to an enhanced degree. It appears to be approximately three times as potent as stilboestrol and the dosage is correspondingly smaller.

Dienoestrol B.D.H. is indicated particularly in the male in the oestrogen treatment of prostatic carcinoma.

The use of Dienoestrol B.D.H. is increasing and pharmacists are advised to hold representative stocks of the tablets which are issued in bottles of 25 and 100 of each of the strengths 0.1 mg. and 0.3 mg.

*Full particulars of Dienoestrol B.D.H. are available from*

THE BRITISH DRUG HOUSES (AUSTRALIA, PTY.) LTD.  
250 PITT STREET, SYDNEY

# Reputation....

*the professional man's greatest asset*

On the reputation you build depends the successful prosecution of your chosen profession. When your advice is sought, knowledge, experience and integrity must guide what you say. That is why it is important for you to know the scientific background of the goods you sell.

This label, therefore, is worth studying. It is the back label of a bottle of Lantigen 'B'. It sets out the potency of the preparation or the concentration of organisms per cc.

Your training will tell you how important it is to know the potency exactly; since, the more potent the product, the more effective it may be expected to be when taken as directed.

It is from this point of view that we invite you to study and compare the Lantigen 'B' label, shown here, because you will always wish to recommend the best of any type of product to your clients.

**ABSOLUTELY STANDARDISED—  
PREPARED UNDER STRICT SUPERVISION**

Lantigen dissolved oral vaccines are produced by a skilled group of technicians working under the supervision of one of Australia's leading bacteriologists. Each batch is rigidly standardised and *guaranteed in conformity with the labelled potency*. You may be confident, therefore, that, when you recommend Lantigen, your client will obtain a product prepared with scientific exactitude and with a complete sense of responsibility.



**BACTERIAL VACCINE**

Each cc. of this preparation contains the detoxified antigens of the following dissolved micro-organisms:  
 Pneumococci . 1000 million  
 M. catarrhalis 1000 million  
 Streptococci . 1000 million  
 Staphylococci . 500 million  
 B. Friedlander's 500 million  
 H. influenza . 500 million  
 This bottle contains 17 cc. of this preparation.

**MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF  
EDINBURGH LABORATORIES**

Lantigen dissolved oral vaccines are produced under the supervision of an eminent bacteriologist, the holder of the following degrees: M.B., Ch.M. (Sydney), M.R.C.S. (England), L.R.C.P. (London), Diploma of Public Health (London), and sometime Senior Lecturer in Physiology, University of Sydney; Microbiologist, Dept. of Public Health, Sydney, and Director of Queensland Government Laboratories for Microbiology, Brisbane.

THE **Lantigen**

SERIES OF DISSOLVED ORAL VACCINES

Products of Edinburgh Laboratories, 103 York Street, Sydney.

this product. The Japanese also distributed quinine to the pharmacies.

During the Japanese occupation prices of everything skyrocketed. Empty capsules sold for from one peso upward, depending on the size of the capsule. Sulfathiazole tablets, one-half gram, sold for one hundred and thirty pesos. A coconut was worth six hundred pesos, while a fresh egg sold for one hundred pesos. Salaries for pharmacists went from sixty pesos per month before the war to about eight hundred pesos per month during the Japanese occupation.

After the American liberation of Manila, the army began distributing medical supplies through the Botica Boie, which was before the war the largest wholesaler in Manila. These were chiefly in the form of essential items, with no preference for manufacturer. The medicines that were sold over the counter were sold at cost price. Of course, a charge had to be made for the container, and this was usually ten centavos above the government-controlled cost price.

The following is a listing of medicines available at government-controlled prices, with the maximum amounts that may be purchased at one time (copies from a counter display sign at Farmacia Balintawak:—

	Pesos (per)	Quantity.
Aspirin Tablets . . . . .	.05	3 tablets
Atabrine Tablets . . . . .	.10	3 tablets
Atropine Sulfate H.T. . . . .	.25	1 tube
Bandage Gauze, 4 x 10 . . . . .	.43	1 package
Bismuth Subsalicylate in Oil, Squibb . . . . .	8.00	1 jar
Crystoids Anthelmintic, S. & D. . . . .	1.40	1 vial
Chloroform for Anesthesia . . . . .	.50	½ pound
Domoboro Tablets . . . . .	.10	3 tablets
Ether for Anesthesia, ½ lb., Squibb . . . . .	.60	1 can
Ether for Anesthesia, ½ lb., Mallinckrodt . . . . .	.60	1 can
Fuadin Ampuls. Winthrop . . . . .	5.80	1 box
Ferrous Sulfate Tablets . . . . .	.05	3 tablets
Calomel Tablets . . . . .	.05	3 tablets
Mercupurin Ampuls . . . . .	6.00	1 box
Neosarsphenamine, 0.6 gram. . . . .	6.75	1 box
Pentothal Ampuls . . . . .	2.20	1 box
Phenodiazine Powder . . . . .	4.95	1 bottle
Phenobarbital Tablets (No pre- scription needed) . . . . .	.05	3 tablets
Sulfathiazole Tablets . . . . .	.05	2 tablets
Sulfur Ointment . . . . .	.10	10 grams
Sulfadiazine Tablets . . . . .	.20	3 tablets
Sodium Sulfadiazine Ampuls . . . . .	1.50	1 ampul
Sodium Chloride . . . . .	1.20	1 pound
Strophanthin H.T. . . . .	.40	—
Totaquin Tablets . . . . .	.10	3 tablets
Cotton, Rolls . . . . .	1.85	1 pound

#### Educational Standards.

Since 1930 the Government has required colleges of pharmacy to operate on a four-year programme, and to award a B.Sc. in Pharmacy at the termination of those four years of study. In Manila there were six institutions giving instruction in pharmacy, namely, Manila College of Pharmacy; University of the Philippines, School of Pharmacy; University of Santo Tomas, Faculty of Pharmacy; Philippine Women's College of Pharmacy; Centro Escolar University, College of Pharmacy; and National University, College of Pharmacy. At the time of writing this article, only three institutions had reopened since the American liberation. These were:—Manila College of Pharmacy; University of the Philippines School of Pharmacy, and Centro Escolar University College of Pharmacy.

The pre-war tuition costs at, for example, Centro Escolar University, were 60 pesos per semester during the first and second years, and 80 pesos per semester during the third and fourth years. This does not include laboratory fees of 20 pesos per year, nor does it cover the cost

of texts and incidentals. The college year at Centro Escolar was nine months per year, six days per week, and classes were held from 8 to 12 a.m. and 1 to 5 p.m.

Present tuition costs average about 350 pesos for a nine months' college year. Male students make up about 10 per cent. of the total enrolment.

Tuition charges at the University of Santo Tomas for the year 1941-42 were 80 pesos per semester for a two-semester college year, plus laboratory fees and books. The curriculum in pharmacy for the four years included the following subjects:—

First Year.	Inorganic and Organic Pharmaceutical Prepara- tions (8 hours per week). Organic Chemistry (9 hours per week). Hygiene and Clinical Micro- scopy (9 hours per week). Pharmaceutical Legislation. Biochemistry (10 hours per week). Religion.
English. Botany (10 hours per week). Chemistry, General and In- organic (9 hours per week). Physics (5 hours per week). Pharmaceutical Arithmetic. Mathematics. Zoology (9 hours per week). Religion. Military Science.	Fourth Year. Pharmaceutical Latin. Toxicology (7 hours per week). Pharmacodynamics (6 hrs. per week). Galenic Preparations (9 hours per week). Pharmacopoeial Testing and Assaying (5 hours per week). Plant Chemistry (6 hours per week). Filling of Prescriptions and Incompatibilities (9 hrs. per week). Pharmaceutical Assaying (5 hours per week). Seminar in Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Chemis- try. Commercial Pharmacy.
Second Year.	
Pharmacophitology a n d Pharmacozology (9 hrs. per week). Qualitative Chemistry (7 hours per week). Quantitative Chemistry (9 hours per week). Physiology (5 hours per week). Bacteriology (9 hours per week). Botany (9 hours per week). Parasitology (4 hours per week). Religion. Military Science.	
Third Year.	
Spanish.	

Classes were held nine months a year, five days a week, in addition to one or two days a week being spent in practice in a retail pharmacy. During the four years of attendance at college the student is required to spend one thousand hours of practice in a retail pharmacy. Each January and July the student must submit a roster of hours of practice and a list of prescriptions filled, with a short paragraph on the compounding of each prescription.

The State Board requires an applicant to register as an apprentice in pharmacy for three years prior to taking the examination. During this period the student must work a minimum of three hours daily in a pharmacy where prescriptions are dispensed.

Through the courtesy of two second-year students at Manila College of Pharmacy, Gameliel Gonzalez and Apolonio Chaves, jr., I had the privilege of attending a class in Pharmaceutical Chemistry, conducted at that institution by Dr. Apolonio Chaves, sr. To my surprise I found that I was guest speaker for the class. Unaccustomed as I was, etc., . . . I did try to present a picture of professional pharmaceutical activities in the States. During a discussion that followed I found much interest in reciprocity laws in the States with reference to the Philippine Islands. It seems the class as a whole would like to go to the States for a few years either to do post-graduate work or else to observe the newer techniques of pharmaceutical practice. Pharmaceutical institutions in the United States might greatly benefit their profession by establishing scholarships or foundations for research by interested Filipinos.

# Cancer

## **Advice by the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria on the Necessity of Reporting for the Early Treatment of Cancer**

*By Dr. C. V. Mackay, M.D., Executive Medical Officer to the Council.*

The Anti-Cancer Council desires to draw the attention of all pharmaceutical chemists to the danger to patients suffering from cancer if delay occurs in reporting for treatment. This delay is not confined to Australia; it is a universal phenomenon in cancer work. The cardinal fact in all successful cancer treatment is that it must be given in the early stage of the disease.

This is of vital significance, and no other consideration can compare with it in importance.

Cancer is not an incurable disease if treatment can be given when the condition is localised, that is before any spread within the body has taken place. It is the spread which is the critical danger to health and to life.

Recent statistical results reported by the "British Medical Journal" for December, 1945, give 80 to 90 per cent. of five-year cures of patients suffering from cancer treated in the early stage.

Responsibility for the early recognition of the presence of cancer falls primarily upon two people, the patient and the family doctor. Cancer in certain regions of the body is one of the most serious disasters in life, and one for which in many cases ignorance and neglect on the part of the individual cancer patient must take their share of blame. The usual period of delay is from six to nine months.

The family doctor (the general medical practitioner) has his definite responsibilities. The early reporting of the patient with signs or symptoms suggestive of cancer may be the beginning for him of a long and complicated series of diagnostic procedures, possibly involving extensive X-ray investigations. The correct diagnosis of the presence or absence of cancer can be a most difficult job, and the patient's future welfare and happiness depends upon it. Many cases will require the diagnostic help in consultation of a specialist in cancer work. It has been remarked that in the past patients were not diagnosed early enough and that the treatment given was not always adequate.

The cancer specialist of to-day must spend much time in arduous study and clinical application in this particular field of medicine, in order to render competent service to his patients. On the other hand, the general practitioner must be constantly on the alert in order to detect the early manifestations of cancer, so that curative treatment may be undertaken at once.

Increased knowledge of the pathology of cancer, together with innumerable scientific refinements of technique, have enabled the surgeon and the radiotherapist to cure many more patients suffering from cancer than was formerly the case. The medical profession, consequently, can now candidly give the public a much more hopeful outlook on the treatment of this disease.

A point of view has gradually developed abroad, and in certain countries has been put into practice, that the successful treatment of cancer by radiation is entirely a specialist's job. It is considered advisable that this particular form of treatment should be conducted in a hospital centre entirely devoted to it.

The different varieties of this treatment can then be centrally situated under one roof, and the different specialists can work in consultation under the direction of the appointed head of the centre. The present position in this State is that a working plan of this character has been formulated for consideration by an adviser from overseas. It has been accepted as a basis for the possible develop-

ment of future work in this field. In the meantime this treatment is given by a few highly-trained specialists in various public hospitals and in their private practices. Treatment of cancer by radiation or, as it is commonly called, radiotherapy is becoming more scientific and complex each year. It consists of treatment both with radium and with X-rays. Radium is used mainly for surface growths, and X-rays for those which are deeply situated within the body and inaccessible to radium.

The X-ray is composed of invisible light rays which penetrate the body and destroy cancer cells at any depth. The application of X-ray is painless, but it requires special expensive apparatus, and considerable clinical experience with abstruse calculation of dosage by a physicist is necessary for complete success. Radium is a chemical element which constantly gives off powerful rays capable of destroying cancerous cells. In actual treatment the element itself may be used mounted in plates, needles, or tubes, or the gas (radon) derived from radium may be used alternatively. The application of radium by anyone without considerable experience in its use is dangerous. Radon is collected and distributed in South-Eastern Australia by the Commonwealth X-Ray and Radium Laboratory of the Commonwealth Department of Health at the University of Melbourne. This laboratory has been of the greatest assistance to all cancer workers using this substance. The high standard of radiotherapy in Australia has been largely due to the constant advice and help received from the chief physicist in charge of the laboratory. Advancements in the surgery of cancer have not lagged behind those of radiotherapy in the treatment of this disease. The exponents of this art and science have become more and more skilled in cancer surgery in recent years, and especially in that of the large bowel and the abdominal organs. I have personally spoken to a man whose Melbourne Hospital records showed that he had had the major portion of his stomach removed for proved cancer twenty years before. It should be remembered that with radiation treatment, although the healthy cells of the body are not affected, yet blood changes may occur which call for rest and restriction of dosage.

For untold centuries lack of any certain knowledge concerning cancer has given rise to an unreasoning primitive fear of it, and unfortunately this still persists in the minds of many people. Where fear predominates through ignorance of essential facts, reason loses its sway over our minds. Some people, who suspect that they are suffering from cancer, impelled by fear, consult "quacks," instead of seeking advice and medical examination at the hands of qualified doctors. This is a fatal error of judgment. There should be absolutely no delay in seeking help from a medical practitioner regarding the nature of any condition which is suspicious of cancer. No other person, no matter what spurious and blatant claims are made, is either qualified or competent to express an opinion of any value regarding the diagnosis, or to recommend any form of treatment. The acceptance of non-medical advice may only lead to a tragic outcome preceded by great suffering.

The Anti-Cancer Council has published a booklet entitled "What Every Adult Should Know About Cancer." This contains in compact form all the essential facts and warnings concerning this disease. It can be obtained free by post from the Council at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, Spring street, Melbourne.

Any questions concerning cancer should be referred to the Cancer Information Bureau at the same address.

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## A Radical Treatment for Scabies

BENZEVAN kills every mite in every case of Scabies if the applications are carried out with reasonable care.

BENZEVAN does not give rise to the dermatitis which often results from the older methods of treatment.

### An effective routine is:—

After a good towelling following a hot bath with ample carbolic soap, Benzevan is applied to the whole body except face and scalp.

The bath and application are repeated after 48 hours. Clean underwear is desirable after each treatment.

The use of a dusting powder (zinc oxide, boric acid, and starch) night and morning during the succeeding week will help the skin to repair the damage caused by the mites. In a few days the lesions become dry brown scabs which fall off.

Re-infection at home is a difficulty in controlling the spread of Scabies. The convenience of Benzevan makes it easier to get the other members of a family to offer themselves for treatment.

*Benzevan is issued in bottles of 4 oz. and 20 oz.*

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#### Sydney

Hallam's Biological Agencies,  
168 King Street,  
Queen's Square.

#### Perth

Tillys Ltd.,  
728 Hay Street.

#### Brisbane

E. S. Plicher,  
329 Adelaide Street.

Evans Medical Supplies Ltd.

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DOSAGE: Children,  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 teaspoonfuls twice a day.  
Adults, 1 tablespoonful three times a day.

Each tablespoonful of Milk Emulsion contains  
VITAMIN A . . . 8,000 International Units  
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An invaluable nutritive for Chronic Bronchitis, Coughs, Wasting Diseases  
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# CHARMOSAN

*Prices which came into operation on 1st November, 1942.*

(Approved by Prices Commissioner under App. No. 1294)

### RETAIL SELLING PRICES:

Creme Charmosan, jars .....	2/6	*Charmosan Cold Cream, jars .....	2/6
Creme Charmosan, tubes .....	1/-	Charmosan Cold Cream, tubes .....	1/-
Charmosan Face Powder, large size	2/6	*Charmosan Hand Lotion, large size...	2/-
Charmosan Face Powder, small size	1/3	Charmosan Hand Lotion, small size	1/-

### WHOLESALE PRICES TO RETAILER

Creme Charmosan, jars .....	18/-	per doz., plus Sales Tax	} Less 2½ % thirty days.
Creme Charmosan, tubes .....	7/1½	" " " "	
Charmosan Face Powder, large .....	18/-	" " " "	
Charmosan Face Powder, small...	8/10½	" " " "	
*Charmosan Cold Cream, jars .....	18/-	" " " "	
Charmosan Cold Cream, tubes .....	7/1½	" " " "	
*Charmosan Hand Lotion, large.....	14/5	" " " "	}
Charmosan Hand Lotion, small...	7/1½	" " " "	

\* These lines are temporarily out of stock due to war conditions.

**There is NO SUBSTITUTE for Creme Charmosan. It is the only cream of its kind, and IS NOT MANUFACTURED OR DISTRIBUTED UNDER ANY OTHER NAME.**

# The Herb Garden

## Some Interesting Roots and Rhizomes

By Edith Coleman

The long story of my root-herbs is one of failures and long-delayed triumphs.

I have told before of my attempts to obtain fertile seed of *Angelica archangelica*. After having planted many packets from various European sources I despatched an S.O.S. for French seed, to be sent by air. Three days before it arrived five seedlings appeared from the last packet, three months after sowing!

They grew into giant plants, such as Richard Jefferies describes in "The Pageant of Summer," with "smooth, round stems big as gun-barrels, hollow and strong, their well-balanced branches rising like those of a tree."



FLOWERS OF ELECAMPANE (*Inula Helenium*), the roots of which are ready for use in the third autumn.

The seeds that fell from those five plants asked for no coddling. Within ten days I had five forests of lusty, self-sown seedlings, enough to supply all Victoria.

I had learned my lesson in a hard school: *Angelica* must be planted as soon as it is ripe. It loses its vitality if kept long.

Other European seeds have been reluctant to fall into line with our seasons.

Of the root-herbs, Liquorice (*Glycyrrhiza glabra*) has been my greatest failure. The story of my ultimate success is a long one and begs a chapter to itself. Elecampane, or Ploughman's-spikenard (*Inula Helenium*), gave much anxiety. After seedlings appeared the tiny, dock-like leaves had a habit of disappearing—for ever, I thought; but the roots, though so small, were busy below ground storing the wherewithal for an early spring re-appearance. As the next leaves were larger I was able to mark the plants and wait patiently for their sunflower-like blooms. By the third season the roots were well grown, so I sacrificed one to test Elecampane candy. That candy raised a flood of happy memories, which well repaid the vacillating hopes and fears of three years. Taste and smell carried me along those green lanes, which led to childhood, when Elecampane candy was Elecampane candy, not flavoured with a synthetic counterfeit.

Despite Dr. W. T. Fernie's indictment, that candy was

the real thing, for which we children called up many a hopeful cough.

No synthetic known to me has exactly the flavour. The medicinal properties of Elecampane I have not tested, but I have found that cut flowers not only last well in water, but preserve other cut flowers in the same vase. Like *Angelica*, it appears to kill, or inhibit the multiplication of putrefactive bacteria. The recent drought, with ban on sprinklers, has sorely tried my Elecampanes. Like *Angelica*, they love cool, moist conditions.

### Blessed Herb.

Herb Bennet (*Geum urbanum*), often called Clove-root, is another drought-intolerant root-herb. This season it has lived, and flowered, in a subdued way, but it finds drought conditions in the midst of my great gum trees too hard for the production of large root-stocks; but, although small, they are sweetly clove-scented.

The small, yellow flowers are not showy, but they are very dainty.

The clove-scented roots possess astringent properties and have been used in treating diarrhoea and dysentery.

Herb Bennet was one of the "blessed" herbs, protective against evil influences. "When the root is in the house Satan can do nothing and flies from it, wherefore it is blessed before all other herbs; and if a man carries the root about with him no venomous beast can harm him."—(Ortus Sanitatis, 1491.)

There were many ups and downs before Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*) was finally established in this garden. What a red-letter day it was when, in its second season, one of my two plants threw up a flowering stem six feet tall, the huge inflorescence bearing scores of small pinkish-white flowers. And what a doleful tale was told when a hot north wind broke off the stem! However, it was seen in time. Placed in water the flowers revived and enabled me to secure the photograph here produced. I was able, too, to enjoy the dainty Gypsophila-like flowers for a week, and their faded beauty for several weeks. Like Gypsophila, the flowers are beautiful even when dry, and so lend themselves to cut-flower arrangement.

### Cats and Valerian.

It was not until the flowers faded that I discovered the explanation of its centuries-old reputation as a cat-favoured herb. "The instinct of a cat for Valerian," is a saying lost in the mists of time. Scores of writers have alluded to it.

Says Bewick, in his *History of Quadrupeds* (1820): "The cat is fond of certain perfumes, and is more particularly attracted by the smell of Valerian, Marum and Catmint. It rubs itself against them, and, if not prevented, infallibly destroys them."

The faded flowers exhaled a peculiar, not altogether unpleasant, odour, and this it is which attracts cats. Rats, too, are attracted by it, and rat-catchers profit thereby. It has been said that the secret of the Pied Piper's success in luring those famous rat hosts lay in the sprig of Valerian he carried! It is said, too, to depend on "some sexual analogy of smell which the root presents to them." I had learned that certain cat-favoured herbs must be protected, so my two plants of Valerian were encircled to a height of two feet with wire-netting, perfectly effective against cats, but not against a

boisterous wind, which crushed the stem against the top of the screen.

The second plant produced two flowering stems about 18 inches high, but the flowers were shrivelled on a previous hot day.

Fortunately the plants are perennial, and, with luck, should shoot up in early spring.

#### Herbs with a History.

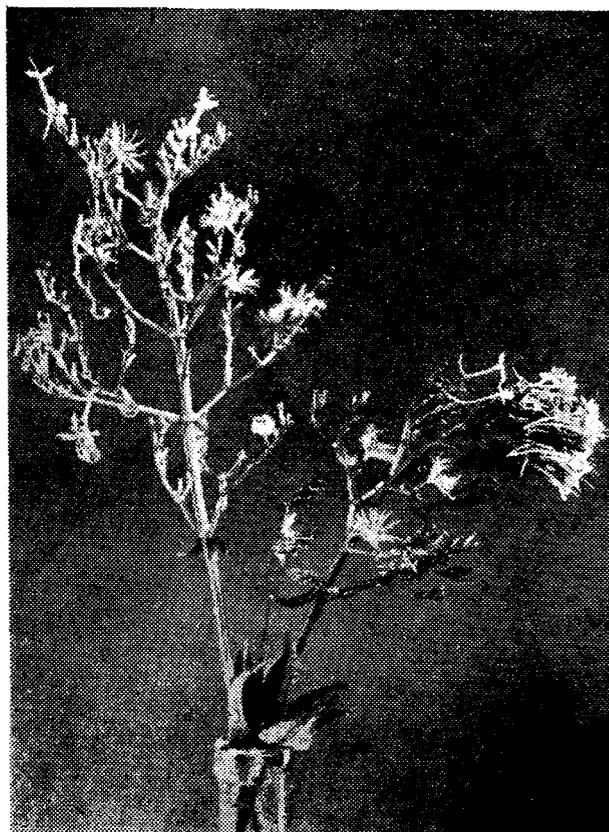
Some authors believe this to be the Phu of Dioscorides and Galen, by whom it was extolled as an aromatic diuretic, useful in certain kinds of epilepsy. Others have associated it with the Spikenard of Crete, mentioned by Pliny. But the Spikenard or nardus of ancient classical authors is now believed to be the Asiatic species, *Nardostachys jatmansii*. In Biblical times this would have been conveyed by way of Arabia and Asia to the Hebrews.

By the Romans it was considered so precious that Horace was ready to give Virgil about three dozen bottles of wine for a small box of Spikenard! The scent-loving Romans anointed their guests with this expensive perfume. Judas valued the box of Spikenard ointment with which Mary soothed the feet of Christ, at 200 denarii, approximately between £6 and £7. The name Valerian was not used until the ninth century (*V. phu*), which stresses an ancient dislike of the smell.

According to Professor Henslow, an old name was *Amantilla*. He quotes a curious 14th century custom of giving the juice to men who have begun to fight "and peace will be immediate." This seems strange when one remembers that another cat-favoured herb, Catnip, *Nepeta cataria*, when chewed, was said to make the most peaceful animal or person quarrelsome. The story goes



RED VALERIAN (*Centranthus (Centranthus) ruber*), used as a salad herb; roots for perfume and seeds in embalming.



RED VALERIAN (*Centranthus (Centranthus) ruber*), showing the spurred flowers and seed-vessels laden with dew. An old name is spur-flower.

that a certain hangman could never perform his office without first infuriating himself by eating Catnip!

Valerian was first noticed as a specific for epilepsy in 1592 by Fabius Columna, who cured himself of it. According to Dr. Manson ("*British Medical Journal*," 1927), the use of this herb was probably the earliest method of treating neuroses. He thought it worthy of further research into its properties and action on the nervous system, "for the extract alleviates mental misery without any deleterious habit-forming propensities." Others have reported a soothing effect, followed by heaviness and even stupor. Its use for shell-shock in 1918 trebled the price of the drug.

The somewhat unorthodox and extremely fiery Dr. A. I. Coffin used Valerian, combined with Lobelia, in treating croup.

In mediaeval days the root was used as a spice, as well as for medicine and perfume. The Red-Valerian, or Spur-flower of our gardens (*Centranthus ruber*) is still used as a salad in several European countries.

In "*Flowers of the Field*" (Rev. C. A. Johns) we read that the seeds of Red-Valerian were used in embalming the dead.

Some which were used in the 12th century, on being removed from the cere cloths in the present century, germinated! Red-Valerian, whether used for salad or scent, is a showy, charming flower that calls up the cottage gardens of England. It is worth an honoured place if only for the beauty of its feathery seed vessels. Laden with dew they are some of the loveliest things in nature. The roots are used in pot pourri.

Says Gerard: "The smell of Valerian is so pleasant unto cats that they rub themselves upon it, and wallow and tumble in it; and also feed on the branches greedily.

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ETHICAL DIVISION

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## Sulphamerazine

In each tablet:

0.5 gramme (7.7 grains)  
2-Sulphanilamido-4-methyl  
pyrimidine.

*Nicholas*

In bottles of 25, 100 and 500 tablets

A NICHOLAS ETHICAL PRODUCT

. . . It hath been held, and is to this day among poore people of our northern parts, in such veneration among them that no broths, pottage or physical meates are worth



VALERIAN (*Valeriana officinalis*), showing part only of an inflorescence produced on a stem 6 feet tall.

anything without Setwall (an old name for Valerian), whereupon some woman poet or other hath made these verses:"

They that will have their heale  
Must put Setwall in their keale (kail).

Many curious explanations have been offered for the association of cats with Valerian. According to Topsell (*Four-footed Beasts*, 1658-81), "The root of the herb Valerian, commonly called Phu, is very like the eye of a cat, and wheresoever it groweth, if cats come thereunto they instantly dig it up for the love thereof, as I myself have seen in mine own garden, for it smelleth, moreover, like a cat."

To come nearer our own time, only a few years ago Gertrude Jekyll, ardent animal-lover and grand gardener, wrote: "Fond as cats are of Catmint, the Greater Valerian has an even greater attraction for them. Try as I will, I find it well-nigh impossible to grow this in the garden, for no sooner have I removed the protecting wire than cats pounce upon it and quickly demolish the foliage and eat root-skins level with the earth. The antics of our domestic feline over this herb can scarcely be realised by those not acquainted with them, and only the famous sketches of Louis Wain, in his amusing cat books, give anything like a true representation of the whimsicalities of these animals when fascinated by this herb."

Miss Jekyll was a real cat lover, who knew all of her cats in the dark, not only by the feel of their coat, but by the different tone and quality of their purr.

The story of the power of certain herbs to attract animals and birds is a long one and suggests an interesting field for research. On the other hand certain herbs are known to repel them.

There is an old tradition that if a hare be sprinkled with the juice of henbane all the hares in the neighbourhood will run away, as if scared by some invisible power. First catch your hare! Hares love Sow-thistle (*Conchus oleraceus*), which is called Hare's-palace, because he takes shelter under it. According to the "Grete Herbale": "If a hare come under it he is sure no beast can touch him."

Topsell (*Natural History*) also alludes to this superstition: "When hares are overcome with heat they eat of a herb called *Lactuca leporina*, that is Hare's-lettuce, Hare's-house or Hare's-palace, and there is no disease in this

beast, the cure whereof she does not seek for in this herb."

I have written at length, yet the story of my most interesting root-herbs is only half-told. The rest must wait for another issue of the "A.J.P."

#### HYDROXYSTEARIN SULPHATE AS OINTMENT BASE.

G. W. Fiero. (*Bull. Nat. Form.*, 1945, 13, 81.) Hydroxystearin sulphate, the product obtained by sulphonation of partially hydrogenated castor oil, is a pale straw-coloured semi-solid unctuous mass, which is soluble in water and alcohol, and miscible in all proportions with glycerin, propylene glycol, soft and liquid paraffins and fixed oils. It softens at 30 deg. C., has m.p.t. 41.5 deg. C., sp. gr. 1.04 to 1.05, a sulphur trioxide content of 9.6 to 10.5 per cent. and a maximum moisture content of 25 per cent.; a 2 per cent solution has pH 6.1 to 6.5. Hydroxystearin sulphate alone has a peculiar stickiness, which is an advantage for types of ointments requiring an intimate contact with the skin. With 25 per cent. soft paraffin it forms a smooth ointment which can be readily washed off the skin; with 50 per cent. of soft paraffin and 17 per cent. of glyceryl monostearate an excellent hydrophilic ointment is obtained, which is compatible with most medicaments; with 10 per cent. diethylene glycol monostearate, 30 per cent. soft paraffin and 40 per cent. water, a very satisfactory emulsified base can be obtained. Antiseptic ointments prepared with hydroxystearin sulphate alone, with a mixture containing 25 per cent. of soft paraffin, and with the emulsified base, when subjected to agar plate tests, showed these preparations to be more effective than the official ointment, especially in the case of the emulsified base. Hydroxystearin sulphate ointments are also excellent bases for sulphonamide drugs. The ointments prepared with hydroxystearin sulphate, especially with the emulsified base, have been shown to have a very low index of sensitisation.—"Quart. J. Pharm.," 1945, 3, 323.

### Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria

#### ANNUAL ELECTION, 1946.

I, Frederick Norman Pleasance, the Returning Officer appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Association, do hereby declare that at the Annual Election of four members of the Council five nominations were received. A poll was, therefore taken in accordance with the provisions of the said Articles of Association.

Voting was as follows:

SCOTT, Eric	519
MORIESON, Vivian George	498
WILLIAMS, Gavin Hartley	443
BOYD, Frederick James	380
MANSELL, Allan Hamilton	348

A total of 582 voting papers was received before the time fixed for the closing of the poll. Of these 35 were invalid.

I, therefore, declare Messrs. Eric Scott, Vivian George Morieson, Gavin Hartley Williams and Frederick James Boyd duly elected members of the Council for a period of three years from the date hereof.

I further declare that MANSLEY SHACKELL, Melbourne, and R. H. MORRISON and TYACK, Melbourne, being the only two persons nominated for the office of Auditors, have been duly elected as Auditors to the Society for the year 1946.

F. N. PLEASANCE, Returning Officer.  
Melbourne, March 11, 1946.

## READERS' VIEWS

*These columns are open for the free discussion of any matter of general interest to Pharmacists. Letters under a nom de plume may be published; but each correspondent must furnish his name and address as an evidence of good faith. It must be distinctly understood that the opinions expressed by our correspondents are not necessarily endorsed editorially.*

### A CHALLENGE TO PHARMACY.

Sir,—I wish to commend "The Journal" on the excellence of its editorial in the January issue concerning Major Birch's article and Socialised Medicine generally ("A.J.P.," January 30, p. 22). This, the editorial, must surely have a sobering effect on some gullible pharmacists who do not bother to look behind the present Federal Government's objective, viz., the strangling of private enterprise; or who may be carried away by Mr. Birch's nightmare. As you rightly state, there are those who would give away all that makes the pharmacists' life worth living.

Another point in which Mr. Birch is incorrect is in his reference to service. Has he ever visited "outpatients" departments of large State hospitals and compared this attention with that of the private practitioner, or visited Government hospital dispensaries—not to mention F. S. dispensaries—and compared these with private pharmacies?

Also, are there not chrome-steel and plate-glass laboratories and dispensaries in pharmacies to-day? There are, and with the incentive of individual liberty there will be more.

The remarks of another correspondent in comparing regimented servants with free-lance employees are too ludicrous to require further enlightenment, so let me conclude by urging fellow-pharmacists to continue to support our Guild and allied bodies in their efforts to protect the profession against socialist white ants.—Yours, etc.,

LENNOX D. HILTON.

Dandenong (Vic.), 18/3/46.

## : LEGAL :

### UNLAWFULLY HOLDING OUT AS PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMIST.

Conviction Substituted for Dismissal in South Australian Case.

Substituting an order of conviction for one of dismissal, his Honour recently allowed an appeal by Walter Tidd Rowe, Inspector under the Pharmacy Act, against the dismissal by Mr. C. J. Coventry, S.M., in the Barmera (S.A.) Police Court, of a charge against Mary Pergam (or Pergaminos), married, of Barmera. The charge was that, not being a registered chemist, she unlawfully held herself out as a pharmaceutical chemist at Barmera on January 16.

Mr. C. L. Abbott, K.C., appeared with Mr. J. R. Cornish for Rowe, and Mr. B. B. Harford for Mrs. Pergam.

The consideration of questions of penalty and costs were adjourned to a date to be fixed.

His Honour said that the defendant, who was the proprietor of the business, was not a registered pharmaceutical chemist. The S.M. held that she had done no more than hold herself out as the proprietor. His Honour held that she described the business she was carrying on, or part of it, as being that of a pharmaceutical chemist. In his opinion, what she did would be understood by a sufficient number of the public in a sense which would con-

stitute a holding out in breach of the Act. She was unable to avail herself of a defence under section 25 (3) of the Act of showing that the business was managed by a registered pharmaceutical chemist whose name was exhibited on the shop.

### BREACHES OF N.S.W. DRUGS ACT ALLEGED.

For breaches of the Drugs Act George Francis Musson, chemist, of Hunter street, City, was fined a total of £15 at Central Court, Sydney, on February 22.

The charges were failing to cancel a prescription, retailing a drug to a person not licensed to be in possession of it, and making up a prescription not issued by a registered medical practitioner.

Musson was fined £5 on each charge.

Police said the offences occurred during October and November, when Musson made up prescriptions for Emil Huth, an unregistered Viennese doctor.

They added that many pages in a drug register showed Huth's name.

Mr. Snelling (for Musson) said that Huth was fined at Paddington Court recently in connection with the offences.

### REMOVING A RING FROM THE FINGER.

Col. M. F. Arbuckle, of the Medical Corps, U.S. Army, suggests a simple method of removing finger rings, which is used at the Station Hospital, Fort Leonard Wood, Nebraska.

The finger is thoroughly soaped and a thin cord string is slipped under the ring. The end of the string at the base of the finger is held taut and the other end is wrapped around the finger from the border of the ring down to the tip of the finger, compressing the finger uniformly. The end of the string at the base of the finger is grasped, and while still tight is unwound against the upper edge of the ring. As the cord is unwound the ring slips slowly down the finger.

Col. Arbuckle said that this method is always successful if properly done, and does not injure the finger.

—"Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association" per "Pharmaceutical Journal of New Zealand."

### THE PREVENTION OF SUNBURN.

During the recent war a great deal of scientific research was carried out secretly, and care was taken that results likely to help in the winning of the war were not made public. One investigation of this kind in America had to do with the prevention of sunburn by the use of skin coatings. The work has now been described by M. Luckiesh, A. H. Taylor and T. Sollmann.\* The research was undertaken at the request of the air force of the American Army. Some protection was needed for men marooned on life rafts or in the desert following air crashes. These men often lost a great deal of clothing and were subjected to severe exposure to the sun's rays. The substance that was to be used as a protection had to be non-toxic and might be either bacteriostatic or bactericidal. It had to afford the maximum amount of protection per unit weight or per volume; it had to be stable to heat or cold, and free from rancidity; it would be useless if it was easily washed off the skin. Two of the authors had previously investigated the production of erythema and had found that most of the erythema produced by natural sunlight resulted from ultra-violet energy of a wave-length shorter than 3200. Several preparations were selected for investigation. The most suitable was found to be "dark red vet. petrolatum," a substance prepared by the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey. It was found to be opaque to rays causing erythema, and it served as a complete protection to the skin in an exposure equivalent to 20 hours of the strongest sunlight. Excellent protection was also given by phenyl salicylate (salol) put up in a 10 per cent. cream; it is non-toxic.

\* "The Journal of the American Medical Association," January 5, 1946, through "M.J.A.," 16/3/46.

# NEWS

## COMMONWEALTH

Mr. R. G. Ross has been appointed Federal Merchandising Manager of the Guild, the appointment dating from February 16. Mr. Ross joined the staff of the Nestle and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co. (A/asia) Ltd. in 1930, being first employed at one of the company's factories at Abbotsford, N.S.W. He was subsequently selected to be trained for the selling staff, and worked in the many relative sections of the business for periods sufficient to gain the required experience—such sections including the despatch department, general office and sales room at the company's head office in Sydney. At the completion of this training period, he was appointed as an outside representative for the purpose of gaining practical selling experience in the metropolitan and country districts of New South Wales. After approximately seven years of work in this capacity he was invited to accept an executive position in the company's Melbourne branch office, to re-organise its selling activities in Victoria, finally holding the position of assistant to the manager, when he enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force in January, 1942. After enlistment, he was subsequently commissioned and later appointed to the command of a R.A.A.F. unit with the rank of Flight Lieutenant. He served 12 months overseas in New Guinea, and was discharged from the service on medical grounds in November, 1945. He then returned to his pre-war employment, and was engaged in planning organisation of the company's post-war selling activities in Victoria, when he resigned to join the Guild organisation as its Federal Merchandising Manager.



MR. R. G. ROSS,  
Federal Merchandising Manager of the Guild.

## PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

### Adelaide Meeting.

A circular from the Hon. General Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Association of Australia and New Zealand to affiliated organisations contained information under date March 21:—

**Date of Meeting.**—The general meetings of the Association will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 19, 20 and 21.

Section "O" (Pharmaceutical Science) of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science will meet on Thursday and Friday, August 22 and 23, and Monday, August 26.

Dates for the Conference of Pharmacy Boards and Convention of Guild Members have not yet been definitely fixed, but these meetings will probably take place early in the second week, viz., the week commencing August 26.

### Commencing Time of Conference.

—The first Session of the Association meeting will open at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, August 19. It will therefore be necessary for delegates to arrive in Adelaide on or before Sunday, August 18. It is desirable that as many as possible arrive on Saturday, the 17th.

**Hotel Accommodation.**—Arrangements for accommodation of delegates has been revised. The proposal to house all pharmaceutical delegates at the Pier Hotel, Glenelg, has lapsed, owing mainly to the distance from the city, transport difficulties, and doubt as to whether all of the delegates can be accommodated.

Details of accommodation available are set out hereunder:—

#### Hotel Richmond.

Accommodation for 35. Tariff: Double room with bath—full tariff, £2/8/-; bed and breakfast, £1/18/-; equals £1/4/- per day each person. Single room with bath—half above rate. Double room with shower—Full tariff, £2/6/-; bed and breakfast, £1/16/-. Single room with shower—Half above rate. Double room (front room)—Full tariff, £2/5/-; bed and breakfast, £1/15/-. Single front room—Half above rate.

#### South Australian Hotel.

Accommodation for 41. Five twin bedrooms with bath, one double room with bath, four single rooms with bath, three twin bedrooms without bath, two double rooms without bath, 15 single rooms without bath. Inclusive tariff, £1/1/- per day; bed and breakfast, 12/6 per day; rooms with bath, 5/- per day per room; equals 2/6 each for double room, 5/- for single person.

#### The Grosvenor.

Accommodation for 20. Five double rooms with bath, 15 single rooms without bath. The tariff is for room only. Double room with bath (two people), £4/14/- per week; single room without bath, £2/3/- per week. Excellent service and accommodation, and dining-room. Meals are paid for as required.

The locality of the Hotel Richmond is in Rundle street, almost down to Pulteney street, and within three or four minutes' walk of the University. The South Australian Hotel is located on North Terrace, directly opposite the Houses of Parliament. The Grosvenor is a non-licensed house located on North Terrace, directly opposite the railway station.

Substantial reservations have been made at the above hotels. Owing, however, to the pressure on available accommodation, it is necessary to advise the hotels at the earliest possible moment of our requirements.

All State organisations are therefore requested to forward the following information as soon as possible:—

- (1) Names of delegates, together with information as to whether they will be accompanied by their wives or other members of family.
- (2) Hotel at which accommodation is desired, indicating order of preference—1, 2, 3.
- (3) Class of accommodation required, e.g., double room, double room with bath, single room, single room with bath, etc.
- (4) Anticipated dates and times of arrival in and departure from Adelaide.

Choice of hotels and rooms will depend upon the promptness of replies.

**Agenda.**—A preliminary agenda will be circulated at an early date. Early advice from Secretaries of State organisations concerning items to be submitted for inclusion will therefore be appreciated.

## NEW ZEALAND

### ENGLISH CHEMISTS' PARCELS FUND.

Attention has frequently been drawn in the past to the need for active support for the above fund.

Reports received at the annual general meeting of the Chemists' Service Guild of New Zealand indicated that many members have sent contributions to their branches, and, as a result, some hundreds of parcels have been sent to England.

The branches have been asked to make renewed efforts to build up the fund this year. The food position in the United Kingdom is as acute as at any time during the war, and from her already-depleted stocks much food is being sent to the Continent in an endeavour to avert famine in the war-ravaged countries.

Indications of the value of the food parcels to recipients can be gathered from the contents of letters received by donors.

A further recommendation of the Guild annual meeting was that each pharmacy be requested to donate one hot-water bottle to the fund. In addition to food shortages, fuel is virtually unobtainable in England, and the comfort which a hot-water bottle could be to the aged and sick dependants of our English confreres cannot be underestimated.

Contributions should be forwarded to division secretaries at the earliest possible date.

### CANTERBURY NOTES.

**Births.**—Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Price and to Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Lake, to whom sons were born in March.

The Students' Association held its annual meeting on March 6. The newly-elected officers were:—Mr. R. Knapp, president; Miss Pat Rhodes and Mr. Mark Steeds, vice-presidents; Miss C. Fletcher and Mr. Edmonds, committee. The main interest of the meeting was the splendid address by Mr. D. S. Dodds on his experiences in America during the war.

The Chemists' Service Guild (Canterbury Division) held its annual meeting the following week, and, though rather poorly attended, it was productive of some quite useful discussions, particularly with regard to the trend of dispensing habits and the reduced average value of prescription fees.

The annual meeting of Guild Headquarters in Wellington was attended, on Canterbury's behalf, by Mr. E. Shier, who gave a useful summary of the proceedings. On the whole, the meeting was uneventful, the year under review having been spent in quiet consolidation rather than in any spectacular achievement.

Pharmacy in Canterbury is now settling down after vacations, preparing for the set in of winter dispensing at pressure. No more difficult period was experienced during the whole war than is now felt with regard to shortages in proprietary lines and the lack of quality amongst various sundries.

Students not studying with the Pharmacy College in Wellington have received a shock by being informed that the "Pharmacy Regulations 1944 Amendment No. 1" requires them to join the Board's College if their own particular school is not recognised as of official standing. With the change of Pharmacy College Principal, it was not expected that the regulation amendment would be enforced this year, and with study well commenced, many have paid fees to unofficial tutors. However, it is felt by those who should know, and already verified by students, that the new official course is extremely thorough, and no student will be handicapped by the required change.



Ready instantly for emergency use.  
No time wasted in preparation as compared with old-fashioned poultices.

# POULTICINE

Possesses both soothing and healing properties. Specially medicated and retains heat longer. Modern Antiseptic Poulitice in form ready for instant use, proved in cases of Pneumonia, Pleurisy, Influenza, Colds, Bronchitis, Sprains, Burns, Boils, Sunburn, Gout, Rheumatism, Tonsillitis and all deep-seated inflammation and congestion.

Famous for its powers of penetration and maximum thermal capacity.

In ½, 1, 2 and 5 lb. tins. Obtainable all Chemists.

A Product of the Alfred Lawrence  
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THE Superior Antiseptic Poulitice

## NEW SOUTH WALES

# More women use Mum



**MORE WIVES**—because MUM is always so easy and convenient to use.



**MORE NURSES**—on duty, or off—they want safe, sure care.



**MORE BUSINESS GIRLS**—they know MUM doesn't harm fabrics.



**MORE PUBLIC ENTERTAINERS**—because they must always have charm.

## Because—

Mum is quick, safe, harmless to the skin and the finest fabrics.

Mum does not stop healthful perspiration. It simply banishes every trace of odour.

Mum is a big seller at any season, but even more so during the hot summer months. It is well worth first - place display on your counter and in your windows and showcases. Your sales will soon prove that it pays to put Mum in a prominent position in your pharmacy.

# MUM

takes the odour  
out of perspiration

3246

Bristol-Myers Co. Pty. Ltd., 223 Pacific Highway,  
North Sydney.

Mr. E. H. Fawcett has opened a pharmacy at Dee Why.  
Mr. W. K. Harvey, late of Dubbo, has acquired the business of J. S. Turner, of Haberfield.

Mr. I. H. Keys has accepted the position of manager with Chapman's pharmacy, Penshurst.

Mr. Mac. Gudgeon, late of A.I.F., with over six years' service, has opened a pharmacy at Wollongong.

Birth.—Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Fayle, of Glen Innes, were presented with a son on February 26. Another prospective reader of the Journal! Maybe?

Miss J. Perdriau and Mr. H. N. T. Kite are now partners in business, having acquired Mr. E. Browne's pharmacy at Mittagong.

Mr. E. M. Lassau, late R.A.A.F., called at "Science House" with the news that he had opened a pharmacy at Bateman's Bay.

Mr. G. J. Allen, of Tingha, having disposed of his business to Mr. Moen, intends to give a pharmaceutical service to the district of Woodburn.

Mr. W. E. Phillips, of Bexley, is now the owner of Miss J. Perdriau's pharmacy at Clovelly, and Mr. W. G. Poole, late manager of Chapman's pharmacy, Penshurst, has purchased Mr. Phillips' business at Bexley.

Visitors to "Science House" during the month were:—Mr. J. M. Morgan, of Dubbo, who apparently is a very enterprising pharmacist; and Mr. J. L. O'Donahoo, of Goulburn, who decided that he would be a more constant visitor in future.

Miss Inez Buckman.—After 18 years of service with Elliotts and Australian Drug Pty. Ltd., Miss I. Buckman, who has been secretary to Mr. H. R. Elliott, has left to be married. She will be known to most chemists in connection with their own name proprietaries and "Gilseal" preparations. Her cheerful manner and the efficiency with which she had handled chemists' requirements have enhanced her popularity. She carries with her the best wishes of the chemists with whom she came in contact with also of the staff.

Sydney University Pharmaceutical Association gives notice that their annual general meeting will be held at the end of April. The actual date has not yet been arranged, but members will be notified by letter. Any member who has changed his or her address is requested to notify the Secretary.

Advance Notice.—Note the 16th July, 1946, on your calendar as an important engagement! Why? Because it is the date of the Chemists' Ball, the first since 1941.

### RETURNING SERVICEMEN.

The following servicemen called on the Secretary at "Science House" during the month:—

Lieutenant K. D. Johnson, R.A.N., whose hometown is Adelaide. Lieut. Johnson (now with H.M.A.S. Quadrant) was aboard H.M.A.S. Nizam when she entered the great naval base at Yokosuka, Japan.

Messrs. R. A. Clark and R. D. Asken, Ordnance Artificers (optical), R.N. Both were impressed with the organised state of pharmacists in Australia.

S./Ldr. H. J. Taylor, c/o 39 P.T.C.—While located at Tripoli the unit was concerned in supply work for Air Force personnel in the invasion of Italy.

W./O. J. O. Miller, formerly of Dubbo.—W./O. Miller was a member of a Lancaster Squadron, which when engaged on army co-operation work had to go in at 1000 feet over Calais for precision bombing. From this hazardous operation only two aircraft returned to base, others landing at various points.

Major J. H. Long, 108 Advance Depot Medical Stores, is expecting an early release from the Forces. He is at present in the process of disbanding his unit, having been with it since October, 1939.

### MOVIE-NIGHT FOR CHEMISTS.

On March 25 Frederick Stearns and Company Division of Sterling Drug Inc., arranged a motion picture night for chemists at the Shell Theatre, Shell House, Sydney. An interesting programme was shown. The main feature was a film depicting "Progress in Chemo-Therapy," detailing research and production activities in Frederick Stearns and Company Laboratories, U.S.A.

The film was taken by Noel F. Leggatt, general manager of Frederick Stearns and Company Division, Australasia, during his recent visit to America. The supporting programme included the official U.S. war film, "To the Shores of Iwo Jima" and a series of entertaining short features. Supper was served to guests at the conclusion of the programme.

The filming of this programme to pharmacists was made possible through the co-operation of the Shell Company in making available the Shell Theatre and supper rooms at Shell House to Frederick Stearns and Company. The management of the company hope to show a similar programme to chemists in other capital cities later this year.

### PENICILLIN: DAIRY INDUSTRY.

"Hansard" records the following (Legislative Assembly, February 28):—

**Mr. Rose:** I desire to ask the Minister for Agriculture whether the officers of his department have made any research into the possible use of penicillin for the prevention or cure of mammatitis to assist the dairy industry? If his answer is in the negative, will he give immediate instructions for such research to take place?

**Mr. Graham:** Research is being carried out at Glenfield with regard to the use of penicillin and many of the other new drugs which come on to the market from time to time and which science has proved to be very successful. The experiments and trials will be stepped up so that, if they are a success, the results will be made available as soon as possible to improve the dairy industry of the State.

### BRANDY FOR INVALIDS.

The following reference is taken from the "Hansard" record of proceedings in the Legislative Assembly on February 28:—

**Major Martin:** On December 13, 1945, the hon. member for Manly asked a question relating to the supply of brandy to invalid persons. The matter was referred to my colleague, the Minister of Justice, who has furnished the following information: It is a fact that from November 1, 1945, the liquor control order made under National Security Regulations no longer applies to spirits, and that since that date the purchase and sale of spirits has been unrestricted so far as governmental controls are concerned. The Minister is not aware that persons who previously held authorities from the Customs Department for the purchase of brandy are now experiencing difficulty in obtaining supplies of that spirit, but it would appear that the supplies of spirits are limited and insufficient to meet all demands. Licensees are under no legal obligation to sell to any persons. Nor are they obliged to sell in any particular way, for example, by the "nip" or by the bottle, but selling prices are still subject to fixation under National Security (Prices) Regulations. Before the State Government could control the distribution of spirits in the manner suggested by the hon. member for Manly, legislation for the purpose would be necessary. It is anticipated, however, that with an early reversion to normal production, difficulties of the nature brought under notice will automatically disappear.

### MANAGERS AND RELIEVERS.

The following relievers were recorded during the month:—

Miss E. Alexander, for D. G. Kritsch, Cowra; J. A. Alexander, for J. M. Miles, Brighton-le-Sands and later for F. O'Sullivan, Waverton and G. S. Dalton, Bondi; A. J. S. Baker, for E. D. Smith, Bellevue Hill; S. Baker, for L. H. Skott, Gladesville; S. Beard, for Moodie's Pharmacy,

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### IN VITAMIN THERAPY

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Vitos is one of the richest known sources of Vitamin B<sub>1</sub>, B<sub>6</sub> and E and also provides significant amounts of several other components of the B Complex, e.g., Riboflavin, Niacin, Pantothenic Acid and Choline, combined with 30% Protein of high biological value.

Vitos Vitamin Abstracts.  
Williams, R. J. "Water Soluble Vitamins"  
Ann. Rev. Biochem, XII.

*The complex relationship existing between the various components of the B complex is discussed, with due stress being laid on the fact that the effects produced by any one member are often dependent on the supply of others.*

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CONTROL AND GUARANTEED TO CONTAIN NO  
SYNTHETIC VITAMIN ADMIXTURE.

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Horlicks stimulates blood regeneration, restores vitality, and can be prescribed with confidence during illness or convalescence.



Bathurst, and later for G. Macdonald, Rylstone; J. L. Brereton, for J. B. Orr and Son, Strathfield; Miss A. M. Cardwell, for W. L. Cutcliffe, Homebush; J. Chamen, for J. M. Powell, Ashfield; M. P. Cleary, for K. R. Woodlands, Epping; Miss M. Cross, for J. C. MacLennan, Albury; C. E. Dalby, for R. Peate, Newcastle, and T. J. May, Wallsend; Miss M. G. Defina, for A. G. Weatherall, Narrabri, and later for P. L. Smyth; A. E. E. Dougan, for F. W. Blomfield, Wollongong; Mrs. M. R. Dunlop, for A. R. Leggott, Springwood; F. M. V. Earle, for Freebody's Pharmacy, Kempsey; Miss L. M. Edwards, for W. W. Rourke, North Strathfield, and later for N. Edwards, Grenfell; Mrs. D. Fairfax, for J. H. Powell, King's Cross; C. Fardouly, for J. L. Townley, Darling Point; L. M. Fox, for A. C. Dash, Canterbury; Mrs. E. M. Garvie, for Manuka Pharmacy, Canberra; N. Glenhill, for Penny's Pharmacy, St. Peters; Mrs. M. M. Hamill, for H. E. Gissing, Wagga; C. H. Hart, for H. D. Cox, Hurstville, and later for H. P. Brown, Bourke; W. Innes, for Walgett Pharmacy, Walgett; C. Jaconelli, for G. R. Bohun, Guildford; A. H. Jay, for G. C. Simpson, Croydon Park, and later for S. G. Pike, Burwood; H. F. Jones, for A. H. Nakkan, Ashfield; H. N. T. Kite, for J. D. McTyer, Mortdale, and later for L. O. Thomas, South Grafton; I. L. Latham, for Ball and Scarfe, Parramatta; A. Lethe, for J. H. Cobcroft, Bellevue Hill, and later for L. Skott, Gladesville; L. C. McAllister, for A. S. Kiernan, Armidale, and later for D. J. Coote, Barraba; C. S. McGregor, for S. G. Elliott, Camperdown; R. G. Marks, for Miss M. T. Patterson, Harbour; N. Martin, for L. Rothman, Wollongong; F. Meagher, for G. Simpson, Concord; E. C. Morgan, for F. A. Harper, Coogee, and for J. Shineberg, Rushcutter's Bay, and A. W. Furse, Kensington; G. Murdoch, for A. H. Geikie, Fairfield; J. O'Brien, for Korr's Pharmacy, Alexandria; W. J. O'Brien, for R. H. McGredie, Uralla; de V. C. Payne, for A. H. Walker, Eastwood; J. C. Poignand, for M. A. Barnes, Leichhardt; R. J. Ramsay, for D. D. H. Fayle, Armidale; H. Rippon, for A. H. Street, Kempsey; C. W. Sanders, for J. G. Lynch, Burwood; G. Sapsford, for C. E. Brown, Burwood; J. S. Sinclair, for M. Parkes, Waitara; H. R. Stephenson, for R. Nicholas, Cremorne; H. W. Stephenson, for N. J. Nolan, Neutral Bay; I. Stevens, for R. P. Larkin, Nyngan; B. W. Tacon, for I. Lindsay, Parkes; J. A. Tait, for G. B. Burtinshaw, Petersham, and K. A. Cartwright, Summer Hill; E. I. Talbot, for E. G. Neale, Mosman; Miss B. Thompson, for C. H. Turtle, Concord; C. R. Thompson, for A. E. Holmes, Gilgandra; L. A. Turton, for B. Schaeffer, Tamworth; E. V. Williams, for W. G. Masters, Campsie; H. W. Wright, for P. A. Sivyer, Manly, for J. R. Strauss, Marrickville; S. Wyllie, for T. H. Dick, Strathfield.

### CATHOLIC CHEMISTS' GUILD.

The annual general meeting of the above Guild was held on December 14, 1945, at 8.15 p.m. in the Austral Salon, 152 Elizabeth street, Sydney. The meeting was conducted using emergency lighting, owing to the restrictions imposed as a result of the industrial upheaval.

The annual report, containing a review of the work of the Guild during 1945, was read by the Secretary.

Elections of officers resulted in the following being installed on the Council for the year 1946:—Master of the Guild, Mr. R. W. Davies; vice-master, Mr. G. R. Bohun; immediate past-master, Mr. W. J. Austin; secretary, Mr. Leo J. Walsh; assistant-secretary, Miss Pat Stokes; treasurer, Miss Betty Wilkinson; committee members, Mr. C. Spora, Mr. Ray Waters.

The newly-elected Council held its first meeting on January 11 at Legion House. A programme for the ensuing year was mapped out. It was decided to hold general meetings during 1946 on the second Friday of February (8), April (12), June (14), August (9), October (11), December (13), probably at Cusa House, Elizabeth street, Sydney; a dance at Legion House on Wednesday, May 1; communion breakfast, St. Mary's Cathedral, Sunday, July 21.

### CONDITIONS IN GREECE.

Mr. A. P. Sourry, a member of the Pharmaceutical Society of New South Wales, who is with the Australian Red Cross Relief (U.N.R.R.A.) in Greece sends an interesting letter, from which the following is extracted:—

"As a senior representative of Australian Red Cross and the only pharmacist in this area (Macedonia) I'm 'on tap' 24 hours of the day. We left Melbourne last April, of course (the first U.N.R.R.A. personnel to leave Australia) in the Empress of Japan, but the war with Japan not being over at that stage the blackout trip was none too pleasant. On arrival in Cairo we were under canvas for a few weeks before going to Greece. There the work commenced, avalanches of it—day and night.

"My initial work was at Florina, where I was O.C. Medical Stores for Australian Red Cross. Apart from this, of course, I had a dispensary, small but adequate, overlooking the snow-clad mountain ranges up near the Yugo-Slav border. A large truck was at my disposal, and in this I was able to drive to Salonika for equipment; passing through the towns of Janina, Larissa, Ellassona, now famous for battles fought round these, and because of their frequent mention in James Aldridge's book, 'Signed With Their Honour.'

"The refugees were coming back then, the majority of which were slave labour deported to Germany, sometimes as many as 500 in transit at a time. All told, we dealt with about 60,000, medically examined, clothed, fed and transferred them to their homes (if any) or more often than not to our hospital at Kozani.

"The youths, having had some semblance of food during their period in Germany, in order, of course, to get the labour out of them, were comparatively fit, but the state of elderly people and children was pitiful. T.B. and malaria were rampant—still is, the enlarged spleen rate in children is as high as 50 per cent.

"I then took charge of the hospital at Kozani with only two nurses, both of whom left from Melbourne. That hospital was a miracle of makeshifts. I painted walls, white-washed ceilings and constructed beds as best I could; some plumbing, too. Just three of us, so we had our manpower worries full and plenty. But we kept that hospital going—I did my stretch of night duty and walked the floor with many a sick and whimpering babe. When I could put them back in their crudely-constructed cots for a while I used to rush off and catch up on some of the dispensing for the next day. Believe me I have a very soft spot for the hard-worked nurses now—but most of the village children haven't a chance.

"About November, in conjunction with the British Army, we commenced the distribution of some 45,000 P.O.W. parcels for our area, a surplus as a result of the sudden end of the war. We had by this time, of course, distributed, too, the clothing from the U.N.R.R.A. clothing appeal.

"In Kivotos (a village about 100 miles from the Yugo-Slav border) I saw what must have been the greatest devastation of war—80 per cent. of the homes utterly destroyed by the Huns and Italians, because of the strong partisan movement there. The inhabitants were shockingly clad in rags and tatters—patchwork is a great art here. The toddlers running around knee deep in mud and slush all with coughs and skin complaints. In these parts the people speak Macedonian Slav very mixed, Greek and Slav and Turkish, this area being under Turkish domination before 1912.

"At present I'm snowed in at Kozani, and our excursions are limited to small villages. The mud is feet deep, so I exchanged my truck for a jeep. I have two nurses and a microbiologist with me, and we hold medical clinics in the thick of this frightful weather. The villages being small, we have no permanent rooms for these clinics. It's a case of grabbing any roof over our heads to park our 'travelling trunks.' I trudge for hours round these villages knee deep in mud to visit those people confined to their beds. There's a gastric 'flu epidemic raging and a high incidence of broncho-pneumonia, and about 25 per cent. of mothers with infants are so starved, or have

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In 1911, the late Professor Thompson, of Dublin, established that Bovril had the power of ministering to nutrition by the assistance it gave to the assimilation of other foods. Recently a remarkable series of experiments has been conducted at an English University. A group of medical students volunteered to undergo the unpleasant experience of allowing the passage of an œsophageal tube into the stomach so that accurate studies might be made of the effect of certain beef preparations. One of the substances investigated was Bovril.

As a result of these experiments (described in detail in the *British Medical Journal* of August 28th, 1937) Bovril emerged as 'the most effective stimulant.' Briefly, it was proved that Bovril increased the supply of gastric juices where there was a deficiency and restored it to normal. It is an accepted medical fact that people of sedentary habits generally suffer from a lowering of the essential gastric activity; Bovril rectifies this and, by facilitating the digestion of proteins, enables full nourishment to be gained.

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been, they are unable to feed their children—so preparing tinned milk for all these little waifs is another job.

"Recently the roads were in such a shocking state and the distance too great to walk I arranged for mules to take us to Kaisaria, at the foot of Mount Olympus. It so happened that I had a 'dashing filly' mule. No saddle, of course, nor guiding reins. She led me into a gallop, or what would be the nearest thing to a mule gallop. She also led me head first into all the snow and slush. Fortunately I had all our clinical-kit packed on the more reliable members of the breed.

"There's still a tremendous job to be done here, and it can't be done by sprinkling an odd piece of clothing here and there or giving an occasional tablet. There's a feeling of frustration, because of the fact that everything is too limited or has to be as evenly distributed as possible.

"However, with all the devastation and misery that manifests itself in Greece, the financial turmoil has improved slightly. The gold pound (sovereign) has dropped from 200,000 drachmas to 100,000. I look to the coming elections in March to settle the political chaos, if not the economic."

## VICTORIA

Mr. A. T. Galvin went to Tasmania recently. His present address is 8 Babbington street, Launceston.

Mr. Arthur Philips, late R.A.A.F., has accepted the position of pharmaceutical chemist at the Mental Hospital, Ballarat.

Lieut. L. B. Allen has been discharged from the A.M.F., and has accepted the position of manager of Mr. A. O. Moore's pharmacy at Centre road, Benteleigh.

Mr. A. E. Tawton has purchased the pharmacy of Mr. E. M. De Boos, at Maldon. Mr. Tawton was previously manager for Mr. J. B. Robinson, at Morwell.

Lieut.-Col. F. E. Kiel, after six years' service with the A.I.F., during which he shared the rigours of campaigns in the Middle East and New Guinea, is back in Melbourne, and called at the College recently. He anticipates being discharged at an early date.

Capt. L. M. Heydon has obtained his release from the Army and intends to undertake relieving work for some time before settling down permanently. Capt. Heydon left Australia with the 2/2nd Field Ambulance and later was appointed registrar of the 2/2nd A.G.H.

Mr. A. B. Murie, of St. Kilda, has been appointed a director of Rocke, Tomsitt & Co. Ltd., to represent shareholders. This announcement followed a meeting of the company on March 12. Mr. Murie has been president of the P.A.T.A. of Victoria for a number of years, and he is also president of the Australian Institute of Chiropodists. He has been in business at St. Kilda as a pharmacist for upward of 20 years and has two branch pharmacies. Associated with him in the pharmacies are his son, Mr. A. G. Murie, and his brother, Mr. F. V. Murie. The business was established by his father, the late Mr. Alex. Murie.



Mr. A. B. Murie.  
—"Herald" Photo.

Pharmacist Qualifies as Doctor. — The name of Dr. Charles V. G. Biggs appeared in a list of 75 medical graduates who received their degrees at the University of Melbourne on March 11. Dr. Biggs qualified as a pharmacist in March, 1931, and had some years' experience in pharmacy before taking up the medical course. Congratulations.

**Obituary.**—In our February issue we noted the death of an old Victorian pharmacist in the person of Mr. Millard Johnson. It has since been brought to our notice by Mr. E. T. Church that the late Mr. Millard Johnson was a son of the late Mr. William Johnson, one of the members of the original Pharmacy Board, and was a member of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Victoria for a number of years. The first full programme of moving pictures in the City of Melbourne was displayed in the old museum of the College of Pharmacy by Mr. Johnson.

Dr. H. A. Sissons, elder son of Mr. A. T. S. Sissons, Dean of the Victorian College of Pharmacy, who was in charge of the pathology department at the Alfred Hospital for the past 12 months, and also on the staff of the pathology department of the University of Melbourne, recently left for London to take up a "Prophit Fellowship" in cancer research at the Royal College of Surgeons. He will work in the department of Professor Rupert Willis, formerly of Melbourne. The initial appointment is for a term of three years.

#### PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY ELECTIONS.

There was a record poll for the annual election of members of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society in March. A total of 582 votes was received, being more than 50 per cent. of the number of full members. 35 voting papers were invalid, mainly because members had used a rubber stamp for voting paper envelopes instead of signing the envelope, as required by the Articles of Association.

Five nominations were received for the four vacancies, the successful candidates being Messrs. Eric Scott (519), V. G. Morieson (498), G. H. Williams (443) and F. J. Boyd (380). The unsuccessful candidate, Mr. A. H. Mansell, one of the retiring members, polled 348 votes.

#### YEAR BOOK OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.

The Year Book of the Pharmaceutical Society for 1946 is presented in improved form this year. With semi-stiff cover and generously illustrated, the publication is more attractive than previous issues. The contents of the Book should be of interest to members of the Society. They include the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year 1945, the full Syllabus of the College of Pharmacy, together with special articles on Methods of Sterilisation, Veterinary Practice, Notes on Penicillin, and Hydrogen Ion Concentration, Modern Pharmaceutical Equipment, Guild Method of Prescription Pricing. Lists of prizes for 1945, together with a full list of the members of the Society, make up the balance of the book, copies of which are supplied by the Council to all members, apprentice members, associates and fellows.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHARITIES BOARD OF VICTORIA.

The 22nd Annual Report of the Charities Board of Victoria, which is for the year ended June 30, 1944, includes numerous tables giving statistical information concerning registered institutions and benevolent societies.

The report indicates that in pursuance of the Board's policy of decentralisation additional committees have been set up for the establishment of hospitals at Apollo Bay, Chiltern, Lorne, Seymour and Rochester, and others are contemplated for Caulfield, Numurkah, Rushworth and Upper Ferntree Gully. These, with those previously announced, make a total of 23 suburban and 17 country districts where it is expected new hospitals on the Board's register will eventually be established.

Special reference is made to the Hospital Benefits Association, which is stated to be a valuable adjunct to hospital finance in Victoria. During the year under review the Association paid on behalf of its members the sum of £17,166 to metropolitan hospitals and £1729 to country hospitals. In addition, it paid £20,972 to patients who

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received treatment at denominational and private hospitals.

Referring to the scheme under which patients entering intermediate and private wards of hospitals are subsidised to the extent of 6/- per day, the report states that one unfortunate aspect is the disturbing effect upon the public conscience and lessened enthusiasm in purely contributory schemes. However, it is stated, the Hospital Benefits Association should be encouraged and extended, because the existence of such an Association is of great benefit to its members, and an enlarged membership could prove a great boon to the Government and to hospital managements.

In-patients treated during the year numbered 124,226, compared with 123,540 in the preceding year; intermediate and private patients numbered 34,259, as against 32,302 in 1943-1944, an increase of 6 per cent.

**REGISTRATION OF FACTORIES AND SHOPS.**

Substantial increases in the numbers of both factories and shops is disclosed in the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Shops for the year ended December 31, 1944, which has just been published. Factories registered were 12,091 (11,482 in 1943); shops, 32,938 (32,185 in 1943). It is interesting to note, however, that the number of shop registrations was far below the total of any year between 1924 and 1941, the highest number recorded being 41,252 in 1939.

The total number of chemists' shops registered was 884. The number of persons engaged was 2247, including 1245 males and 1002 females.

Thirty-six convictions were recorded against shop-keepers for trading after legal hours, fines and costs totalling £92/6/6 being imposed.

**WOMEN'S SECTION OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.**

The annual meeting of the Women's Section will be held at the Business and Professional Women's Club-rooms, 4th Floor, "McEwan House," Little Collins street, Melbourne, on Monday, April 15, at 8 p.m.

The annual election of office-bearers and committee will take place, also a general discussion on the forthcoming activities. Dr. D. Berman has promised to come along and show an interesting film. Your presence, therefore, is invited, and we hope members will do their utmost to attend and interest all other women pharmacists in their own Association, and urge them to come along also.

We plan to carry out an interesting programme of activities, and at the last general meeting it was resolved to raise the annual subscription to 5/-, so that sufficient funds will be available.—PAULINE A. CRAWFORD, Hon. Secretary, 140 Puckle street, Moonee Ponds, tel. FU 5476.

**MANAGERS AND RELIEVERS.**

The following appointments and withdrawals have been notified:—Mr. H. C. Barnes (for Mr. C. Gross, Sunshine); Mr. H. A. Murray (for W. L. Don, Carnegie); Miss J. Howell (for Mr. R. S. Twiddy, Middle Brighton); Mr. H. W. Clemence has terminated his position of manager for Mr. L. R. C. Smith, Korumburra, and is now with Mr. A. G. Finlayson, Dandenong; Mr. J. Ellis (for Mr. H. C. Davis, St. Kilda); Miss W. Carlson (for Mr. A. D. Jackson, Canterbury); Miss D. Ratcliffe (for Mr. R. Hughes, Lorne); Mr. F. R. Hussey (managing, Mildura Base Hospital); Miss L. Smith (for Mr. H. O. Albert, Mildura); Mr. A. Broberg (for Mr. N. E. Zerbe, Hampton); Mr. E. A. Rowe (for Mr. S. Hull, Glen Iris); Miss P. A. Cooney (managing for Mr. A. Moore, Bentleigh); Mrs. E. Griffiths (for Mr. F. D. Barker, Burwood); Miss E. G. Donaldson (for Mr. H. A. Braithwaite, Camberwell); Mr. R. A. Moore (for Henry Francis & Co., Melbourne); Mr. A. Grano (for Mr. F. E. Brilliant, East Coburg); Miss M. J. Muhlebach (for Mr. J. M. Adam, Albert Park); Miss

Lovick (for Mr. P. M. Balding, Mansfield); Miss I. Murphy (for Mr. C. R. Cooke, Burnley); Miss I. Matchett (for Mr. T. P. O'Reilly, Cobram); Mr. J. S. Thomas (for Mr. N. F. Keith, Moonee Ponds); Mr. R. S. Eccles (for Mr. M. Landmann, Auburn); Mr. T. V. Payne (managing for Mr. D. A. Cossar, H. Francis & Co., Melbourne); Mr. W. Wishart (managing for Bull & Owen, Geelong); Miss Bauld (for Beacham's Pharmacy, Melbourne); Miss F. Wolman (for Mr. V. D. Preston, Reservoir); Mr. H. A. Murray (for Mr. W. F. B. Gough, Yea); Miss M. Heal (for Mr. A. G. Westlake, Nhill); Mr. G. H. Grimes (for Mr. N. Keith, Moonee Ponds, and for Mr. E. A. O. Moore, Bentleigh); Mr. F. J. P. Malcolm (for Mr. C. M. Pleasance, Prahran); Mr. C. S. D. Holloway (for Mr. G. L. Bellville, Balaclava); Mr. T. V. Dobson (managing U.F.S. Dispensary, Preston); Mr. C. M. Davies (managing for Mr. J. B. Robinson, Morwell); Miss W. Cook (for Mr. F. P. Denton, Bendigo); Mr. S. Clark (managing for Mr. L. R. C. Smith, Korumburra); Mr. Wood (for Mr. H. W. Lewis, West Moreland).

Mr. M. Z. Tuch has terminated his position as manager of Bourdics Pharmacy, Melbourne, and has gone to Brisbane.

#### AMENDMENT OF FOOD AND DRUG REGULATIONS. D.D.T. on Fruit and Vegetables.

The following Regulations were published in the Government Gazette on March 20:—

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Amending Food and Drug Standards Regulations 1946, shall be read and construed as one with the Food and Drug Standards Regulations 1939 and any Regulations amending the same and, except where otherwise stated, shall come into operation on publication in the Government Gazette.

2. In Regulations 3 and 4 of these Regulations, unless inconsistent with the context or subject-matter, the expression D.D.T. means dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane.

3. Regulation 5 of the Amending Food and Drug Standards Regulations 1940 is hereby amended by the addition of the following paragraph thereto:—

Provided that fruit and vegetables, without contravention of this Regulation, may contain not more than ten parts per million of D.D.T., as estimated by the method prescribed in the following Regulation.

4. The amount of D.D.T. present in fruit and vegetables shall be determined by the following method:—

The D.D.T. residue is determined by the total dechlorination of the organic substances soluble in petroleum ether by a modified Stepanow reaction and calculation of the determined chlorine in terms of D.D.T. (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane).

#### Reagents.

Petroleum ether—boiling range 60-80 deg. C.

Absolute ethyl alcohol.

Metallic sodium.

Silver nitrate solution—0.02 normal.

Ammonium thiocyanate—0.02 normal.

Nitrobenzene.

Ferric alum indicator:—

Dissolve 40 grams of ferric ammonium sulphate in water, acidify with nitric acid, boil for a few minutes, cool, and make to a volume of 100 ml.

#### Sample.

A representative sample of approximately 1500 grams is necessary for the analysis; this would contain 15 mgrms. of D.D.T. if the maximum allowable residue is present. Excessive handling of the sample should be avoided.

#### Extraction.

Immerse portion of the sample in a 1-litre beaker containing 500 ml. of petroleum ether for ten minutes, and then by means of forceps transfer to a second beaker of solvent and allow to remain immersed for a further ten

## What Do YOU Know of PHARMACEUTICAL HISTORY?

(Continued.)

These defections were a sad blow. Some were not unexpected; but a few were prominent manufacturers of well-known lines. Deep bitterness against the defaulter was felt in chemist circles, and the odium was long-lived. In this later time all the firms involved are among the most staunch of price maintainers, but their former weakness cost them dear. This early success for the "enemy," though it shook the Executive momentarily, steeled the leaders for the fray.

Almost at once Grace Brothers were added to the Stop List, and the prospect was that other department stores would soon follow. The conflict was extending, and the business of a number of manufacturers and wholesalers was upset. Day by day matters became more fevered, midnight meetings of the Executive were frequent and protracted, and the leaders saw that the strain on those directly involved would tell more against the P.A.T.A. than against its adversaries. In these circumstances the chairman (H. D. B. Cox) agreed to meet in an "informal" conference representatives of the three firms with a wholesaler and a manufacturer also present. The conference was attended by Messrs. Gillett (Hordern's), J. Spence (Pattinson's), E. Grace (Grace Bros.)—for whom the first-named acted as spokesman—W. Lewis (J. B. Williams' agent), and H. Levy (Elliott Bros.)—all long since "passed beyond"—together with the P.A.T.A. representative, and met in Elliott Brothers' board room. The meeting developed into a duel between Gillett and Cox and ended in deadlock, contrary to the object of Levy, whose design for the conference was a retraction by the P.A.T.A. with some face-saving compromise.

It should be clear by now that the Retail Section of the Council had got into practically sole control. It was not so much that the section had deliberately usurped the powers of the full Council, but rather that circumstances favoured such control: wholesalers' interest in the direction of the Association had waned, and manufacturers had been consistently indifferent. The inherent unsoundness in such a situation now became plain, and the Executive set out to remedy it, late as it was, because further cracks were threatening to cause a break on the manufacturer "front."

A fresh meeting of manufacturers was held 24/4/1912 to consider proposals framed by the Retail Section. The attendance was better than previously, but still far from what the occasion required. The principal motion was for the election of six persons to constitute a Manufacturers' Section of the Council. This was carried, and Messrs. R. K. Allport, G. F. Birks, O. Blau, G. I. Hudson, W. Lewis, and C. Murray were chosen. Of these none remains but Mr. Birks—a great P.A.T.A. leader later.

(To be continued.)

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minutes. After allowing the excess solvent to drain back into the beaker, discard the treated sample. This procedure is repeated with the remainder of the sample.

Maintain the volume of solvent in the first beaker by additions as necessary from the second, and the volume of solvent in the second beaker by additions of fresh solvent.

Fruit which has been treated with dusts containing D.D.T. may be gently brushed in the solvent to assist in the removal of adhering particles. With certain types of leafy vegetables, it may be preferable to shake the sample, in appropriate portions, twice with solvent in stoppered Erlenmeyer flasks.

Decant all the solvent used through a No. 4 Whatman filter paper into a 1000-ml. distillation flask.

**Estimation.**

Concentrate the solvent extract to about 30 ml. by distilling the surplus solvent from the flask, heating in an electrically heated water bath. Transfer the concentrated extract to a one-inch diameter Pyrex test tube, rinse the flask with solvent and add to the tube. Evaporate the solvent completely by gentle heating in a water bath at about 70 deg. C., and by drawing a stream of air over the solvent surface in the test tube.

Add 10 ml. absolute alcohol to the test tube, heat to dissolve the residue and add, one at a time, small pieces of clean metallic sodium until all the alcohol is consumed. Add a further 5 ml. of alcohol and more sodium; heat if the reaction becomes sluggish. If, finally, any unreacted sodium remains, add small amounts of alcohol until it has all reacted.

Transfer the solution to a 250-ml. Erlenmeyer flask with distilled water, make acid with dilute nitric acid, and boil for a few minutes.

Cool and add 20 ml. 0.02 normal silver nitrate solution, followed by 2 ml. nitrobenzene. Stopper the flask and thoroughly shake.

Add 2 ml. ferric alum indicator and titrate with 0.02 normal ammonium thiocyanate to the first colour change.

1 ml. 0.02 normal solution equals 0.001417 gm. D.D.T.

A blank determination using all reagents should be conducted and the appropriate correction applied to the final result. All glassware used should be thoroughly washed, rinsed with distilled water, and dried before use.

And the Honourable William Peter Barry, His Majesty's Minister of Health in the State of Victoria, shall give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

J. C. MACGIBBON,  
Acting Clerk of the Executive Council.

**OBITUARY.**

James Henderson Kilgour.

The death occurred on February 23 of Mr. J. H. Kilgour, who had been in business at Hampton for a number of years past. Earlier he was at Corowa, New South Wales. The late Mr. Kilgour was one of the first Gold Medallists of the Victorian College of Pharmacy, and qualified in 1889. Mr. J. A. T. Kilgour, of Hampton, is a son. Our sincere sympathy is extended to members of the family.

Henry James Mewkill.

Mr. H. J. Mewkill, who had been in business at St. Arnaud for many years, passed away on March 20. The late Mr. Mewkill took a keen interest in the P.D.L. during the stages of its development. He was one of the original members in 1912, and was a Director of the Company from 1913 to 1929. He was registered as a pharmacist in 1898. A son, Mr. V. L. Mewkill, formerly in business at Brighton, returned to St. Arnaud some months ago, in order to assist his father, who was then in ill-health. Our sincere sympathy is extended to members of the family.

## QUEENSLAND

To enable Mr. N. L. Topping, Warwick, to take a vacation, Miss R. I. M. Whitehead acted as locum.

Mr. J. L. Dunn has commenced business at Scarborough.

During the month Miss Joan Grice left for Tasmania to take up a position in a pharmacy at Launceston.

A visitor to Brisbane and Sydney during the month was Mr. F. F. Mills, Clermont. Mr. W. E. Thomas acted as locum during Mr. Mills' absence.

Miss U. M. Wilson was in charge of Mr. J. M. Chapman's pharmacy, Inglewood, during the month, while Mr. Chapman went on holidays.

The B.A.F.S. Dispensary has opened a branch at Wynnum, Mrs. E. A. Boden being manager of the dispensary. The opening of the dispensary makes the fourth pharmacy in Wynnum.

Mr. A. J. McNear has sold his pharmacy at St. Paul's terrace, Brisbane, to Mr. J. Hole, formerly of Toowoomba. Mr. McNear has left for Tasmania, where he will be in business at Longford.

Wedding.—At the Nambour Presbyterian Church on February 27 the marriage was quietly solemnised of Miss M. E. Watson, Maroochydore, to Mr. F. Jacobs, of Geraldton, Western Australia. Congratulations and best wishes!

We are pleased to report that advice from Mr. E. G. Clark, Home Hill, stated that his loss as a result of the recent floods in North Queensland, was not severe, and he was able to resume business on March 6.

New Member on the Pharmaceutical Society Council.—To fill the vacancy caused by Miss E. C. Underwood's resignation, Miss Z. Edwards has been co-opted a member of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland. Miss Everett (the other lady pharmacist on the Council) and Miss Edwards will be the women pharmacists' representatives on the Council.

### HOSPITAL PLANS TO MAKE DRUGS.

#### Wages Application Also Dealt With.

The Brisbane and South Coast Hospital Board may manufacture and supply certain medicines and drugs to other hospital boards.

This was stated by Mr. E. W. Fraser, representing the Board, in the Industrial Court, Brisbane, on February 27. However, he said the plan could be implemented only when sufficient chemists were available.

The Court, comprising Messrs. T. A. Ferry and W. J. Riordan, granted an application by the Miscellaneous Workers' Union for the restoration to chemists employed at the Brisbane Hospital the margin of 11/- previously existing, although not in the award, over the rate prescribed for chemists in private establishments.

The decision is subject to the approval of the Chief Judge of the Federal Arbitration Court.

Mr. H. J. Harvey appeared for the union.

The senior dispenser's rate will be increased from £8/11/- to £9/1/-, and the rate for assistants from £8 to £8/11/-.

Mr. Fraser agreed with Mr. Harvey that the Board had found difficulty in obtaining competent chemists.

### OBITUARY.

We regret to report the death early in February of Mr. A. Symons, Rockhampton. Mr. Symons had been in business in Rockhampton for many years. To Mrs. Symons and her family we extend sincere sympathy.

Two pharmacists who have recently suffered bereavement through the passing of a parent are Mr. C. S. Spiers, Brisbane, and Mr. E. L. Belford, Indooroopilly, to whom we offer sincere condolence.

### THE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN PHARMACISTS OF QUEENSLAND.

The opening meeting for the year was held in the Lyceum Club rooms, Brisbane, on February 21, at 8 p.m. The attendance of fifty-five included Mr. V. Barnett

# 'DETTOL'

## THE MODERN ANTISEPTIC

SOLD BY CHEMISTS ONLY

The great popularity of 'Dettol' is due to its extraordinary combination of efficiency with pleasantness. It can be used at really effective strengths without danger or discomfort and without even staining. These are good reasons for recommending it to your customers as an antiseptic for wounds, cuts, scratches, a gargle for sore throats, a home disinfectant or for personal hygiene.

RECKITT & COLMAN  
(AUSTRALIA) LTD.

(Pharmaceutical Dept.), Sydney



# A Chemists Only Line

BUSSELL'S

**FARINASE**

A SELF-DIGESTING  
FARINACEOUS FOOD  
FOR INFANTS AND INVALIDS

BUSSELL'S FARINASE is a readily tolerated and easily absorbed Food, and when prepared as directed its Starch is converted into soluble Dextrins, Malto-Dextrins and Maltose, the Milk Protein undergoing simultaneous modification, to provide on contact with the Gastric juices a finely divided and easily digested curd.

Its ready assimilation makes BUSSELL'S FARINASE particularly suitable for those suffering from digestive disturbances, and when taken at bedtime it will induce sound and restful sleep.

A Product of  
H. L. BUSSELL & CO. PTY. LTD.  
20-32 MEAGHER STREET, SYDNEY.

Obtainable from All Wholesalers.  
Packed in 16-oz. Tins.  
Retail at 3/3 per Tin.

(deputising for the patron, Mr. G. W. Eedy, who was out of town), Mr. and Mrs. R. S. F. Greig, Mrs. Meens (a lady pharmacist from Holland), Miss N. I. Robinson, of the Ipswich General Hospital, and twenty-one men students who were guests for the evening.

Miss M. C. Just's resignation from the Executive Committee was received with regret, and Miss O. V. Reeves elected to take her place.

During the evening Mr. R. S. F. Greig delivered a very interesting lecture on Hospital Pharmacy. He stressed the high ethical standard prevailing in the dispensary of the Brisbane General Hospital and the careful administration required in the handling of thousands of prescriptions daily. A feature of the work was the very close and cordial co-operation existing between the medical and pharmaceutical staffs. Much experimental work was done, and the latest scientific processes and modern methods used. All sterile solutions were prepared in a separate room, equipped with all the apparatus required, such as a double Barnstead still, a steam-heated autoclave and an electric hot-air steriliser. The lecturer dealt in detail with the various preparations of Penicillin used in the hospital, illustrating his lecture with samples. Mr. Greig also outlined the system whereby the distribution of dangerous and restricted drugs is controlled. His staff of 14 qualified chemists does not include any women.

A vote of thanks was moved by Mr. Barnett, who congratulated Mr. Greig upon his able and instructive lecture. This was seconded by Mrs. Stirling and carried unanimously.

Musical items were rendered by Miss Prentice and Mrs. Stirling.

While supper was being prepared a competition was held, prizes for which were donated by D. Maclean and Company and T. G. Cullum and Co.

The proposed programme for the next five months is as follows:—

- March 21: Lecture by Lady Cilento on Mothercraft.
- Sunday, April 7: Basket picnic at Miss Reeves' home, Tarragindi.
- April 18: Evening arranged by associate members.
- May 16: Lecture on Art by Dr. Gertrude Langer.
- June 20: "The Theatre," by Leon Black, of the Australian Theatre Guild.
- July 18: "Obstetrics," by Dr. Margaret Cleghorn.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Mr. T. G. Mitchell is making good progress, and is now in his own home at St. George's.

Mr. R. Cavanagh has returned from visiting relatives in New South Wales.

Mr. E. F. Williams is assisting Mr. J. Tiver, of Somerton, Glenelg.

Mr. H. C. Martin, Registrar and Secretary, went to Kangaroo Island for his holidays in March.

Mr. R. Brougham, of Humbles-St. Peter's, has been on holidays, being relieved by Mr. Dyer.

Mr. Clancy has been to Mr. Davison, of the Kilkenny branch of F.S.M.A.

Mr. Sorrell spent some time at Bevilacqua's Pharmacy and with Mr. G. Scott during March.

Miss Larwood has gone to Port Pirie to assist Mr. Netting.

Mr. F. Gould has been at Friendly Society Dispensary, Glenelg, while Mr. Manning was on holidays.

Mr. A. Hosking, of Loxton, has been visiting Adelaide for his holidays, having engaged Mr. J. Norman to relieve him.

Mr. H. G. Collyer has been on holidays in Streahey Bay, Miss Teate being in charge of Brighton Pharmacy during his absence.

Mr. T. P. Hennings has been relieving Mr. Young, of Angaston, and Mr. L. J. Dundon, of Mt. Gambier, Mr. Dundon taking his holidays in Victoria at one of their chief seaside resorts.

Mr. F. C. Kent, Hon. General Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Association of Australia and New Zealand, visited Adelaide early in March and stayed at Hotel Napoleon. He met the conference committee and discussed plans for the Association meeting at Adelaide in August next.

Wedding.—The marriage of Nancy Heading, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. Heading, of Campbelltown, with Noel Bahnisch, only son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Bahnisch, of North Walkerville, and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. G. Zbierski, of Prospect, was celebrated in Campbelltown Methodist Church on February 23. The bride wore an Early Victorian gown of white organdie and a tulle veil lent by the bridegroom's aunt, Mrs. M. Pritchard. The bridesmaids were Misses Janet Heading, Suzanna Trebilcock and Mary Pritchard. F.O. Gerald Simcock (R.A.A.F.) was best man.

#### PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY: HALF-YEARLY MEETING.

The half-yearly meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia was held on February 26 in Covent Garden, when Mr. K. S. Porter, the President, expressed pleasure at the excellent attendance of over 100 members and student associates.

In opening the meeting the President gave a brief resume of the activities of the society since the last meeting, referring in particular to a successful drive to enrol new members, alterations made in the local committee in connection with "The Australasian Journal of Pharmacy," evening lectures at the University, the difficulties which the Council had met in endeavouring to arrange for refresher courses for ex-service personnel, and to the forthcoming conference of Australian pharmacists to be held in Adelaide next August.

Mr. C. A. M. Reid, President of the Pharmacy Board, presented final certificates to Messrs. W. J. Hearn, T. P. Hemmings and F. Sleep, an apology being received from W. Bahnisch. In addressing the recipients, Mr. Reid spoke of the many new drugs becoming available, in addition to the older drugs of vegetable origin, which still remained the most important for everyday use.

Mr. Porter presented the first-year prize to C. H. C. Ward and the second-year prize to H. W. Gilbert, with hearty congratulations to each of them.

At the close of business on the agenda Mr. C. T. Kinnear drew attention to the increase of the number of pharmacies operating on the principle of the chain store. The President stated that this matter was one for particular attention by the Guild, but that to the extent to which it concerned the Council of the Society, it would receive most careful attention.

Mr. J. Andrews gave a long and most interesting address on "Radar: What it is. How it is used. The effect upon the physical and mental well-being of personnel operating Radar. Possible future application of Radar in medical practice."

The listeners were given the rare treat of hearing a very clear explanation of the subject, and were not bored by being given technical details which they could not understand. It was obvious that the speaker had an intimate knowledge of his subject. This enabled him to present in an attractive manner those aspects which were of more than passing interest to pharmacists.

A number of artists gave some excellent items, which were well received by the gathering. A move was then made to the adjoining room for supper, at a comparatively early hour, which allowed time for a chat to wind up a pleasant evening.

#### MARCH ECHOES.

Well, the February exams. launched six new craft on to the unknown waters of post-war social securitised pharmacy in the persons of Williams, Robinson, Purches, Clarke, Larwood and Barnes, the last being ex-service from Angau and the trails of New Guinea, as a European medical assistant. Congrats. to all.

The year of 1946 is breaking all records with 42 new entrants, of whom three are ex-servicemen of a status which takes them straight into second-year. Of the remaining 39 there are four from the forces, including Cec. Retallick's son and Jim Upton's brother. Hal Knightly, Kevin O'Connell, Ned Hammatt, Howard Flaherty and Jim Gordon all take up their interrupted studies at various points. With those who started in 1945 we have a good percentage of people who "know their onions" in the total enrolment of 103, which is itself a record.

As always at this period of the year the 'phone in 217 pleads time after time for "Please where can I get a registered man?" but as all finalists are booked up years ahead of reaching the goal, the answer is always, "Sorry, there is nobody out of work, but try so-and-so."

Sorry to have missed Jack Porteus when he got to 217 on the morning it was necessary to call at the office on the way down. The fruits of nutmeg and betel nut straight off the tree left on desk will be an adjunct to museum, but am afraid there won't be much demand for a lend of the Japanese Pharmacopoeia which accompanied them.

Letters from Alan Bowey's wife retail fact of his sailing on aircraft carrier "Formidable," which means a passage of under a month, so by time you read this in print he will be back again. This week also brought a P.O.W. card from him, dated 7/1/45 (15 months old).

Hubert Kimber sends from Mhow, India, a local sheet of formulae, a photo. of himself in a jungle group, and two letters containing the following items of news:—"Looking forward to leaving here in April, and in Australia soon afterwards with Mrs. Kimber and our two children, now three years and 15 months old . . . both boys . . . a great joy to us. Wife's first visit to Aussie. . . . She is expecting much after all that I have told her about the country. Expect to stay for at least 12 months and may take up pharmacy for a bit. India, politically, is in rather a disturbed state . . . much anti-British feeling, but it has weight of words, only."

Dave Kerby blew in during the first week in term to say the going was good in second-year medicine, but that the anatomy class was rather of a crowded nature.

#### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Lieut. J. T. Allan has obtained his release from the Army and is now at Ambassadors pharmacy.

Mr. Eric E. Johns has left the Friendly Societies Dispensary, Subiaco, to open a pharmacy at Inglewood.

Mr. G. R. Hadfield has been released from the R.A.A.F., and is leaving for Melbourne to take a medical course.

Mr. M. G. Huggins, recently qualified, has taken a position with Miss Harris, of Stirling Highway, Nedlands.

Mr. A. T. Stocker, recently released from military duties, is at the Friendly Societies Dispensary, Leederville.

Mr. Dan White and Mr. V. Turner are at present in the eastern States. Mr. White is a delegate at the life-saving conference at Bondi (N.S.W.).

Mr. S. Lippingwell, of Tillys Ltd.; Mr. J. C. Blennerhassett, of Fitch's pharmacy; and Mr. A. V. Alman are away on holidays.

Phenobarb and Adrenalin.—It is again necessary to remind pharmacists that these two drugs are on Part I of the Fifth Schedule, and must be entered and signed for in the poisons register unless ordered on prescription.

Bowls.—A bowls night was held at Fremantle on the evening of February 21. The "ashes" were won by the Wholesalers, who scored 139 to the Retailers' 106. The "ashes" have now been won an equal number of times by each side. Flowers from the tables submitted for auction realised £40, which was handed to the Fremantle Bowling Club towards its "Food for Britain Appeal Fund."

PHARMACEUTICAL COUNCIL OF WESTERN  
AUSTRALIA.

## Result of Triennial Election.

The Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Council of Western Australia has notified that the triennial election held on March 20, 1946, for members of the Council for the ensuing three years, resulted as follows:—

1. T. D. H. Allan.
2. F. E. Gibson.
3. G. H. Dallimore.
4. R. J. Cohen.
5. H. D. Fitch.
6. H. O. Howling.
7. A. A. Baxter.

There were ten candidates for the seven vacancies. Mr. H. D. Fitch and Mr. A. A. Baxter are new members of the Council.

## TRADE NOTES

## PAUL DUVAL CAPITAL INCREASED.

Paul Duval (Australia) Pty. Ltd. has increased its nominal capital from £4000 to £10,000 by creation of 6000 ordinary shares of £1 each, according to advice published on March 11.

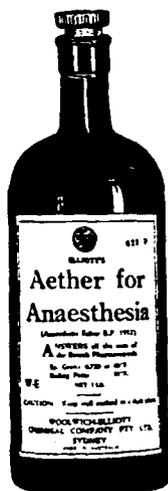
## "ANTI-BI-SAN."

Fassett and Johnson Ltd., of Sydney, has forwarded to us a notification that it has been appointed Australasian distributors for Anti-Bi-San Ltd., London, manufacturer of "Anti-Bi-San," an immunisation treatment against influenza and colds by oral administration.

## Dependable Anaesthetics

when you specify  
**WOOLWICH or ELLIOTT**

Many years' production experience assures safety during anaesthesia, comfortable induction and easy recovery.



Twenty-five years' use in Hospitals and Institutions guarantees its practical properties.

All B.P. tests fully met.



**WOOLWICH-ELLIOTT  
CHEMICAL CO. PTY. LTD.**

17 Bridge St., Sydney. Tel. B 3877

A comprehensive propaganda campaign, including press and radio publicity, as well as progressive mailing schemes to the medical profession, is to be released shortly. The agent suggests that stocks be checked immediately in order that pharmacists may be in a position to supply on first call.

"Anti-Bi-San" is offered in two sizes—one for adults and the other for children (4-15 years), and supplies can be readily obtained from all wholesale druggists throughout the Commonwealth.

BURROUGHS WELLCOME & CO. (AUSTRALIA)  
LTD.

"Tabloid" brand sulphaguanidine. 0.5 gramme, is now available in bottles of 100 and 500; the prices in Sydney are 13/9 and 62/- per bottle respectively.

Sulphaguanidine (sulphanilylguanidine) is a sulphanilamide derivative first prepared in the Burroughs Wellcome & Co. laboratories. It is specific in the treatment of bacillary dysentery of all types and in carrier cases; also effective in many cases of non-specific diarrhoea, and in neonatal gastro-enteritis. Successful results have been reported also in proctitis of lymphogranuloma inguinale, ulcerative colitis, regional ileitis and diverticulitis. The drug has been widely used as a prophylactic measure in surgery of the large intestine. "Tabloid" sulphaguanidine is administered orally.

## SIGMA CO. LTD.

The ordinary general meeting of shareholders in Sigma Co. Ltd. was held at 562 Little Bourke street, Melbourne, on March 28, at 8 p.m.

The accounts of the company for the year ended January 25, 1946, revealed a net profit of £40,328/2/-. Of this amount, provision of £3300 has been made for income taxes; a sum of £2893 has been transferred to reserve, and a further sum of £500 has been transferred to the staff educational fund. From the remaining amount of £33,635/2/-, dividends on preference shares and on amounts from time to time paid up on ordinary shares, together with dividend of 7/6 per purchaser's share, account for £33,399/18/7. The remaining balance, together with the balance brought forward from 1945, results in an amount of £3928/5/7 being carried forward to the next accounting period.

A brief report of the business dealt with at the annual meeting will be published in our April issue.

## NICHOLAS PTY. LTD.—ETHICAL DIVISION.

Lt.-Col. G. D. Houston, M.P.S., D.S.O., on his discharge from the Royal Australian Artillery, has joined the staff of the ethical division of Nicholas Pty. Ltd., Melbourne.

Lt.-Col. Houston joined the A.I.F. on May 1, 1940, as a battery commander of the 2/12th Field Regiment, taking part in the following campaigns:—The siege of Tobruk, the battle of El Alamein, and, afterwards, Lae-Finschhafen and Labuan-Borneo. He also served in Syria and Palestine, and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel in July, 1943. He was appointed acting commander of the Royal Australian Artillery, 9th Division, in September, 1945. He was awarded the D.S.O. at El Alamein for distinguished service in the field, and was twice mentioned in despatches. He was wounded in action on February 2, 1944.

Mr. R. G. Smith, M.P.S., was recently appointed to the position of secretary of Nicholas Pty. Ltd. Mr. Smith, who has been a member of the staff of the company for a number of years, was admitted as an associate of the Australian Chemical Institute some time ago.

Melbourne "Herald" Report, 20/3/46, Shows How

# Nothing Succeeds like SUCCESS

**CHEMIST CO. HAS RECORD YEAR**

- A record profit;
- An all-time high for gross earnings; and
- Increase in dividend of 10d. to 7/6 on purchasers' shares.

These are the highlights in the accounts of Sigma Co. Ltd., wholesale druggists and manufacturing chemists, for the year to January 25.

**PROFIT** for the year was £37,028, after providing for tax, compared with £30,423 in the previous year, when tax took £5,000.

Latest profit equals 27 p.c. on shareholders' funds.

Preference dividends of 7 p.c. and 6 p.c. take £2,580, and 5 p.c. on ordinarys (unchanged) requires £2,950.

Dividend on purchasers' shares is raised from 6/8 to 7/6 a share, absorbing £27,869.

This dividend is in direct relation to shareholders' purchases from the company. It equals just over 6 p.c. of each shareholder's purchases, provided that they are supported by the relevant number of ordinary shares.

After paying the dividends, £500 to staff educational fund, £392 of undistributed profit is carried forward.

Gross earnings were £83,168 (£71,454 in 1945). Interest in £3833 and commission brought in £1167. Dividend from Tromax Ltd. £5421. Expenses of £43,541 were £1766 more and depreciation was up £3804. Profit of Tromax Ltd. rose from £1210 to £3492 in the same period. Tax provision was £4500. against £550 in 1944-45.

**Graziers May Outbid Butchers**

By Our Livestock Writer  
Some butchers fear that they may be outbid by graziers, when fat stock sales resume next week.

As an example, a pen of 200 cross lambs were sold for £2000.

**CO-OPERATION  
MUST PAY!**

Sigma purchasing Shareholders receive £27,869 for past year.

This is the result of the united support of the Company's Proprietaries and Merchandising activities.

*PLAN NOW to Add Additional Support during 1946.*

**SIGMA COMPANY LIMITED**

562 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne, C.1.

**The Chemists' Own Co-operative Warehouse**

# The Outstanding Preparation in Years!

The peculiar characteristics of our special formula can only be controlled by our Chemist, who has had long experience in the technical complications in its manufacture.



**BRUSHBAK** is a pure and extremely pleasant Antiseptic Hair-dressing in Emulsion form, superseding all other types of Hair Creams . . .

Guaranteed **PURE** by the makers of the Famous Zar-ona **FIXALINE**

## YOUR WHOLESALERS—

### N.S.W.:

Elliotts & Aust. Drug.  
Wholesale Drug Co.  
W. H. Soul, Pattinson.  
F. H. Faulding & Co.  
David Cohen & Co.

### QUEENSLAND:

Taylor, Elliotts Ltd.  
A. M. Bickford & Sons.

### VICTORIA:

Sigma Co. Ltd.  
Rocke, Tompsitt & Co.  
Tas. Eucalyptus Oil.  
Felton, Grimwade & Duerdins.  
Bradley's Pty. Ltd.

### S.A.:

F. H. Faulding & Co.  
A. M. Bickford & Sons

### TASMANIA:

A. J. Miller & Maund.

### W.A.:

Our Agents: Brayshaw's Ltd.,  
Box F 360, G.P.O., Perth.

## FELTON, GRIMWADE & DUERDINS PTY. LTD.

### Suburban Site Purchased for Laboratories.

A large expansion programme has been planned by Felton, Grimwade & Duerdins Pty. Ltd., the Victorian unit of Drug Houses of Australia Ltd. The company has purchased 14 acres of land on the main Point Nepean road, about half a mile south of the Moorabbin railway crossing. Here modern laboratories will be built in park and garden surroundings.

Announcing this on March 6, Mr. Russell Grimwade said the city site that would be vacated was more than an acre in Spencer street, West Melbourne. The old site, with its laboratories, had played a considerable part in the growth of Australia's pharmaceutical and light chemical industries. During the two world wars millions of articles had been produced there for use by the services.

The new laboratories would be designed to produce the more refined commodities. Heavy work would remain in out-of-sight areas.

Mr. Grimwade was unable to prophesy when a start would be made with the new buildings, but he said it would be as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the new property would be used as a market garden.

### OBITUARY.—Mr. HORACE FOWLER.

The death occurred on March 7 of Mr. Horace Fowler, a director and executive of Alfred Lawrence & Co. Ltd. and its subsidiaries.

The late Mr. Fowler, who was widely known in commercial and industrial circles, had been associated with Alfred Lawrence and Co. for over 40 years. He was interested in all branches of sport, and in his earlier days was a keen cricketer. His principal hobby was music, in which art he had much skill as a pianist, and he was very widely informed in most branches of musical literature. He was at one time a member of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and the Melbourne Philharmonic Society, under the late Alberto Zelman.

Mr. Fowler was a son of the late Frank Harry Fowler, who was one of the founders of the Brisbane Liedertafel. He leaves a widow and two children, to whom our sympathy is extended.



The Late Mr. Horace Fowler.

### PACKAGING ENGINEER RETURNS.

We have been advised by the Business News Service, of 16 O'Connell street, Sydney, that Mr. Martin J. Willis, manager of Process Machinery Company, a division of Westcott Hazell Engineering and Steel Pty. Ltd., has just returned to Australia after spending several months in the U.S.A. investigating the latest developments in modern packaging.

As a result of his representations on behalf of Australian manufacturers, Mr. Willis was able to persuade a number of prominent American manufacturers of packaging machinery to make a portion of their future production available to Australia, although most of them have domestic orders which will absorb their entire production for the next two to three years.

With several of the world's leading manufacturers of packaging machinery now represented in Australia by his company, Mr. Willis is able to render an exceptionally helpful service to Australian manufacturers who desire to take advantage of the increased production and lower costs that can be obtained with the latest equipment in this field.

He is available for consultation, without obligation, with any firms interested in learning of to-day's developments in packaging in the U.S.A. The address of Process Machinery Company is 16 O'Connell street, Sydney; telephone BW 6739.

### P.A.T.A. OF VICTORIA.

#### Addition to Protected List.

E. S. Bradley, 130 Nicholson street, Footscray:—Kapp's Antiseptic Soap, retail, 1/4 each; wholesale, 9/6 doz. plus 25 per cent. sales tax.

Harold F. Ritchie Aust. Pty. Ltd., Melbourne:—Parcel rate of 5 per cent. on assorted six-dozen purchases of the following: Germoline Ointment, Germolets, Germoloids, Cassell's Tablets and Cassell's Ready Relief.

REES JONES, Secretary.

Melbourne, March 14, 1946.

### MORE ABOUT BARBITURATES.

A four-point programme for protecting the public against abuse of barbiturate "sleeping pills" without doing a disservice to "the millions who need the help of the barbiturates," was advanced recently by Dr. Theodore G. Klumpp, president of Winthrop Chemical Company.

Speaking before the New York branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association, meeting at the Hotel Pennsylvania, Dr. Klumpp charged that "the exaggerated, highly imaginative accounts of the evils of the barbiturates do a disservice to the millions of sick, or otherwise normal individuals, who need the rest and sleep which nothing else gives them as safely and effectively as the barbiturates." He urged:—

1. Development of a programme of education of physicians and druggists concerning the importance of care in the prescription and dispensing of barbiturates.
2. More intensive enforcement of provisions of the Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act relating to over-the-counter sales of barbiturates.
3. An aggressive programme by the American Medical Association, the American Pharmaceutical Association and other appropriate organisations, looking to enactment of State and local laws and regulations patterned after and implementing the Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act with respect to the barbiturates.
4. Refusal of these organisations to support legislation and regulations differing significantly from the Federal pattern because a multiplicity of rules leads only to confusion and adds an unnecessary burden to the orderly flow of drugs.

Dr. Klumpp cited available official statistics, which showed that "in the worst year, 1941, suicides from the barbiturates represented only 2 per cent. of the total number of suicides. As for accidental deaths, excluding motor vehicular deaths, those from the barbiturates totalled less than two-tenths of 1 per cent.

"From a social and humanitarian standpoint," Dr. Klumpp said, "it is desirable and necessary that we do everything possible to frustrate the plans of those who wish to take their lives. Every physician who has had occasion to treat potential suicides is gratified to find that a significant percentage of those who regain consciousness have changed their minds and are fervently anxious to live.

"This much can be said in favour of the barbiturates. The margin of safety is unbelievably great, the lethal effect comes relatively slowly, and antidotes, except against overwhelming dose, are effective. While there are no reliable statistics, it is a common medical impression that more attempted suicides fail than with any other means."—"The Indiana Pharmacist."

: : **BOARDS and SOCIETIES** : :**NEW SOUTH WALES****THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.**

Council meeting 5/2/1946.

**Present.**—Messrs. H. Clemens, J. L. Townley, P. D. Belcher, C. G. Gostelow, J. Shineberg, W. R. Cutler, N. Alexander, R. E. Dodd, D. Dunn, H. W. Read, R. C. Tottenham, and R. E. Gostelow (Secretary).

**Welcome to Mr. Conolly.**—The President, in opening the meeting, introduced Mr. A. E. Conolly, who had been appointed to the office of Secretary following the retirement of Mr. Gostelow. He intimated that the Council had confidence in Mr. Conolly's ability to carry out his duties and formally introduced him. Mr. Conolly, in reply, thanked the President for his welcome and stated he would do his best to carry on the good work of his predecessor.

**Matters Arising Out of Minutes:**

**Re Commonwealth National Library.**—Mr. Read reported that he had perused the catalogues supplied covering films available from the library on various subjects, but had found nothing of particular interest to this Society. In his opinion, therefore, no comment was called for. Resolved that no further action be taken.

**Re E. A. Oxley.**—The Secretary advised that the President and he had made inquiries following the discussion at last meeting as to suitable coaches to assist Mr. Oxley, an ex-serviceman. As a result of the investigations a communication had been forwarded to the Pharmacy Board of New South Wales.

**Correspondence.**—To Mrs. G. A. Farmer, expressing sympathy on the loss of her husband.

From Chief Secretary's Department, notifying the withdrawal of authority to be in possession of drugs under the Police Offences Amendment (Drugs) Act as from January 4; subsequently intimating that following a court case Mr. Cutcliffe's authority had been restored.

In this connection the Secretary reported upon an interview he had had with an officer of the Drug Bureau at which he had been requested to issue a special warning to all pharmacists against breaches of the Act and Regulations, as the department was proposing to take a serious view of such breaches.

From Mr. J. Hutcheon, asking that some information be forwarded to his son, Flight-Lt. Hutcheon, at Eden, on such plants as may be successfully grown for drug and herbal production at Eden. It was suggested that the Secretary communicate with Mr. E. Chiel, Curator of the Botanical Gardens, and Mr. H. Milton Cox, of Cox, Finlayson Pty. Ltd., to ascertain what information was available with a view of advising Flight-Lt. Hutcheon.

From University of Sydney, advising the following prize awards:—

**Pharmaceutical Society Materia Medica Prize**—N. J. Smith.

**William Short Prize for Chemistry**—Miss P. M. Johnston, J. Souter shared equally.

**F. P. J. Gray Prize for Botany**—discontinued.

The Secretary also advised that he had been notified by the Registrar of the Pharmacy Board that Miss A. E. White had been awarded the Elliott Prize for 1945, and that no award was recommended for the McCrory and Pharmaceutical Society Medals.

**Applications for Membership.**—Applications for membership were received from Misses J. M. Brown (Mittagong), J. Buck (Lithgow), M. I. G. Cunynghame (Broadmeadow), M. R. Drake (Newcastle), L. P. Skilton (East Maitland), M. A. Williams (Strathfield), Messrs. M. O. Carr (Lindfield), L. L. Eastmuir (Bondi), B. A. J. Larkin

(Bellevue Hill), A. E. Smith (Marrickville), and for Associate Membership from Miss B. M. Bolton (Dubbo).—The applications were approved.

**Reinstatements Approved.**—Roy Spencer Barden, of Bellevue Hill, and William Thomas Daniel Innes, of Canterbury.

**Finance.**—The usual finance statement was tabled and approved, and accounts passed for payment.

**Pharmaceutical Conference.**—The Secretary advised that, pursuant to instructions at the last meeting, reservations for delegates to the Adelaide Conference had been made per medium of the Pharmaceutical Association of Australia and New Zealand. He suggested that members should give some consideration to items for inclusion in the Conference agenda.

Members of Council expressed the view that it may be opportune to discuss at Conference the question of establishing a uniform standard for dispensing measures. The President suggested that this might be borne in mind when later information came to hand following activities of the Standards Association of New South Wales.

**Gayfer Bequest Competition.**—Mr. Clemens, on behalf of Mr. Dunn and himself, indicated that four entries had been submitted in this competition, three covering scientific subjects, and one dealing with pharmaceutical education.

**Annual Meeting.**—The Secretary advised that a reservation had been made for the Conference Hall, "Science House," for Thursday, March 28.

**Proposed Welcome to Prisoners of War and Servicemen.**—The Secretary reported that Mr. Shineberg had made certain contacts since last meeting, as a result of which he had interviewed the manager of the Hotel Wentworth, where it was thought a function might be arranged. The manager, however, showed disinclination to arrange the function, particularly in view of the shortage of liquor. It was decided to defer further consideration of this matter to next meeting.

**Education Proposals.**—Mr. Cutler again raised the question of the desirability of members of Council addressing local pharmacists' association meetings to advise members of the activities of the Society, and in particular Council's view in regard to its educational proposals. General discussion ensued, and at Mr. Cutler's request the President intimated that the matter would be placed early on the agenda for next meeting for further consideration.

**VICTORIA****PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA.**

Board meeting, March 13, 1946.

**Present.**—Messrs. H. A. Braithwaite (President), S. J. Baird, A. W. Callister, A. L. W. Jones, A. H. Mansell, A. W. McGibony, and the Registrar.

**Correspondence.**—From the Secretary of the Assistants' Guild, in reference to the application of a person holding a European qualification for registration after sitting for Final Examination. Instructions were given to the Registrar in regard to the reply to be forwarded.

From a correspondent, alleging ill-effects following the taking of a proprietary medicine, and asking that this be analysed. Referred to analysts in private practice.

From Mrs. W. Ross, seeking extension of time for carrying on the pharmacy of her late husband at Glenhuntly. Permit until February, 1947, granted.

From an industrial company, asking for authority to purchase sodiumdiethyl barbiturate for experimental work. Supply arranged.

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From a pharmacist, inquiring conditions under which a branch at which toilet goods, etc., only would be sold, could be carried on. The requirements of the Act and Regulations were explained, and it was decided that further information be given by the Chief Inspector after an inspection of the premises.

To Arthur Vale and Co. Pty. Ltd., advising that the distribution of poisons in "Cellophane" packages would be contrary to the provisions of the Poisons Act.

To the Department of Health, forwarding completed questionnaire re conditions for registration, distribution of pharmacies, etc., in Victoria.

From the Department of Health, forwarding file regarding "Gammexane." Resolved that expert advice be obtained in regard to this substance and the necessity for bringing it and related compounds within the scope of the Poisons Schedules.

From a trading company, seeking permission to use plain triangular bottles for phenyle. The President said that reports received indicated that there might be some difficulty in obtaining regular supplies of amber bottles complying with the specifications of the Poisons Regulations. It was suggested that a conference of representatives of the Disinfectant Manufacturers' Section of the Chamber of Commerce be held to discuss the question.

**Formal Business.**—The following formal business was dealt with:—

**Applications for Registration.**—Stanley Follett Clark, Betty Jean Wilson, John Rupert Salmon, Norma Margaret Fricke, Joan Patricia Armstrong, Mary Helen West, who had passed the Victorian Final Examination, and Dorothy McKee Bauld, who had passed the Tasmanian examination, were registered.

**Erasure from Register.**—Mr. J. H. Kilgour.

**Registration of Indentures.**—10.

**Transfer of Apprenticeships.**—7.

**Managers and Relievers.**—21.

**Business Changes Reported.**—5.

**Certificates of Identity Issued.**—3.

**Exemption Certificates Issued.**—16.

**Opium Permits Issued.**—5.

**Permits to Purchase Cyanide Issued.**—9.

**Licences as General Dealer in Poisons Issued.**—6.

**Licences to Sell Poisonous Substances Issued.**—49.

**Resignation of Mr. E. H. Leete.**—A letter was received from Mr. E. H. Leete, tendering his resignation as Inspector of the Board as from May 31, and expressing appreciation of the consideration shown to him during the nine years he had served with the Board. It was decided that the resignation be accepted with regret and that the position be advertised.

**Inspectors' Reports, Inquiries, Etc.**—A report, covering inspections in the Western District was received from Inspector Leete. This indicated that pharmacies, stores, etc., at Coleraine, Horsham, Dimboola, Jeparit, Donald, St. Arnaud and Bacchus Marsh had been visited, and advice given regarding requirements of the Poisons and Pharmacy Acts where necessary. One trader was warned for the sale of poisons without a licence. Reports were submitted concerning pharmacy in a country town established in premises where business of another nature was carried on. No breaches of the law were disclosed.

Further reports concerning conditions at a dispensary and a complaint by the dispensary manager in regard to a reliever were considered, and it was decided that from the information supplied further action was not called for.

**Unauthorised Use of Cocaine.**—A report that an unregistered assistant had obtained a quantity of cocaine, which he had used for himself, was reported by the employer. The report was investigated by the Chief Inspector, who submitted a report to the Board on steps taken by him and advice given to the person concerned. The unregistered assistant had found employment in another pharmacy, and had been interviewed by the Chief Inspector and the Registrar at the Board's offices. His progress was being watched. Report received.

**Final Examination Results.**—The following reports were received from the examiners and adopted:—

**Passed.**—Gwenyth Irene Tripcony, Nancy Cooke, David Bruce McGregor, Margaret Teresa Coakley, Gavan Leo Connell, Lyle Keith Dahlenburg, Lillian Ruth Lord, Alan Markov, Isabel Merle McLennan, Richard William Rogers, Inez Blyth H. Sheffield, Dorothy Margaret Stephenson, Nellie Tauman, Leonard Mackie Wilson, and David John Worland.

**Eligible to Take Single Subjects.**—

**Section II.**—C. S. Whytcross, Elizabeth H. Cooper, and Lindsay C. Lund.

**Section IV.**—Eric S. Arbuckle and Terence E. Cox.

**Section VI.**—Kenneth R. Tyler.

**Sections II and IV.**—Shirley Davis.

**Sections IV and VI.**—Alfred M. Montague and Mary B. McKenzie.

**D.D.T.**—Draft proclamations for the addition of D.D.T. and preparations containing 10 per cent. or more of D.D.T. to the Fourth Schedule to the Poisons Act were submitted and approved for transmission to the Secretary, Department of Health, for gazettal.

**Potassium Chlorate—Sale to Minors.**—Consideration was given to a file received from the Chief Inspector of Explosives through the Secretary, Department of Health, suggesting that if possible the sale of Potassium Chlorate to persons under 16 years of age be prohibited under regulations administered by the Board. The Registrar reported that legal opinion had been obtained, and this indicated that it was not possible under any existing Act or Regulation to deal with this substance, which was not classifiable as a poison.

It was decided that a reply to this effect be forwarded, and that the Department be advised that if legislative authority could be given, the Board would be willing to undertake the regulation of such substances.

**Apprentices, 1946.**—The Registrar reported that selection of applicants for admission to the College of Pharmacy had been completed, and the full number of 55 students from the schools selected. A similar number of service applications had been approved, making the class for first year 110, which was the maximum number that could be accommodated at the College of Pharmacy. Applicants not recommended for selection to the College had been advised not to enter into apprenticeships, because it was desirable that apprenticeship and academic studies should synchronise. Further, it was undesirable that a person should bind himself for a four-year apprenticeship unless reasonably assured of being admitted to lectures within a reasonable time.

Correspondence with a number of disappointed applicants, together with replies sent, was submitted and noted. The report was received.

**Application of Mr. S. Rothblit.**—A communication was received from the Secretary, Department of Health, with regard to the application of Mr. S. Rothblit for permission to sit for the Final Examination and proceed to registration. After further consideration of this matter, the Board resolved that the Secretary, Health Department, be advised that in the opinion of the Board it would be unwise to depart from or vary its decision in regard to this application.

**Service Applications.**—A number of applications for acceptance of educational qualifications was submitted by servicemen, and the recommendations of the Dean of the College of Pharmacy were adopted.

**Conference of Pharmacy Boards.**—Resolved that the question of remits and appointment of delegates be referred to a special meeting of Executives of the Board and the Society, to be held on March 15.

The meeting adjourned.

#### Special Meeting, 14/3/46.

A special meeting of the Board was held at the College of Pharmacy, Melbourne, on March 14, at 8 p.m., to receive a deputation from the Victorian Branch of the Federated Pharmaceutical Service Guild. The representatives of the Guild placed before the Board the views of the Guild concerning the amendments of the Dangerous

Drugs Regulations, gazetted on September 19, 1945, and asked that consideration be given to amending these Regulations in certain respects.

**Present.**—The President, Mr. H. A. Braithwaite (in chair), Messrs. S. J. Baird, A. W. Callister, A. L. W. Jones, A. H. Mansell, R. B. Paul (Chief Inspector) and the Registrar.

**Guild Representatives.**—Messrs. Eric Scott (State President), D. W. McEwen, N. F. Keith, R. I. Hamilton, S. Hull, F. N. Lee, Val. Preston, C. P. A. Taylor and B. Hornby.

**Welcome to Deputation.**—In welcoming the representatives of the Guild, the President said the Board would be glad to hear their objections to the Regulations and would give their representations full consideration, keeping in mind the fact that the function of the Board was to administer the pharmacy and poisons laws for the people. The Board, however, did not wish to impose an unfair burden on any section of the community. If it were shown that any parts of the Regulations were unnecessary or creating unnecessary hardship, the Board would be prepared to consider modification of those parts.

Mr. Scott thanked the President for the welcome extended and for agreeing to receive the deputation.

He said the Guild realised the responsibility of the Board's task. He hoped his representatives could so present the case against the new Regulations that the Board would agree to modify them, thus making for more harmonious working.

The new Regulations were causing irritation generally because of their harassing nature. Either because of bad publicity or because medical practitioners were taking no notice of circulars sent to them, they were disregarding the new conditions. Pharmacists were being made the "chopping block." Medical men were not co-operating. They were throwing the full responsibility upon the pharmacist. This was putting the pharmacist "out of court" with the public. Because of this there was growing indignation amongst pharmacists. They could not see the necessity for the full application of the Regulations.

It was impossible to interpret the many regulations and amendments coming forward. They were not permitted to supply more than 1/10 grain heroin to the drachm, but could supply "ad lib" a mixture with 1/10 grain to two drachms. They wondered why! They were not permitted to supply any preparation containing a sulphur drug for external use, even though the amount of the drug was so small that the whole lot could be swallowed in one dose without harm. He failed to see the necessity. Although some medical opinion supported this restriction, there was a greater body of medical opinion opposed to it. The pharmacist was so enmeshed by regulations that he was becoming an automaton. His position in 1946 was much inferior to that of 1900, and that was to be deplored. Pharmacists were bewildered. A mass of academic training, which they could never use in their practices, was being foisted on chemists. If it were necessary to give him that training he should be given some discrimination in the supply of drugs and not hemmed in by regulations. If pharmacists were taught to rely and act more upon their own responsibility they would become a greater force in the community.

Mr. Val. Preston referred to the large doses of the barbiturates specified in various pharmacopoeia, and quoted cases to indicate the massive doses taken without fatal effect.

A medical practitioner with whom he conferred said that the best thing that could happen would be for the Regulations to be rescinded. A professor at the University of Melbourne had expressed the opinion that the Regulations were too stringent.

He was forced to the conclusion that the Board required to go into the matter a great deal more deeply than they had prior to introducing the Regulations.

He asked that the Board publish reasons for bringing in the Regulations.

Mr. McEwen referred particularly to the difficulty arising from the necessity for cancellation and retention of the prescription. Almost all tablets of the barbiturates were subject to this restriction, although mixtures containing less than 1 per cent. were outside of control. In ephedrobarbital tablets the barbiturate was not used for the recognised purpose for which barbiturates are employed generally, but as a control for a more active and potent ingredient. He could not imagine anyone becoming addicted to the use of such compounds, which, in the main, were innocuous. He thought they should be excluded from the Regulations. Retention of the prescription after it was dispensed once imposed a hardship on the patient, particularly if the prescription included items other than the one which called for cancellation. The patient had nothing to refer back to his doctor.

Mr. McEwen said it was anomalous that the Regulations did not apply to all with equal severity. The private pharmacist had to cancel and retain the prescription. The prescription of a lodge member, written in the lodge member's prescription book, need not be retained. He thought pharmacists should not be asked to retain prescriptions, and suggested that a limit of quantity be imposed rather than a limit on the number of times that a prescription could be dispensed.

Mr. Taylor said the past six years of war had brought about a condition of neurosis in the community. This had brought about a big increase in the prescribing of the barbiturates. These drugs were freely used by men in the Forces, and they would expect them to be obtained as easily after their discharge. Private "Jones" was now back in civil life and was liable to have the same kind of troubled nights as in the past. The average serviceman would be amazed that he had to return to his doctor for another prescription when he required a repeat. In the Air Force phenobarbital as a sedative was looked upon as routine treatment.

Mr. Keith said that pharmacists were trained professional men. To the average pharmacist it seemed unfair that such restrictive regulations should be introduced because of 1 per cent. of "blacklegs." He felt that this small percentage should not dictate the Regulations.

So far as suburban medical practitioners were concerned the Regulations were practically ignored. If spoken of about the Regulations, the average medical practitioner seemed only to have heard vaguely about them, or to know nothing at all of them. The majority of those who had been told about the Regulations could not see the necessity for them.

Mr. Keith said that if the Regulations were to be continued in force the medical practitioners would have to be educated in some way in regard to them. Pharmacists did not think it was their job to do that. The only way in which the Regulations could be made effective was by education of medical practitioners, with a view to securing proper co-operation. Mr. Keith said that doctors, nurses and chemists had access to supplies of the barbiturates, and could give them to their relatives and friends. There had been so few instances in which harm had been done that pharmacists were asking the question whether the Regulations were necessary in the present "iron-clad" form.

Another point referred to by Mr. Keith was the requirement that a certificate covering six months' supply of a specified drug for a chronic case had to be written by the pharmacist to whom it was first delivered. This he thought was a hardship to the patient.

Mr. Hornby said that during the past three months he had visited most medical practitioners in the metropolitan area. Practically all had spoken of the new regulation in regard to specified drugs. Almost without exception medical practitioners realised the necessity for control of dangerous drugs. They realised that these were potent drugs, and consequently accepted the control provided by

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the Dangerous Drugs Regulations. However, they could not see the necessity for the rigid control of the barbiturates. The average general practitioner regarded this drug in the same light as he did pot. cit. or pot. brom. Every third prescription contained one of the barbiturates.

As far as he could ascertain 70 per cent. of practitioners had not seen, or if they had seen it not read, any communication from the B.M.A. or the Board regarding the new Regulations. The majority said definitely that they "did not care a damn" about the Regulations, which they regarded as unreasonable. Thus medical practitioners were throwing the onus on to the pharmacists. Local chemists were getting the "backwash." Patients went back to the doctors and complained, and the doctor told them they would have to fight it out with the chemist.

Mr. Hornby said he thought that the cancellation and retention of these prescriptions was damaging to pharmacists.

Mr. Hamilton referred to the apparent anomaly in the Regulations, which permitted the sale of preparations of up to 1 per cent. of barbiturates without a prescription and the prohibition on tablets such as glycerobarbital, ephedrobarbital, theobrom. compounds, etc.

Mr. Lee said he thought the Board members must be convinced now that an unfair burden had been placed on pharmacists by the new Regulations. The Regulations had imposed a burden, and he submitted that the burden was just as onerous to the public. To support the contention he instanced the case of a customer who had come to him in the middle of the night for a repeat of ephedrobarbital tablets to relieve an acute attack of asthma. He had to refuse supply because the prescription had been dispensed previously.

The Regulations were harassing doctors unnecessarily. 99.5 per cent. of the suburban practitioners did not know of or understand these Regulations. It had been suggested that where more than one item appeared on a prescription the Specified Drug Section could be cancelled and cut out. Frankly they were of opinion that that was not practicable. To copy the uncanceled portion was an intolerable burden. The doctor passed the blame to the chemist, who was penalised by the severity of the Regulation.

Pharmacists felt that an unfair disadvantage had been taken of them because the Regulations did not apply to members of lodges. They were not required to retain the prescriptions of lodge members. The burden had become so acute that pharmacists had been forced by stress of circumstances to disobey the Regulations. In many instances pharmacists were compelled to hand back a prescription to a patient because the doctor required it when the patient returned for a second visit.

The friction developed between pharmacist, doctor and customer as a result of the Regulations was losing much goodwill to pharmacists. That was a serious thing. He submitted that the Board, before bringing in a regulation of this nature, should have taken steps to ensure that the co-operation of medical practitioners would be forthcoming.

Mr. Hull said that he was in favour of the Regulations and thought they should have been introduced long ago. His criticism was that insufficient publicity had been given to doctors and that notification to them had been unduly delayed.

The objections of all speakers were then summarised by Mr. Scott, as follows:—

- (1) Retention of prescriptions was a gross disadvantage to chemists, which resulted in loss of valuable goodwill because they were at "outs" with both doctor and patient.
- (2) There was discrimination between pharmacists and dispensaries.
- (3) Undue restriction robbed the pharmacist of initiative and thereby depressed his status.

The President said he had been very interested in a lot of the points raised, and had no doubt that the members of the Board had fresh aspects presented to them.

. He did not think that some of the points raised were nearly as worrying if the whole picture were taken into consideration. Pharmacists were responsible for handling poisons of all types. Some were of such a nature that their distribution had to be controlled through restrictions of distribution, recording in poisons book, etc. Others could be supplied only on a medical prescription.

The Board was particularly concerned with certain specialised poisons, which were reported to be habit-forming—drugs of addiction. These needed very definite control.

The substances classified as "specified drugs" were not in the same category as morphia, and the other opiates and derivatives of morphine, but some of them were definitely habit-forming.

Also these drugs were dangerous in overdoses because of the difficulty in treating successfully persons who had taken a gross overdose. Frequently there was a long interval of time before treatment was started. All bodily processes were slowed down by the administration of the barbiturates, so that when treatment was eventually applied the body did not respond so readily to it.

The B.P. dose of two grains of phenobarbital had been accepted as the maximum. When this drug first came on the market as a proprietary there were actually five-grain tablets. He could cite cases of deaths from small doses of this drug. These, however, were useful only from the point of view of argument, just as those cases quoted by Mr. Preston to show that massive doses can be taken in some instances without fatal results.

With some of the new barbiturates, which were more complex in structure, there was a smaller gap between the maximum therapeutic dose and the minimum lethal dose. Therefore, the Board believed that they should remain under control because of the possible quantity that a patient could readily get hold of in one dose.

Mr. Preston had suggested that the Board should publish reasons for the amendments recently brought into operation. That might be a good thing, but there was no direct responsibility resting with the Board in this direction. Its responsibility was to introduce and administer such safeguards as were necessary for the protection of the public.

The main reason that retention of the prescription was introduced was to take the prescription out of circulation, so that it could not be trafficked in. The prescription was evidence of the genuineness of the transactions recorded. It also enabled the Board's Inspectors to verify that prescriptions were written by properly qualified and registered medical practitioners.

In regard to the difficulty about giving copies of prescriptions, the same applied to dangerous drugs, and his personal experience was that medical practitioners rarely asked for a copy of a dangerous drug prescription. The B.M.A. had been asked specifically to advise medical practitioners that when a specified drug was prescribed it should be written on a separate piece of paper, and not included with other prescriptions. This had been done. If it were possible in any way to get doctors to fall in with the suggestions the Board would endeavour to get it done.

Mr. Braithwaite said he admitted that ephedrine with phenobarbital did not need to be strictly controlled, and he had already made suggestions to the Board in regard to exempting compound preparations of this nature.

With regard to the application to lodge members' prescriptions, the regulation under review did not affect the position. Many years ago friendly societies were exempted from the requirement of writing copies of prescriptions in their prescription books. In the case of dangerous drugs, however, they were required to cancel the prescription in the lodge member's book and keep a copy in the prescription book.

Under the present Regulations the doctor could order a prescription to be dispensed any number of times and for any quantity he desired. No restriction was placed on the doctor or the patient as to the amount that could

be prescribed. It only required a little thought on the doctor's part to avoid those worries that apparently were being thrown on to pharmacists.

Mr. Taylor spoke about war neurosis. That was difficult to take care of. It was still open to the pharmacist to supply phenobarbital in mixtures which were free of the Regulations. He could see no way at present of providing for an open supply to people who administer their supplies in tablet form.

Mr. Keith had spoken of "blacklegs." Mr. Braithwaite said that personally he doubted whether there were 1 per cent. of these in pharmacy. But even less than 1 per cent., if they flouted the Regulations, could endanger the lives of many people. Laws were made not for the law observers, but for the law-breakers.

Referring to the alleged anomaly permitting sale of mixtures containing less than 1 per cent. of phenobarbital, Mr. Braithwaite said that relatively such mixtures were harmless. Phenobarb. supplied in tablet form, however, was a different proposition. Administration of tablets was so convenient and easy that it presented a serious problem. Nothing that had been said had altered his opinion that controls should be retained on these tablets.

Mr. Hornby had presented the objections of medical practitioners. During the war years medical practitioners had been grossly overworked. Many of them were still overworked, and that tended to increase the difficulty of the position. His view was that the younger generation were being taught a lot more about the everyday problems and worries of their profession, and that pharmacists could look to a greater degree to co-operation from the younger men.

He fully appreciated the fact that the Board's intentions about publicity had not been given effect to. He felt that the Board was free from blame in this regard. Delays were due primarily to the printers' strike. The B.M.A. did eventually distribute the pamphlet from the Board and sent out its own circular.

Some speakers had stated that doctors would not observe the Regulations. He claimed that they were observing the Regulations, but were not writing the kind of prescriptions pharmacists would like them to write.

Mr. Hornby had said that in the eyes of medical practitioners phenobarbital was similar to pot. cit. and pot. brom. He agreed. He thought that that was because generally speaking they used it in small doses. If they were to use it as it was originally used, for the full therapeutic effect, they would quickly realise that it was a drug to be controlled.

Mr. Lee had spoken about the unfair burden on the pharmacist and the patient. Personally he did not see that it was an unfair burden on the patient if the doctor ordered what he wanted the patient to have. If the doctor failed to do that it was he and not the Regulations that placed the burden on the patient.

In emergency cases such as the one referred to by Mr. Lee, the pharmacist should use his own discretion, and personally he had always authorised the supply of a drug for an emergency even though technically it was controlled by regulation. In such cases pharmacists should use their discrimination and report to the Board.

Pharmacists had been given into their custody many substances that were not controlled. These could be freely supplied, and he did not agree that the Regulations were such as to destroy the pharmacist's faculty of using his judgment.

Mr. Callister said the trouble was not peculiar to Victoria. These problems were world-wide. Regulations in Victoria were more lenient than in any other parts. So far as he knew, other States did not provide for a six months' supply.

The cancellation provision was brought in to help satisfy complaints from the Guild that prescriptions were not being cancelled. The Board's method was to have the prescription withdrawn from circulation. He agreed with Mr. Hull's contention that medical men should be fully educated in regard to the requirements of the Re-

gulations and every effort made to get their co-operation. He thought it was worthwhile giving the present method at least six months' trial. He personally had spoken to doctors both privately and in the pharmacy. None of these men had expressed any opposition to the Regulations. One, who was typical, said he would prescribe 100 phenobarbital tablets, but he considered it necessary to see his patients when the tablets were finished.

Mixtures containing less than 1 per cent. of phenobarbital were freed from the Regulations deliberately so as not to unnecessarily harass business.

Mr. Scott: That is trucking to commercial interests.

The President: That is not so. The concession applies to the pharmacist's own prescribing and preparations as well as to proprietaries.

Mr. Preston said that Martindale mentioned 40 cases of phenobarbital being taken over lengthy periods without symptoms of addiction. He asked the Board to provide proof that this drug was dangerous.

The President said that this was taking the matter into the realms of medicine, but there was abundant evidence to uphold the Board's action. The Board had sought the opinion of experts and representative medical opinion, and they had unanimously advised that these drugs needed to be under strict control. The fact that many general practitioners did not approve was no indication that the opinion was wrong. Statistics showed that there had been in the past ten years a number of cases of poisoning from phenobarbital. The Regulations were framed from the point of view of limiting addiction to drugs which were regarded as having habit-forming properties.

Mr. Scott said that the main point of issue was the retention of prescriptions.

Mr. McEwen said that if the pharmacists were forced to retain a cancelled prescription the same rule should apply to friendly society dispensaries.

Mr. Lee said that in some dispensaries prescriptions were not even cancelled in the books.

Mr. Hamilton maintained that the provision for cancellation and retention did not minimise the lethal potentialities of these drugs.

Mr. Braithwaite said that the various points submitted would be fully considered by the Board. As stated earlier, the question of compound tablets containing phenobarbital had already been discussed. With regard to cancellation he did not consider that there should be any modification of the requirements that prescriptions for specified drugs should be cancelled when dispensed for the last time indicated by the doctor. Retention of the prescription enabled the Board to police the regulation. Mr. Scott had queried why so many good fellows had to be penalised to enable the Board to suppress malpractice by a few. He thought the Board should stop these practices if it possibly could.

Mr. Lee said that at a recent Guild meeting at which every district in the State was represented, unanimous opposition was expressed to the present regulation.

Mr. Scott said that chemists generally in the State were against retention of the prescription.

Mr. Jones said the question was not of today's growth. It had been discussed from six to seven years to his knowledge. His opinion was that the barbiturates should be under control, but he was not altogether in favour of retention of prescriptions. He did not think chemists should be penalised by having to give copies of prescriptions.

Mr. Baird said the problem was not new. He had little trouble nowadays with either medical men or patients. He had experienced astonishingly little difficulty about cancellation or retention of the prescriptions now that the requirements of the Regulations were becoming known. He had not had a single difficulty with a doctor in regard to the amendments.

He agreed that friction with the public was a very serious thing. The relationship between patient and chemist was very personal. If in the course of time it



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was found that the regulation in regard to retention of prescriptions had this effect, he would favour reconsideration of it. He was not prepared to say at present whether he thought the regulation should be varied.

Mr. Mansell commented on the various points made by all speakers. He said that personally he had experienced no difficulty with either patients or prescribers. He welcomed the necessity for retention of prescriptions because he used these for file purposes thereby limiting the necessity for entering into a prescription book as the Board had approved of the system.

Mr. Baird raised the question of supply of specified drugs to patients in private and intermediate hospitals, but little discussion ensued owing to the lateness of the hour. No recommendation or decision in regard to this matter was reached.

The meeting closed at 11.30 p.m.

### PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

Council meeting, March 6, 1946.

Present.—Mr. V. G. Morieson (President) in the chair, Messrs. S. J. Baird, F. J. Boyd, A. G. Davis, A. L. W. Jones, L. R. Long, A. H. Mansell, E. C. McClelland, C. P. A. Taylor, and the Secretary.

Correspondence.—To Mr. J. A. T. Kilgour and Mr. W. H. Lake, expressing sympathy in recent bereavements. Letters of thanks received.

From Mr. J. B. Warland Browne, expressing appreciation of Year Books issued by the Society.

From Lieut.-Col. E. W. Braithwaite, forwarding list of promotions of pharmacists since August, 1945. The Secretary said this list had been published in the Journal.

To the Liquid Fuel Control Board, supporting various applications for increased petrol allowances, release of tyres, etc.

To a country member, forwarding information re operations of the Hospital Benefits' Association in country areas.

From a number of applicants who were not included in the list of students for admission to the College in 1946, requesting further consideration. It was resolved to reply that as all classes were filled to capacity, it was impossible to reopen any case, although the Council felt the utmost sympathy for those with good qualifications, or who would suffer hardship because of non-selection.

The President read a letter from Mr. C. C. Wallis, outlining his suggestions to the Guild re establishment of an all-night pharmacy. The proposal was discussed at some length, and it was resolved that it be further considered by the Council when additional details are available.

From Mr. A. Y. S. Wilson, submitting inquiries with regard to the agreement for dispensing for repatriated servicemen. Reply sent by the Secretary after consultation with Mr. A. L. Jones was approved.

To the Universities' Commission, setting out in detail arrangements for admission of ex-service personnel to College classes for 1946, and, in particular, the provision for a combined first and second year programme for one group. It was pointed out that this class had been filled before the end of 1945, and that returned members of the forces now enrolling could do so only on the basis of the full four-year course of study.

From the Secretary of the Science and Research Division, forwarding report and suggesting that the Council seek advice from medical superintendents of the main public hospitals in regard to ointments for the treatment of second and third degree burns.

Mr. Long said the Division was investigating the question of ointment bases in a thorough manner. They had done much work already, and were collaborating with Mr. Callister. The Chemistry Group, under Mr. Donnelly, was working most enthusiastically. They should be backed up by the Council. Mr. Mansell said those who attended the bi-monthly meeting were surprised at the seriousness with which the group was undertaking its various tasks.

It was resolved that the Pharmaceutical Association be asked to obtain the information requested.

Election of Fellows.—The following were elected to Fellowship of the Society, having completed the necessary course of studies and passed the Final Examination for the Fellowship Diploma:—Sheila Georgina Champion, Lois Vivienne Clay, John Douglas Collie, Alan Frederick Galagher, Mary Lamb, Geoffrey Thomas Peterson, Richard Howell Stanistreet, Geoffrey Kinsella Treleven, Thomas Alexander Vickers, Freda Wolman.

Election of Members.—The following were elected members of the Society:—Full Members: Henry Claude Bath, Leslie Blair Allen, John Henry Carrick Brown, Edna Ray Job, Flora Margaret McQueen, Anne May Johns, John Duthie Ritchie, Richard James Power. Associate Members: Marie Therese Tormey, Betty Jean Wilson, Dorothy McKee Bauld. Apprentice Members: Esme June Gambetta, Gwendoline Margaret Pearson.

Annual Meeting.—The President reported that arrangements had been made for an address by Lieut.-Col. G. Houston at the annual meeting to be held on March 25, and that, in addition to the formal business, a statement in regard to the selection of apprentices in 1946 would be made. Refreshments would be served as usual. The arrangements were confirmed.

Pharmaceutical Association Meeting.—A sub-committee was appointed to meet at an early date to consider remits for presentation to the Pharmaceutical Association for the agenda, nomination of delegates and other conference matters. It was suggested that a joint meeting with representatives of the Board be arranged to consider these matters. It was reported that delegates had already been nominated by the Guild and by the Pharmaceutical Defence Ltd.

Personnel of Sub-Committee.—Messrs. V. G. Morieson, E. C. McClelland, S. J. Baird, L. R. Long and C. P. A. Taylor.

College Enrolments, 1946.—The Secretary reported that enrolments were now completed, the numbers being as follows:—

First Year (including servicemen taking Correspondence Course)—110. Second Year—110. Third Year—100. Fourth Year—90. All groups included students resuming classes under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme and some who had been away from study for a number of years, but were now seeking to qualify.

Membership.—A list of eleven members whose subscriptions were outstanding was tabled. The Honorary Treasurer said that these were the only unfinancial members in a period of six years. He thought the record was excellent. It was resolved that these members be advised that unless subscriptions were paid before the next meeting of the Council their names would be removed from the roll of members.

Refresher Course.—Mr. C. P. A. Taylor said he wished to express, on behalf of the members of the first Refresher Course, appreciation of the programme and of the wind-up dinner arranged by the Council. In his opinion the course was very efficiently planned and conducted. It was well-balanced, combining a very informative series of lectures, with excursions to places of interest, such as laboratories and other institutions. The practical business talks given by Mr. Braithwaite were of outstanding interest, and if he had any suggestion to make it was that, in future courses, a greater amount of time be allowed for lectures of that kind. The President thanked Mr. Taylor for his report and said that his comments would be carefully considered.

Anti-Malarials.—Mr. McClelland said that further discussion had taken place at the meeting of the State Branch Committee of the Guild on the previous evening in regard to the supply of anti-malarials. He had conveyed to the State Branch Committee the information obtained by Mr. Kent from the Medical Equipment Control Committee, which indicated that supplies of Atebrin should be available shortly, and that as soon as possible distribution through ordinary commercial channels reverted to. Some stocks of quinine were available, but it was believed that

there would be a general shortage for some time. The restriction on the supply of quinine to a medical prescription was still in force.

**Pharmacists in Government Departments.**—Further consideration was given to the position of pharmaceutical chemists employed in both Commonwealth and State institutions, and steps to be taken with the object of improving conditions were discussed and decided upon.

**Financial.**—The Honorary Treasurer submitted the monthly financial statement, which showed a credit balance of £2061/1/1.

## PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

### Annual Meeting.

The 89th annual meeting of members was held at the College of Pharmacy, Melbourne, on March 25, at 8 p.m. The President (Mr. V. G. Morieson) occupied the chair, and there was an attendance of about 130 members.

**Annual Report and Financial Statements.**—The annual report and financial statements for the year ending December 31, 1945, having been circulated, were received on the motion of Mr. Vale, seconded by Mr. Miller.

The President said he was pleased to submit to members for adoption the 89th Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Society for the year ended December 31, 1945. The fact that this was the 89th annual report indicated that the Society was growing in antiquity, and it would not be long before it reached its centenary. The Council believed that, notwithstanding its age, the Society was losing none of its vigour, and was serving a useful and important function in pharmacy. Although time would not permit him to deal with the annual report in detail, he would refer to some of the more important items, as follows:—

**The Year Book.**—He hoped that members had all received copies of the Year Book and had perused the annual report published in it. The annual report could not convey to members an idea of all of the activities of the Society during the year, but it dealt in summary fashion with the more important aspects of the work which had been done.

The Year Book was now an annual publication, and from the many congratulatory reports received from members, the Council believed that it was proving its usefulness. This year it contained the annual report, financial statements, full curriculum of the College of Pharmacy, and a number of special articles, which should prove of considerable value to members.

At all times the Council would be pleased to receive suggestions in regard to improvement of the book.

**Changes in Council.**—He felt that it was only fitting that at this meeting reference should be made to the valuable services rendered to pharmacy by two past members of the Council—Mr. D. A. Cossar and Mr. W. F. B. Gough. During the year both of these members had been farewelled at special functions and had received presentations from the members of the Council.

Both had made noteworthy contributions to the welfare of the Society and had won the esteem and regard of their fellow-councillors.

Their successors, Mr. A. G. Davis and Mr. G. H. Williams, were now working as part of the Council team, and members looked to them for much valuable help in the years to come.

**Membership.**—Membership figures had advanced slightly during the year, and it was hoped that the progressive increase in aggregate membership would be maintained in the future.

There was no doubt that membership of the Society offered many advantages and benefits. More important was the fact that in these days with so many pressing problems it was essential that every pharmacist who was interested in the well-being of the craft should be linked up with his official organisations.

**Rehabilitation of Members of the Services.**—Altogether approximately 200 Victorian pharmacists and students had enlisted in the defence forces during the war. Their record of service had been outstanding, and their performances, both in their professional capacity as pharmacists and as soldiers, airmen or sailors, had lifted the status of pharmacy with the outside world very greatly. Members were indebted to them, and to those servicemen who were present he wished to express publicly the thanks of members for what they had done.

It was with extreme pleasure and gratitude that the Council announced that 14 out of 15 of its members who had been prisoners of war in the hands of the Japanese had returned safe and sound. A welcome had been given to these members at a very happy function held quite recently, and the Council wished to congratulate them on their return and extend to them best wishes for good health and success in re-establishing themselves.

Special provision was being made for the rehabilitation of all service members. A Committee had been established for that purpose, and had already been able to give practical advice and assistance to some members desiring it.

A very successful refresher course had been conducted during the year, and the 14 ex-members of the services who attended had expressed their appreciation of the syllabus of work carried through. This first course, to some extent, had been experimental, and future courses might be modified in the light of the experience gained.

Readjustment to daily routine of civil life would, in some instances, be attended with difficulty, but the Council hoped that its efforts to minimise these difficulties would be of some value.

**The College.**—He would like to suggest to members that they read the section of the annual report relating to the College of Pharmacy. One of the important matters referred to was the abolition of the night classes for students. This followed an almost unanimous decision of a conference of pharmaceutical representatives from all States, which had been held in Melbourne in 1944. The experiment appeared to have been successful. It was certainly in keeping with the general trend of affairs, because in practically all apprenticeship callings night training had been or was in the process of being abolished.

Reference was made also to the resignation of Dr. C. J. Tonkin as Lecturer in Botany. Dr. Tonkin had given magnificent service to pharmacy, and the Council regretted very much that he had been compelled to relinquish this appointment, although he retained his association with pharmacy as Examiner in Materia Medica, Intermediate Examination.

University Extension Board Lectures had again been an unqualified success, and had attracted large attendances.

Courses of lectures had also been arranged at Bendigo and Geelong, and in both centres the local pharmacists had expressed their appreciation in very definite terms.

**The Science and Research Division.**—The enthusiasm of a small group of Fellows of the Society, headed by Messrs. J. M. Byrne, G. J. O'Brien, E. J. Dawes and R. H. Stanistreet, had been responsible for the establishment of a Science and Research Division. The Council had sponsored the formation of this special group, and looked forward to important results from it. At present the Division was working in various directions, and had in hand some important research work in regard to the A.P.F. The Council expected to hear a good deal more from this group, which, it was hoped, would grow and prosper in its work.

**College Building.**—Every member would shortly receive from the Council a brochure relating to the College of Pharmacy and emphasising the absolute need for rebuilding.

It was unnecessary to point out that the existing building was obsolete and inadequate to meet present needs.

The Council appealed to every member of the Society and every graduate of the College to throw themselves

enthusiastically behind the move for a new building. This obviously would take time, as thirty or forty thousand pounds would be required.

It did not seem practicable at present to obtain all this assistance from the Government, and it would therefore be necessary for the Council to endeavour to obtain finance for this important project.

The Council looked to the formation of groups throughout the State, which would take up the proposal actively and lend their weight to raise funds during the next five years for the specific purpose of erecting a building which would be worthy of the traditions of pharmacy and would provide training for students equal to that in any other pharmaceutical institution in the world.

All sections of pharmacy would be asked to assist, and he appealed to members present to interest themselves in the rebuilding scheme. They would all be asked for subscriptions, and he trusted that they would respond liberally.

One suggestion had been put forward that a voluntary annual contribution be added to the annual subscription, bringing the total amount to £2/2/- per annum. Even this amount would be a very modest sum for membership of an organisation of the standing of the Society.

**Pharmaceutical Benefits Act.**—During the past year the Society had worked very closely with the Guild in connection with this matter, and it was hoped that the joint efforts of all sections of pharmacy would ultimately bring about the results desired.

He had very much pleasure in formally moving the adoption of the annual report and accounts.

Mr. Jones said he was very pleased to second the motion. In doing so, he dealt briefly with the main items of income and expenditure, and said he considered the result of the year's activities quite satisfactory. In passing, he would like to draw attention to the fact that maintenance of the College building was costing approximately £8 per week, which indicated that the building was growing old. With the exception of the staff, he thought that he saw more of the College building than any other outsider, and from his observations he could assure members that the present accommodation was stretched to its utmost capacity. He considered that the stage had been reached where it was essential to rebuild if the College was to retain its exalted place in Australian pharmacy. The need was great, and he appealed to members to do what they could to help the appeal along.

Before closing, he would like to express his appreciation of the very fine work done by the staff of the College, both on the lectorial and administrative sides. He was afraid, however, that the chief executive officers were being overworked, and that it would not be long before consideration would have to be given to obtaining extra assistance for them.

As a member of the Checking Committee dealing with repatriation prescriptions, he wished to thank members for their co-operation during the past year, and to express the hope that they would continue to do all they could to simplify the work of this Committee. One way in which they could assist was to indicate the manufacturer's name where proprietary lines were supplied. He had very much pleasure in seconding the motion for the adoption of the annual report and financial statements.

Mr. J. A. Kruse said that before the resolution was put to the meeting he would like to move an amendment to the section of the report dealing with the College building. He suggested that the words "or ten" be deleted from the sentence reading "the minimum cost for this is estimated at thirty thousand pounds and this sum the Council proposes to raise over the next five or ten years." From what previous speakers had said it appeared that the need for a new building was great, and to his mind ten years was a long while to wait. If it was not possible to raise the necessary money by straight-out donations he suggested that members might be willing to assist by taking out debentures for 10, 15 or 25 pounds.

The amendment was seconded by Mr. G. F. H. Attwood, and carried. The motion for the adoption of the annual report and financial statement was then put by the Chairman, and carried.

**Returning Officer's Report.**—The Chairman reported that in the absence of Mr. F. N. Pleasance, on account of illness, Mr. J. C. Pickford had consented to act as Deputy Returning Officer at the recent Council election. He then called upon Mr. Pickford to present his report.

Mr. Pickford reported that as the number of nominations received exceeded the number of vacancies on the Council, it had been necessary to hold an election. This had resulted as follows:—Eric Scott, 519; Vivian George Morieson, 498; Gavin Hartley Williams, 443; Frederick James Boyd, 380; Allan Hamilton Mansell, 348. He therefore declared Messrs. E. Scott, V. G. Morieson, G. H. Williams and F. J. Boyd duly elected as Members of the Council for a period of three years as from March 11, 1946.

He further declared that Mansley Shackell and R. H. Morrison and Tyack, being the only persons nominated for the office of Auditors, duly elected as Auditors to the Society for the year ending 31/12/46.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Council, thanked Mr. Pickford for services rendered in the capacity of Deputy Returning Officer, and also for the interest taken by him in pharmacy. He also wished to thank Mr. Mansell for services rendered during his term of office as a member of the Council, and to congratulate Mr. Scott on the very excellent vote he had recorded at the recent election.

**Alteration to Articles of Association.**—Mr. S. J. Baird moved that Article 55 of the Articles of Association be amended by substituting for the words "two auditors" the words "an auditor." The motion was seconded by Mr. Jones, and, after discussion, was put and carried by the necessary majority.

**Presentation of Final Examination Diplomas.**—The Chairman called upon Mr. H. A. Braithwaite, President of the Pharmacy Board of Victoria, to present Final Examination Diplomas to the following successful candidates, who were introduced by the Dean of the College:—William R. Batrouney, Howard G. Birch, Betty P. Buggy, Norman E. Chong, Kenneth L. Hore, Judith L. Hewell, Anne M. Johns, Barbara L. Macleod, Glen I. Oliver, Dorothy Pratt and Betty J. Wilson.

In presenting the certificates, Mr. Braithwaite said that he felt sure that all of the new graduates would carry on the traditions they had learnt at the College, and he hoped that some of them would interest themselves in the various spheres of work associated with the Pharmacy Board and the Society. On behalf of the Pharmacy Board and all pharmacists of Victoria, he wished them lots of luck and a successful career in the profession they had chosen.

**Presentation of Fellowship Diplomas.**—The Dean of the College said that in presenting the recipients of both Final Examination Certificates and Fellowship Diplomas he would particularly like to refer to the difficulties that students had undergone in recent times. The war years had been heavy for everyone, but particularly so for students. It had called for sterling character to settle down to work consistently during this time of stress and strain, and the successful candidates were worthy of the warmest congratulations and commendation for the work they had done.

The Chairman then presented Fellowship Diplomas to the following members, who had successfully completed the course of study prescribed for Fellowship of the Society:—Sheila G. Champion, John D. Collie, Alan F. P. Galagher, Mary Lamb, Geoffrey T. Peterson, Geoffrey K. Treleaven, Thomas A. Vickers, Freda Wolman.

**Selection of New Apprentices.**—The Chairman said that as this matter had been causing some concern to members, he proposed to call upon the Secretary to report on the position.

Mr. Kent said that as there had been so much disappointment concerning the selection of students for 1946,

and so much misunderstanding of the position, the Council had thought it desirable to present a statement of the position to members.

In the preceding years, 1943, 1944, 1945, a limit had been placed on entries. Manpower had taken the responsibility by refusing permits for apprenticeship above the number stipulated, and without a permit an apprentice could not be engaged. This control had been lifted shortly after the end of the war, and anyone could now engage, without a permit, an apprentice who was under 18 or who had been in the forces. Arbitrary limitation of numbers had ended.

As might be expected, an unprecedented number of applications had been received for 1946—nearly 300—and some policy had to be adopted in regard to acceptance of students, as the maximum number that could be accommodated in one year was 110.

There was no power to limit the number of apprenticeships. Any pharmacist could engage as an apprentice any person who had the minimum entrance requirements, i.e., the school leaving certificate in the subjects specified, or the Board's Preliminary Examination, and if apprenticeship indentures were submitted the Pharmacy Board must register them.

All intending apprentices and their prospective employers had been advised not to enter into apprenticeship until assured of entry to the College courses.

The Board had asked the Council to set up a Selection Committee, and this had been done. This Committee had recommended that 50 per cent. of the places in the first year be reserved for service men and women. The recommendation had been adopted, and the class would comprise 55 members from the services and 55 from schools.

It was unnecessary to emphasise the difficulties of selecting 55 students from nearly 300 applicants. Exclusion from the list had meant acute disappointment and hardship for many. Many applicants with outstanding qualifications, and some who had been waiting for two or three years, had to be left out.

Generally speaking, the decisions had been accepted by applicants and chemists with good grace and understanding. The Council greatly appreciated the co-operation given. There had been, however, some kicks, and one or two pharmacists had been very critical of the Council because it could not make an exception in their case. "Surely one more could be crowded in," they had said. Even outside influence had been sought.

For these reasons the Council desired members to be fully aware of the position. Exceptions could not be made. There had been so many cases of hardship that this could not enter into the consideration of selection.

For information of members, statistics of first-year enrolments over the last 25 years had been placed on the Board. Main interest in these was the steep decline in numbers in the immediate pre-war period and during the war, particularly of male students, which had dropped from 79 (the peak) in 1923 to 17 in 1944.

For the next few years the Council would have to face large numbers. Restriction under existing conditions would be impolitic. Therefore, it would be necessary to prepare for the absorption of as many as possible in all fields of pharmacy—manufacturing, wholesale, institutional, etc., rather than concentration of all in retail pharmacy.

Dr. B. L. Stanton said that it might help members to hear the policy adopted by the University in regard to applications for enrolment. Returned servicemen received first priority, and their time for enrolment had been extended one month beyond that fixed for ordinary students. Matriculated students were then enrolled in order of their examination marks. One of the main problems had been that of rejected students, and this was being solved by giving those discarded this year priority over almost everyone for next year, the aim being not to keep students out of the University any longer than possible.

The Chairman said that this concluded the business of

the meeting, and he proposed to introduce Lt.-Col. G. D. Houston, D.S.O., who had kindly consented to deliver an address entitled, "Through Four Campaigns with a Combatant Unit." Lt.-Col. Houston was one of the graduates of whom the College and Society were justly proud.

He had served his country with great distinction in the campaign which had concluded last year. He had risen to the rank of lieutenant-colonel with an artillery unit, serving in many theatres of war. For his services he had been awarded the D.S.O. and had also been mentioned in despatches. The Council was very appreciative of his presence, and all members would be extremely interested to hear what he had to say.

At this stage a welcome might also be extended to the members of the Forces who were present. They, in particular, would listen with interest to the address to be delivered. The Council was delighted that so many ex-members of the Defence Forces and those still serving had been able to attend. To those from other States who were present a hearty invitation was extended not only to this function, but to the College whenever they could visit it.

Lt.-Col. Houston, who was given a rousing reception, then delivered a most interesting address, dealing with his experiences in the many engagements in which his unit had taken part in various theatres of war.

At the conclusion of the address, Mr. G. H. Williams proposed a vote of thanks to Lt.-Col. Houston. This was supported by Mr. L. R. Long, and carried with acclamation.

The meeting adjourned, and refreshments were served in the museum.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### PHARMACY BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Minutes of meeting held in Commercial Bank Chambers, 27 King William street, Adelaide, on March 7, 1946, at 7.45 p.m.

**Present.**—Mr. C. A. M. Reid (President) in the chair, Messrs. K. S. Porter, E. F. Lipsham, G. L. Burns, N. W. Gaunt, F. M. J. Moore, Walter C. Cotterell and the Registrar.

**Standard Certificates.**—Authority was given to the Registrar to prepare standard certificates for D. S. Barnes, W. G. Clarke, Miss P. M. Larwood, J. A. Purches, M. G. Robinson and E. F. Williams.

**Correspondence.**—To Mr. G. T. Skimmer, notifying receipt of certificates of identity from Pharmacy Board of Victoria.

To Dr. K. C. Gaffer, re practising certificate.

To Mr. C. W. McMillan, forwarding expression of sympathy.

To Messrs. H. T. Fearson, J. C. Freeman, A. G. Lean, L. A. Craig, D. Mosel and A. Bentley, advising that application for registration of premises have been received and noted.

To Statistical Department, re registration.

To Mrs. J. G. Hissey, re registration in S.A.

From Department of Trade and Customs, Canberra, forwarding extract from Commonwealth Gazette.

**Relievers.**—The appointments of Mr. T. K. Clarke to Mr. A. Coverdale, Mr. L. M. Sorrell to Bevilacqua's pharmacy and Mr. G. K. F. Scott, Miss C. M. Teate to Mr. H. G. Collyer, Mr. T. P. Hemmings to Mr. H. H. Young and U.F.S. Dispensary, Mt. Gambier, and Mr. R. P. Clancy to Mr. L. A. Davison, were noted.

**Inspector's Report.**—Reporting 43 visits in city, eastern and southern suburbs.

**Finance.**—Statement for the month of February was submitted and adopted, and accounts totalling £16/9/4 were passed for payment.

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The quickest way to make a satisfactory profit is to give front display to good-margin, rapid-turnover lines. "Sweet-N" Breath Tablets will pay you handsome dividends for the small space they require. Let your customers see that you have this handy "breath-taker" waiting for them.



Cost: £1 box, 3 doz. pkts.  
Tax 25%; sells at 1/- pkt.



### Sweet-N Breath Tablets

"For Breathless Moments"

ORDER FROM YOUR WHOLESALER

Dispenser Packet  
Tear-out Corner

1/- Packet  
18 Tablets

## PRICE ALTERATIONS

for

## LISTERINE TOOTH PASTE

The following prices to retailers operated from 2nd January, 1946, and the prices to consumer from 1st February, 1946. These prices have been approved by the Prices Commissioner as maximum prices. Approval number 2/2209.

#### Retail Buying Price:

Double Size - - - 13/5 Doz.  
Large Size - - - - 8/7 Doz.  
Small Size - - - - 3/9 Doz.

Plus 25 %  
Sales Tax

#### Retail Selling Price:

2/- Tube  
1/3 Tube  
6d. Tube

**LAMBERT PHARMACAL Co. (Aust.) Pty. Ltd.**

33 Mountain Street, Sydney.

**Practising Certificates.**—Letter from Dr. Crafter, re turning practising certificate.

**Registration of Premises.**—Applications from Messrs. P. Shepherd and N. W. Gaunt were received and noted.

**Next Meeting.**—April 4, at 7.45 p.m.

### PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Minutes of meeting held at Commercial Bank Chambers, 27 King William street, Adelaide, on March 4, 1946, at 7.45 p.m.

**Present.**—Mr. K. S. Porter (President) in the chair, Messrs. Walter C. Cotterell, E. F. Lipsham, J. D. Garrett, H. G. White, C. A. M. Reid and the Secretary.

**Correspondence.**—From Professor A. K. Macbeth, acknowledging letter of congratulation.

From Dr. K. C. Crafter, re membership. It was resolved that resignation of Dr. Crafter be accepted with regret.

From Pharmaceutical Association of Australia and N.Z., re A.P.F.

From F.P.S. Guild of Australia (S.A. Branch), re premises in Shell House. The Secretary was directed to forward to the Shell Co. of Australia Ltd. a copy of a letter received from the Guild.

From Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland, requesting copy of Constitution. Copy supplied.

Mr. H. G. Collyer and Mr. J. B. Ryder, re spread of F.S.M.A.

From Central Board of Health, re anti-diphtheria campaign. The Secretary was directed to reply, stating that the Council is willing to co-operate, and suggesting that the corporation or council of each district should advise the chemist in the area of the time and date when clinics will be conducted in such districts, and suggesting that placards be forwarded to the chemist containing the foregoing information. It is also suggested that on the notification of births that a letter dealing with immunisation should be sent to the parents.

From City Treasurer, re representation on voters' list by body corporate. It was resolved that the City Treasurer be notified of the change of address. It was further resolved that the President and the Secretary be the nominees on the voters' roll.

From Pharmaceutical Association of Australia and N.Z., forwarding additional copies of Constitution.

The Secretary reported on a visit from Mr. C. C. Davidson, who was previously employed by Friendly Societies' Medical Association, and requires a position as an assistant.

To Society of Pharmaceutical Chiropodists, re representative on Council.

**Finance.**—Statement for the month of February was submitted and adopted, and accounts totalling £163/16/11 were passed for payment.

**Conference.**—Letters to 23 lady pharmacists, re invitation to join ladies sub-committee. Several replies were received.

Pharmaceutical Association of Australia and N.Z., re date of visit of Mr. F. C. Kent, and re invitation to Mr. Jewkes and all Federal health officers.

Pharmaceutical Council of N.Z., re representation at Conference.

Use of 202 Darling Building for full Committee meetings. It was resolved that meetings of the Conference Committee, where practicable, should be held in Room 202, Darling Building.

Letters to branches of F.P.S. Guild of Australia, in N.S.W., Queensland, Tasmania, W.A. and Victoria, re publicity.

Letter to Hon. M. McIntosh, re weather information.

**Students.**—Professor A. K. Macbeth and Registrar of University, forwarding copies of claims for Messrs. Ramsey and Norman, re status.

Mr. G. L. Higgins, extending sympathy.

University of Adelaide, re annual fee of Students' Union. It was resolved that further consideration of this matter be deferred until next meeting, pending a report from the Board of Pharmaceutical Studies.

Letter to Universities' Commission, re Mr. E. J. Martindale.

To Sgt. R. M. W. A. Upton and Mr. J. R. C. Gordon, forwarding forms for lecture entries.

Letters to 57 students, re lecture entries.

Pharmacy Board recommendation: "The Pharmacy Board recommends to the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society that preparations made as exercises for the galenical notebooks be not repeated in the laboratory during the course of the instruction." It was resolved that the recommendation be received.

Lecture attendance books. Mr. Lipsham submitted a proof of a cheaper edition, and it was resolved that such books be approved.

**New Members Elected.**—Messrs. J. W. Watts and A. G. Lean.

**Carboys.**—No further report available.

**Report No. 52.**—Timetable for 1946. It was resolved that the report be received.

**Unsatisfactory Preparations in A.P.F.**—Letter from Pharmaceutical Association of Australia and N.Z., advising that this matter had been referred to Chairman of the Revision Committee.

**Honour Roll.**—The Secretary was authorised to obtain quotations for the preparation of an honour roll, similar to the existing one, exclusive of printing.

**Lectures of Instruction.**—Resolved to defer further consideration to the April meeting.

**Secretary's Annual Leave.**—Approval was granted for the Secretary to commence leave on March 16.

**Next Meeting.**—April 11, at 7.45 p.m.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### PHARMACEUTICAL COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Minutes of the 586th meeting of the Council held at the Technical College, Perth, on February 26th, 1946, at 8 p.m.

**Present.**—Messrs. Allan (President), Gully, Cohen, Howling, McWhinney, Dallimore, Gibson, Lorman and Avenell.

The President expressed the pleasure of those present at Mr. Gully's recovery in health, enabling him to attend. He then asked Mr. Gully to take the chair for the evening, as it would be his last night as a Councillor. Mr. Gully accepted and expressed thanks and appreciation.

**Correspondence.**—1-88 tabled and dealt with.

**Quinine.**—Advice read from Director-General of Health that quinine may now be dispensed on prescription for any purpose. (Copy of letter to be sent to B.M.A.)

**Destruction of Manpower Records.**—Registrar reported having arranged with the local Directorate for destruction of Forms D., Sc. P4 and D. Sc. P3 at an early date.

**Release from Service.**—Registrar reported on interview with Mr. Wood. Mr. Taylor is about to be discharged, and it is expected that Mr. McWaters will be discharged shortly.

**D.D.T.**—Following an enquiry from Acting Commissioner of Health, information was sought regarding developments in Victoria. No reply to date.

**Poisoning.**—Police reported death of a child by sheep dip poisoning. The sheep dip had been on the premises for destruction of ants. A statement concerning need

for care in handling poisons, supported by statistics, to be given to the press.

**Reconstruction Training Scheme.**—Secretary, Universities' Commission, advised that £6 per week will be used as a basis for adjustment re living allowance for pharmacy pupilage cases in West Australia.

**Sulphanilamide in Oil.**—A country chemist reported sale of sulphanilamide in oil by storekeeper in his town. This complaint had been investigated and suitable action taken.

**Indentures Registered.**—The following indentures were approved:—D. G. Kinleyside to V. Turner, M. A. Burke to E. Dick, A. A. Carson to N. H. Moore, M. H. Gardiner to C. Campbell, M. A. Lankester to R. Millen.

**Indentures Transferred.**—N. Avenell to L. O. Sargent, D. Hands to J. P. Inglis.

**Life Membership.**—Life membership of the Pharmaceutical Society was conferred on Mr. F. P. Gulley and Mr. F. T. Lorman. Certificates to be presented at the annual meeting.

**Research Fund.**—A Committee consisting of Messrs. Allan, Neale, Howling, Cohen, Avenell and Registrar, was appointed to draw up regulations, objects, etc., and report at annual meeting.

Advice to be sought from auditors re taxation exemption on subscriptions to this fund.

**Retirement of Mr. F. P. Gulley (Past-President) and Mr. F. T. Lorman (Registrar).**—This being the last meeting at which these two members would be present, the President and several Councillors expressed thanks and appreciation of their services as Councillors since 1913.

The President remarked that Mr. Gulley was President from 1922-34, and Mr. Lorman Registrar from 1933 to 1946. They entered the Council together 33 years ago, and both were retiring this month. By their sound advice and untiring labours they had made an outstanding contribution to Australian pharmacy in general, and West Australian pharmacy in particular.

Mr. Lorman and Mr. Gulley suitably responded, and expressed the pleasure they had experienced in their official pharmaceutical activities.

There being no further business Mr. Gulley vacated the chair, and Mr. Allan (President) closed the meeting.

## TASMANIA

### PHARMACY BOARD OF TASMANIA.

Special meeting of the Board, held at 140 Collins street Hobart, on February 25, 1946, at 10 a.m.

**Present.**—Messrs. J. R. Chant (President), J. H. Gould, F. W. Colman, and L. W. Palfreyman.

**Apprentices:** Re E. J. Holmes.—In connection with Mr. Holmes' application for registration as an apprentice, the Registrar read a letter received from the Victorian Registrar, in reply to this Board's inquiry. This letter indicated that Mr. Holmes would be eligible to proceed with an apprenticeship in Victoria. The Pharmacy Board of Victoria is empowered by an amending regulation to make a concession at its discretion to any applicant being a discharged serviceman who has qualifications which the Board considers sufficient to enable him to enter upon the course.

**Re Maxwell Ray Staunton-Smith: Air Force.**—This applicant had passed the Intermediate Examination, including Chemistry, but failed in the Leaving, having passed in two subjects only.

The following resolutions were passed:—

**Re Qualification for Registration of Apprentices.**—That the following words be added to the resolution passed on October 12, 1942, viz.:—

"In the matter of ex-servicemen, however, the Board may, at its discretion, waive the foregoing qualification and apply any test of eligibility which it may deem necessary."

**Re Registration of Apprentices.**—That Mr. E. J. Holmes be registered as an apprentice.

That Mr. M. R. Staunton-Smith be registered as an apprentice.

Registrar reported that just before the meeting he had conferred with Mr. Cartledge, who discussed the matter with Mr. Stephens, and they approve of the above alteration.

**Pharmaceutical Register.**—The following re-registrations were approved, viz.:—J. B. Warland Browne, of Launceston, and Edward H. Shield, of Hobart.

Telephonic advice received from both Mr. Stephens and Mr. Geoffrey Wells that Mr. Wells would be in charge of Mr. Stephens' pharmacy for a few days from February 23.

### PHARMACY BOARD OF TASMANIA.

Meeting held 11/3/46.

**Examiners.**—Letter was tabled from Mr. E. J. McCreary, dated February 18, advising that he is unable to confirm his election as an Examiner. His decision was accepted with regret, and it was resolved that a letter be sent thanking him for past services, and expressing the hope that in near future he will again see his way clear to act as an Examiner.

**Examinations.**—Notebooks: Correspondence regarding notebooks was tabled and noted.

"J. L. Gould Memorial Prize": It was reported the prize had been awarded to Miss K. M. Scott, of Launceston, by Mr. F. H. Cartledge, and an acknowledgment was received from her.

"H. T. Gould Memorial Prize": It was noted the books chosen by Miss Berriman are unobtainable, and it was decided to leave the matter in abeyance pending her further advice.

**Apprentices.**—R. J. Gardam to W. McCausland. Letter from Mr. McCausland, advising that Mr. Gardam resumed his apprenticeship with him as from February 7.

Maxwell Ray Staunton-Smith. It was noted approval given at special meeting for his registration as an apprentice if he is able to arrange the matter.

**Indentures.**—The indentures of Edwin John Holmes to Athol G. Townley were registered.

**Qualification for Apprenticeship.**—There was nothing to report hereon.

**Pharmacy Act.**—Re amendments: Nothing further to report on this matter.

**Pharmaceutical Register.**—Reported declaration and fees received, and registration of Miss Joan Grice completed on February 13.

Further correspondence received from Miss W. A. Brady in connection with her registration, together with her Victorian certificate of registration. It was noted she had asked the Victorian Registrar to forward a certificate of identity on her behalf, but this had not yet come to hand. The fees having been paid, it was resolved that the matter stand over pending receipt of the necessary certificate.

It was reported a certificate of identity had been forwarded to the Victorian Board on behalf of Miss Dorothy McK. Bauld, and acknowledgment received. Letter from Registrar, asking for a certified photo. to be forwarded also, and intimating that Miss Bauld would let the Board have a photo for this purpose. This has not yet come to hand.

A certificate of identity was received from the Victorian Board on behalf of Mr. Ambrose T. Galvin, who intends applying for registration in this State.

Various correspondence regarding managers and relievers was tabled and noted.

**Pharmacy Board of Queensland.**—There was nothing to report on this matter.

**Conference of Pharmacy Boards.**—This matter to be further dealt with at next meeting.



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## NOTES FROM THE FEDERAL OFFICE.

### Merchandising.

The appointment of Mr. R. G. Ross as Federal Merchandising Manager of the Guild, and plans for the inauguration of a Federal Merchandising Scheme, are dealt with in other sections of this issue.

In order to acquaint the general body of members throughout the Commonwealth that the scheme is under way, and that they, in turn, will have the opportunity of being furnished with a personal statement on the main features of the plan, a circular communication over the name of the Federal President was despatched from the Federal Office during the month. The outline of the plan is published elsewhere in this issue.

For the initiation of the scheme the first direct approach to pharmacists will be made in Western Australia. Mr. O. C. V. Leggo, Hon. Merchandising Supervisor, Mr. E. Scott (President and Federal Delegate of the Victorian Branch), and Mr. Ross will go to Perth early in April and will visit other States as soon as possible after the journey to Western Australia.

### Pharmaceutical Benefits Act.

A statement setting out the present position was drafted by the Federal President and circulated towards the end of the month.

It is considered by the Campaign Executive that pharmacy will be called upon for further efforts later in the year, when the results of the next general election and the proposed referendum are known, in which case it will be essential for pharmacy to be even better organised than it is to-day. To enable this to be done, the Federal President has submitted proposals to all Guild Branches and to the Pharmaceutical Societies for the formation of a body which he considers would fulfil this purpose, and his suggestions are under consideration by the various organisations at the present time.

### Prices Conference.

A conference was held at the Guild Office in Melbourne on February 25, attended by Messrs. A. W. McGibbony, E. C. McClelland, R. G. Ross and T. G. Allen (representing the Guild), and Messrs. D. T. Lattin and Ford (representing the Prices Branch). It was decided in regard to several subject matters as follows:—

(1) **Drugs Over the Counter.**—It is intended that all household packs, such as "Gilseal," D.H.A., Wholesale Drug, Faulding's, Sigma, etc., will be fixed and gazetted at their present prices. All other drugs not so listed will be at 100 per cent. on basic wholesale prices, plus the appropriate container cost as per the dispensing list. The prices will be metropolitan prices, and country chemists will be entitled to add the actual cost of transport. The gazettal of an order in this way will give approval to the chemists' prices irrespective of what may be laid down for grocers, and should avert any repetition of the unfortunate situation which developed in New South Wales, where three chemists have been threatened with court proceedings for having sold lines at prices higher than those fixed in the grocers' lists.

(2) **Patents.**—The Patents List, when published, will include all household packed lines, both drugs and proprietaries.

(3) **Deputy Prices Commissioners' Decisions.**—The action of the Deputy Prices Commissioner (New South Wales), in fixing prices for nationally-advertised and other lines sold in all States, for the State of New South Wales, had created an anomalous position in the fixing of the prices for a number of lines, since, in the absence of separate State approvals in any or all of the other States, the New South Wales approval would apply until varied.

Mr. Lattin agreed that the margin of profit enjoyed by other States had been reduced in this way to conform to the lower margins which generally apply in New South Wales. Mr. Lattin advised that each State Branch of the Guild wishing to correct any anomaly attributable to this cause

would have to take the matter up with the Deputy Prices Commissioner in that State, who is empowered to approve of a price for his State.

(4) **Broken Table.**—The application of the Thomas Table also came up for discussion at the conference with the officers of the Prices Branch. The anomalies created by the varying mark-ups (33-1/3 per cent., 40 per cent. and 50 per cent.) were brought under notice; but the departmental officers were not prepared to indicate what the prospects were of reverting to the pre-war mark-ups. The Prices Branch seems to have adopted a firm policy of unwillingness to restore some of the concessional reductions, which were accepted by the trade rather as wartime expediénts.

(5) **Surgical Dressings.**—The retail price basis for surgical dressings has not yet been completed, but the Guild will have the opportunity to examine the figures before an order is published. It is understood that the basis which will be followed by the Prices Branch will be midway between the highest and the lowest prices as they range to-day.

### Chemists'-only Policy.

There has been a good deal of correspondence in recent months with the P.A.T.A. of New South Wales, arising from the desire of the Federal Council to resuscitate the chemists'-only policy, which, for a variety of reasons, has lain quiescent for some years.

The opportunity was taken during the visit of the Federal President to Sydney to confer on this subject with Mr. H. D. B. Cox, Secretary of the P.A.T.A. of New South Wales. The interview took place on February 19, and was attended by Messrs. A. W. McGibbony, O. C. V. Leggo, E. Scott and R. G. Ross.

Following that conference, Mr. Cox has forwarded to the Federal President a copy of the current "Agreement—Retail" used by the P.A.T.A. of New South Wales. The Federal President has suggested to members of the Federal Council that close examination of the various interlocking agreements enforced by the P.A.T.A. of New South Wales should be undertaken before any further move is made by the Guild.

### Guild Convention.

Branches have been asked to discuss the question of holding a Guild Convention either before or after the meeting of the Pharmaceutical Association and the Science Section "O," to be held in Adelaide in August next, and to forward to the Federal Office their suggestions for items which might be included on the agenda.

It is essential that the Federal Office should be in a position to give early in June a complete summary of the business likely to be placed before the Convention, and to that end should be in possession of a list of the subjects to be dealt with and a short covering precis by May 15 at the latest. The list and precis will then be circulated, so that the representatives of all States, in discussing the items of business at the Convention, will have had the advantage of prior discussion with their own Committees.

A Convention is the open forum of the Guild, to discuss items of business remitted by the Federal Council or the Branches. All members of the Guild have the right to attend a Convention of members. The first such meeting was held in Melbourne in January, 1945. It aroused enthusiasm amongst those who attended, and earned a special tribute from the President of the Pharmaceutical Association (Mr. F. P. Gulley).

## The Federated Pharmaceutical Service Guild of Australia

### NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH.

S.B.C. meeting 14/2/46.

**Present.**—Messrs. A. G. Barber, J. Little, H. R. Burnet, F. M. Davidson, A. G. Short, K. E. Thomas, A. C. Fraser, G. R. Mallam, O. V. Leggo, J. R. Carrick, A. D. Watts, R. E. Gostelow, and A. E. Conolly (Secretary).

**Welcome to Mr. A. E. Conolly.**—The President formally introduced to the meeting Mr. A. E. Conolly, who had been appointed Secretary to the State Branch, and extended a welcome to him, wishing him well in his new office. Mr. Conolly briefly thanked the Chairman and members of the Committee for the welcome extended.

**Revision of Rules.**—Mr. Fraser advised that he expected the result of the voting by the Federal Council to be circulated within the next few days.

**Penicillin.**—A letter was received from Federal Office, giving a summary of an interview by the Federal President with an officer of the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories. Disapproval was expressed over the statement in regard to the retailers' profit margin, and it was resolved that a letter be forwarded to the Federal Office requesting that a protest be made to the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories against any reduction in the retailers' margin.

#### Reports of Sub-Committee:

(1) **Trade and Commerce, Planning and Publicity.**—Mr. Davidson reported that his committee had met on February 4 and dealt with the following matters:—

**Belfield Association of Chemists.**—In view of several communications from members in the Newcastle area having been received complaining of the formation of this association, it was recommended the Guild contact each member of the Association and ascertain from him the aims and objects of the Association with the object of avoiding, if possible, a split in the Mid-Northern Pharmacists' Association.—Resolved that this recommendation be approved.

**Horticultural Lines.**—Following numerous delays deliveries were expected by February 16.

**Glucojels.**—These were being sent out at the present time ex bags. All attempts to secure supplies of bags up to the present had failed. Endeavours were still being made to secure supplies.

**Calendar Proposition.**—Mr. Thomas was making investigations into a proposition for a 1947 calendar.

**Window Display Scheme.**—The committee was going fully into this matter, and arrangements were being made to interview W. J. Coller Ltd., and discuss the proposition.

**Complaints re Glauber's Salts and Licorice Powder.**—These had been taken up with the packers.

**Packed Goods List.**—Endeavours were being made to have reinstated on the "Gilseal" range lines which had been discontinued during the war period.

**Paul Duval Lines.**—An inquiry had been received from Federal Office as to the practice adopted by this firm in regard to distribution in the respective States. Investigations in this State indicated that with a few exceptions distribution was confined to chemists only. It was decided to advise Federal Office accordingly.

**Freights and Packing of "Gilseal" Lines.**—The general view expressed was that all endeavours should be made to see that country members had their deliveries made at the most advantageous freight rates. It was suggested that the Chairman should approach Elliotts on the matter.

**"Gilseal" Soap.**—An inquiry had been received from Federal Office following its receipt of a letter from the Queensland branch, suggesting that the present wrapper for Superfatted Skin Soap might have incorporated in its words "suitable for baby." The Secretary gave a general review of how this line came to be established and the proposals considered some time ago for the marketing of a baby soap. Following a discussion with the Chairman of the committee a communication setting out

this State's views had been sent to the Federal Secretary. This reply was approved.

Mr. Davidson further reported that two additional items had been dealt with since the meeting, one involving 2-oz. size of "Gilseal" ointments, quotes for which had been obtained, but it was not possible at the present time to secure the pot desired. He pointed out that the one offering in appearance differed little from the 1-oz. size.—It was resolved that the proposition stand over until such time as supplies of the required pot were available.

(2) **Repatriation, Lodge and Hospital Dispensing.**—Mr. Short reported that his committee at its last meeting had recommended to Federal Office that the Bureau of Pharmaceutical Statistics take a survey among all States to ascertain the information called for by Federal Office. This suggestion had been conveyed to Federal Office, which in turn had replied that the Federal President was in agreement providing Mr. Fraser concurred.—Mr. Fraser indicated that he did concur, and the Secretary indicated that the matter would now be forwarded to the Bureau.

(3) **Pricing.**—Mr. Burnet reported upon the following matters:—

**Retail Price-list.**—A quote had been obtained from Simmons Limited for various types of paper, and his committee recommended that the best quality paper available be used. The list would be approximately the same size and the same form as the present list.—Resolved that the committee's recommendation be approved.

**Prescription Proprietaries List.**—Federal office had now arranged with the Prices Branch for Mr. Hinde to consult with Mr. Burnet on the preparation and publication of a revised list. Mr. Burnet indicated that he hoped to see Mr. Hinde during the ensuing week.

**Surgical Dressings.**—No decision in regard to retail prices had as yet been reached.

**Broken Quantity Calculation Table.**—This proposition was still being investigated, and Mr. Smith was requested to submit quote and full details for the complete job.

Mr. Watts queried what was the position in regard to the table for proprietary tablets. He was informed that as soon as it was practicable to do so the table would be circulated as an insert in "Gilseal News."

(4) **Industrial and Early Closing.**—Mr. Smith said there were only routine matters to report. Meetings of the Apprenticeship Council attended showed that there were still large numbers of students desirous of being apprenticed.

Resolved that the reports be received and adopted.

**Federal Delegate's Report.**—Mr. Fraser stated that there were two Federal circulars since last meeting, Nos. 550 and 553, each of which had been circulated.

He was able to say that the Commonwealth Prices Branch had accepted the Guild's definition of a prescription proprietary and stock tablets. He gave particulars of these definitions. Discussion ensued as to the effect of such definitions on the compilation of the proposed new Prescription Proprietaries List. The matter was left finally to Messrs. Burnet and Thomas to discuss with the Federal President when in Sydney.

Mr. Fraser further reported that Messrs. McGibbony and Scott would be in Sydney from February 18 to 20, and were desirous of meeting the Campaign Committee and other Executives of this State branch.

**New Members Elected.**—Messrs. C. Bridges (Bulahdelah), A. E. Chalmers (Kurri), J. D. Durack (Brewarrina), L. L. Eastmuir (Bondi), E. H. Fawcett (Dee Why), H. J. Knowles (Lane Cove), J. G. Moen (Tingha), A. P. Lundie (Merrylands), and H. L. West (Lockhart).

**Finance.**—The usual finance statement was tabled and approved, and accounts passed for payment.

**Representative's Report.**—The Secretary submitted a report by Mr. Coed, detailing districts visited since last meeting. The report indicated that members generally were concerned with delays in deliveries and shortages of "Gilseal" lines.

He had spent some time in endeavouring to secure bags for distribution of "Glucojels," but so far without success.

Lane's had been contacted on several occasions regard-



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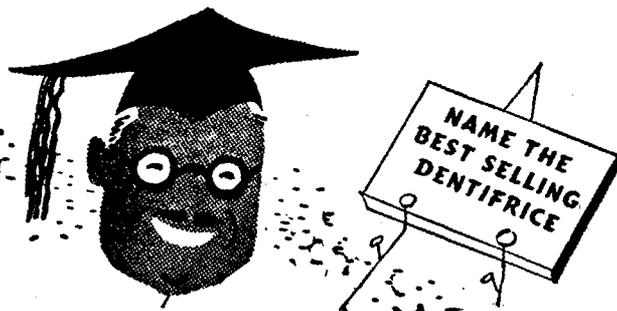
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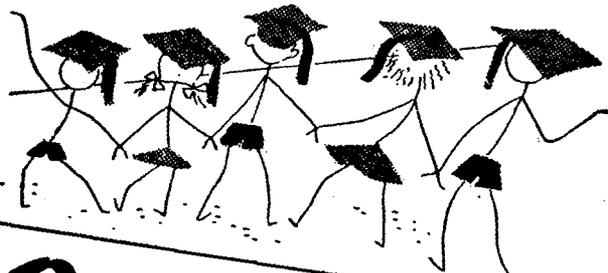
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ing the issue of "Gilseal" horticultural lines, and delivery was expected during the week.

He had made some investigations into the distribution of "Paul Duval" lines.

A number of prospective master pharmacists had been interviewed and had applied for membership.

The present shortage of "Gilseal" sulphur soap was due to lack of labels, but it was hoped that this position would be rectified within a few weeks.

A member had suggested that a range of veterinary lines under the Guild brand might be marketed.

The usual contact with wholesalers and manufacturers and other routine matters had been attended to.

The report was received and adopted.

**Correspondence.**—Special correspondence was read and dealt with, and routine correspondence tabled and received.

**Pharmaceutical Association Meeting.**—A communication had been received from the Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia indicating that a publicity sub-committee had been appointed in connection with the August conference, and inquiring as to the method suggested for dissemination of publicity matter in this State. The matter was left in the Secretary's hands to forward a suitable reply.

Mr. Fraser indicated that it was proposed there should be a Guild conference on August 19 and 20 in Adelaide; that is, the two days prior to the Pharmaceutical Conference.

**General.**—Mr. Leggo suggested that, in association with the Pharmaceutical Society, an appeal should be launched among the pharmacists of this State in an endeavour to raise funds for the Food for Britain Fund. The proposal was generally approved, the only doubt expressed being the ability of the office staff to cope with additional work at this stage. In this connection Mr. Leggo stated he felt sure that the P.A.T.A. office would undertake a good deal of this work.

It was resolved that the Executive confer with the Executive of the Pharmaceutical Society, and if the latter were in accord with the proposal that an appeal be launched as early as possible.

The meeting then terminated.

#### VICTORIAN BRANCH.

S.B.C. meeting, March 5, 1946.

**Present.**—Mr. E. Scott (President) in the chair, Messrs. W. R. Iliffe, F. N. Lee, F. E. Brilliant, A. E. Clemence, J. J. Cocking, W. J. Cornell, A. Dorman, F. J. Gregory, E. F. Hayes, A. H. Hiscock, E. C. Hughes, A. K. Lloyd, B. A. Locke, E. C. McClelland, J. P. Mitchell, L. G. Rowbottom, C. P. A. Taylor, B. Hornby, and the Secretary.

**Ballarat to Broadcast.**—Mr. Cornell advised that the chemists of Ballarat and District had agreed to a broadcasting programme by their local station on similar lines to Geelong chemists.

**January Meeting Requested.**—Mr. Lloyd requested, on behalf of members of the Geelong district, that in future the S.B.C. meet in January. The practice of not holding a meeting in January meant such an accumulation of business for the February meeting that proper attention could not be devoted to each individual item in the time available. Mr. Lloyd then moved, Mr. Cocking seconded, that the Guild in future also hold an S.B.C. meeting in January. Carried.

**From Federal Office,** advising that attention had been drawn to the distribution of goods put up by Colgate-Palmolive Pty. Ltd., in that the stores appeared to enjoy a priority. After discussion, it was resolved that Victoria wholeheartedly supports the Queensland branch in its contention that the stores receive preferential treatment from this company.

**From Federal Office,** forwarding a proposal by Mr. McGibbony to form a "Pharmacy for Pharmacists' League," the main objects of which are to bring into one organisation all connected with the pharmaceutical profession—registered pharmacists, unqualified assistants, appren-

tices, etc., the governing body to comprise representatives from each State, both masters and assistants.

Mr. Scott remarked that the idea was a laudable one, but impracticable. The Branch Solicitor had advised that from a legal aspect it could not be done. He (Mr. Scott) would fight against another body being formed in pharmacy. A recent meeting in Sydney was in favour of this proposal being carried out by the pharmaceutical societies, which had all the machinery ready to hand for operating such a scheme when federated throughout Australia; a proposal to this effect would be put before the Adelaide conference in August. The Guild, he contended, could not handle a project such as this. He agreed that all pharmaceutical bodies should be combined in one Federal body, with representatives from each individual organisation sitting on the Federal Committee, but there was no reason for another body to be formed to implement this.

**From Queensland Branch,** suggesting that an entirely new wrapper should be produced for "Gilseal" Superfatted Soap. This new wrapper to include a figure of a baby, and be styled "Gilseal Superfatted Baby Soap." After discussion, resolved that Victoria is against the proposal submitted. The general opinion was that the superfatted soap should remain as it is, but that a baby soap as a separate and distinct entity should be evolved.

**From Messrs. C. Wallis and Son, Toorak,** suggesting the formation of an "All-Night Pharmacy" in each district to meet the chemists' obligations to supply medicines to the public at all hours. No open-shop trade to be encouraged, and these pharmacies to be independent of members' own pharmacies. Mr. McClelland moved, Mr. Hayes seconded, that this branch approves in general of the principle, and requests delegates to discuss the idea with members of their district and report the results to the S.B.C.

A proposal to institute a collective insurance (sickness and accident) scheme among chemists was submitted by the T. and G. Assurance Co. Resolved that it be handed to Mr. Locke for his special committee to consider and that he also inform P.D.L. and obtain that body's reactions.

**From the family of the late Mr. H. W. J. Braithwaite,** acknowledging the Guild's expression of sympathy in their recent bereavement.

**New Members Elected.**—Miss K. E. Delahunty, Rupanyp; Miss A. S. Sutherland, Geelong; Mrs. K. M. Henty, Cohuna; Messrs. G. K. Suter, Elsternwick; E. N. Egerton, Cheltenham, and R. Frazer, Altona.

**District Reports.**—Mr. Cocking complained of the treatment Bendigo received recently regarding the allocation of apprentices. Bendigo did not get one. Mr. Scott briefly reviewed the position, pointing out that the number of students admitted was dependent upon the capacity of the College. Therefore, those with the highest academic qualifications obtained the preference. He contended that the Selection Committee had done a good job under very difficult circumstances.

Mr. Cocking also reported that some grocers and stores were offering for sale such lines as A.P.C. powders, Lysol and Iodine. The Secretary was directed to pass this information on to the Pharmacy Board.

Mr. Taylor reported that Ballarat District had held preliminary discussions relative to a broadcasting plan similar to that in operation in Geelong. Members were in favour of the scheme and they were going ahead with it. The new move by the Bankers' Health Society to appoint chemists as agents for their Public Benefit Scheme was not favourably viewed by members of his district. Formation of a roster for chemists to supply the public on Sundays and holidays was under discussion, but not yet finalised.

Mr. Hayes inquired the prices for over-the-counter sales of A.P.C. mixture. He was informed that the prices were:

4 oz. for 2/-      8 oz. for 3/6.

Also the price of Ant-Rid, 1/6.

He suggested that chemists should be requested, when using Pulv. Trag. in dispensing a prescription, to clearly state the fact on the scrip.

**Federal Report.**—The Federal Delegate (Mr. E. Scott) informed members that Mr. Leggo, Mr. Ross and he intended to visit Western Australia at the end of the month to place the details of the Federal Merchandising Plan before the chemists of that State. Other States will be visited in rotation, and it was expected that the plan would be put into operation in the near future.

The meeting closed at 11.35 p.m.

#### QUEENSLAND BRANCH.

S.B.C. meeting, March 7, 1946.

**Attendance.**—Messrs. R. C. Rutter (State President), F. H. Phillips, I. M. Baxter, W. A. Lenehan, G. Nolan, R. L. Darley, C. W. Noble, J. W. Valentine, J. J. Delahunty, E. H. Palmer and the Acting Secretary.

**Business ex. Minutes:**

**Sale of Chemists' Goods in Exempted Shops.**—For the information of the meeting the Acting Secretary read the list of goods which are recognised as chemists' lines and may be stocked and sold in exempted shops, but only during the hours when chemists' shops are allowed to be open in any particular district. When chemists' shops are required to be closed, such goods must be structurally separated from the exempt goods. The meeting was advised that a paragraph concerning this matter was being inserted in next issue of "Gilseal News," with a request that members report regarding the situation in the area serviced by their pharmacies.

Members of the committee reported that most mixed businesses carried large stocks of patent medicines which were sold at any hour during the day or night. As many storekeepers sold patent medicines during hours when pharmacies were closed, by so doing they were violating the Factories and Shops Acts 1900-1922. It was therefore resolved that the matter be brought before the notice of the Labour Department, requesting that the Department make a survey to see that storekeepers are abiding by the requirements of the Factories and Shops Acts.

**Regimentation of Pharmacists (State Activity).**—Mr. Darley suggested that members of the committee should write to any country pharmacists whom they knew personally. Mr. Nolan suggested that all key personnel be written to, asking them to form zones, each zone to meet regularly at intervals of two or three months. Ideas and suggestions from zone meetings should be forwarded to the State Branch Committee, which would also convey items of interest for consideration and discussion at zone meetings. Each year a convention of Guild members could be held, when each zone would be asked to send a representative, at the Guild's expense, to such a meeting.

Lengthy consideration was given to the suggestions submitted, and it was finally resolved that a letter be forwarded to each key pharmacist requesting him to form an association of chemists in his zone. It was also agreed that members of the State Branch Committee be furnished with a list of key pharmacists to enable them to communicate with any whom they knew personally.

**Financial statement** for the month of February was presented by the Hon. Treasurer and adopted. Accounts amounting to £43/0/6 were passed for payment.

**New Member Elected.**—Mr. J. Hole, St. Paul's terrace, Brisbane.

**Correspondence:** To Federal Secretary (1) re Gilseal hot-water bags, requesting that steps be taken to ascertain what is the prospect of supplies of Gilseal hot-water bags becoming available for early distribution. Reply received, advising it is questionable whether stocks of the correct type of rubber are large enough to permit of the manufacture of the best type of hot-water bags for this winter. The Federal Merchandising Manager had been asked to make the necessary inquiries. (2) Respecting Colgate-Palmolive products, advising that, in this State, Colgate and Lournay goods have been unprocurable by pharmacists since Christmas, and even before then they were in very short supply. Requesting that this question

be taken up with Colgate-Palmolive Pty. Ltd., in an endeavour to ease the stock position with regard to that company's products.—Reply received, advising that all branches had been asked to notify the Federal Office as soon as possible the position in their respective States. (3) Re "Gilseal" soaps, with particular reference to a baby soap. The suggestions had been forwarded by the Federal Office to the other branches for an expression of their views. (5) Concerning the fluctuation in price of the various toothpastes. Entering on behalf of the State Branch Committee an emphatic protest as to the time-limit given by the Prices Commissioner, and drawing attention to the fact that when the prices were increased the retailer was not permitted to raise his prices until a much longer period had elapsed. It is considered that the same principle should apply when a reduction in prices is directed by the Prices Commissioner.—Advising that in the approaches which have been made so far a minimum period of two months within which retailers would be expected to dispose of stocks at the higher wholesale prices had been suggested. (6) Re Paul Duval Toiletries: Advising that whilst this committee is agreeable to the policy of placing distribution in the capital cities with a limited number of departmental stores, the committee is strongly averse to the products being marketed in the smaller country cities and towns, except through pharmaceutical channels.

To Taylors, Elliotts Pty. Ltd., D. Maclean Pty. Ltd., T. G. Cullum and Kenneth Mitchell, inquiring whether these firms would be good enough to declare their policy regarding the supply of rationed goods to ex-service personnel wishing to establish themselves as master pharmacists in new businesses—not existing businesses procured by purchase.

**Replies received as follows:**—

Taylors, Elliotts Pty. Ltd., advising that they do not now ration goods, but any chemists desiring to establish new businesses are given a reasonable share of the company's stocks, whatever they may be.

D. Maclean Pty. Ltd., stating it is their desire to assist ex-service pharmacists opening new businesses, as far as they are able with rationed goods.

T. G. Cullum, advising that each individual case will be treated on its merits.

Kenneth Mitchell, stating he will be pleased to render every possible assistance to ex-servicemen commencing in business, and whatever stocks are available, whether they are rationed or otherwise, these men will get a fair share of them.

**Re "Gilseal" Baby Soap.**—After discussion, it was resolved that Federal Office be advised that this branch would like investigations to be made respecting the marketing of a new soap entirely for babies; "Gilseal" Superfatted Soap to remain as at present, but a "Gilseal" Baby Soap to be marketed in addition.

**Reduction in Margin of Profit on Toothpastes.**—Mr. Noble drew attention to the new prices for Forhans toothpaste, also Double-D Eucalyptus, and referred to the low margin of profit allowed on these commodities. It was resolved that the attention of Federal Office be drawn to this matter. It is felt that if this principle is adopted in future, chemists' profits will be whittled down to such an extent that these lines will be unprofitable to sell.

**Accredited Distributor.**—Mr. Kenneth Mitchell wrote, stating that he is desirous of adding "Gilseal" lines to his range of stocks, and seeking appointment as an accredited wholesale distributor for "Gilseal" products. It was resolved that Mr. Mitchell be appointed a Guild accredited representative.

**Dangerous Drugs and Restricted Drugs.**—A member wrote, suggesting that the committee should either take up the matter with the British Medical Association or should circularise all medical men respecting Restricted and Dangerous Drugs. Also urging that medical practitioners be requested to refrain from writing prescriptions requiring cancellation on the same form as non-cancelled scrips.

The meeting was advised that the Commonwealth

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Government was at the present time working on new Food and Drug Regulations which, in due course, would become law throughout Australia. After discussion, it was resolved that Federal Office be written to asking can an approach be made to the Commonwealth Health Department with reference to removing from the restricted list preparations used for external use, the active ingredient of which is listed on the Restricted Drugs List.

Another suggestion was that Federal Office be asked to take up the question of wholesalers being asked to place Restricted and Dangerous Drugs on separate invoices in future.

It was also resolved that a communication be forwarded to the Queensland Branch of the British Medical Association with reference to medical men instructing patients to have prescriptions repeated containing Restricted Drugs. Also inquiring if prescriptions containing Restricted and Dangerous Drugs could be written on a separate prescription form, as a patient having two prescriptions on the one form—one requiring cancellation and the other not—must have the prescription handed back, whereas it is the chemist's duty to hold the prescription containing a restricted drug.

**Shortage of Dental Plate Brushes and Children's Tooth-brushes.**—Members of committee referred to the shortage of dental plate brushes and children's toothbrushes. Supplies had been available in very small quantities, which by no means met the demand that existed. It was resolved that the matter be referred to Federal Office.

**League of Australian Pharmacists.**—Consideration was given to the correspondence received from the Federal President, respecting a proposed League of Australian Pharmacists, which would embrace all pharmaceutical personnel. Members were of the opinion that, on account of its constitution, the Guild could not handle the matter. It was resolved that further consideration be held in abeyance until the April meeting.

**Prices of Ovaltine.**—Mr. Darley said he had been deputised by a member to draw the committee's attention to the new prices for Ovaltine, which were 2/3 and 3/11. It was suggested that the company should be written to, urging that Ovaltine should be listed with P.A.T.A. It was reported to the meeting that there was to be a change in local representative for "Ovaltine," and, under the circumstances, it was resolved that the matter be deferred until next meeting, when the new representative would probably have taken up duty.

The meeting terminated at 11 p.m.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH.

S.B.C. meeting held March 12, 1946.

**Present.**—Mr. R. C. Upton (President) in the chair, Messrs. R. C. Gray, T. J. Wigley, D. Finlayson, J. D. Garrett, A. E. Cole, V. L. Mitchell, R. G. Shetliffe, W. Cotterell and the Secretary.

**Correspondence.**—From Mr. C. L. Abbott, K.C., re Pharmacy Act. The Secretary tabled the opinion received from Mr. Abbott, and after same was read and discussed it was resolved that a meeting of the special committee, comprising representatives of the wholesale trade and the Guild, should meet as early as possible.

From Federal Office re—

(1) **Pharmacy for Pharmacists' League.**—After considerable discussion on the merits of this proposal, it was agreed that the idea was a development of the policy put forward by this State twelve months or more ago under the heading "Employment Bureau." This State Branch Committee therefore supported the suggestion and would call a meeting between representatives of the Guild and the Pharmaceutical Employee's Association to discuss the implications, and also would obtain the opinion of the Federal Office as to the legal position.

(2) **Pharmaceutical Benefits Act.**—The Secretary reported he had been requested by Federal Office to prepare a set of envelopes for all chemists on the State Pharmaceutical Register, for the despatch of a statement by the Federal President.

(3) **List of Members.**—The Secretary reported that the three copies of the S.A. list of members had gone forward, as requested.

(4) **Definition of a "Prescription Proprietary."**—It was agreed that same should be published in the next "Gilseal News."

(5) **Merchandising Plan.**—The Secretary explained that the letter from Federal Office, together with the itinerary of the proposed visit of Messrs. Leggo, Scott and Ross, was not clear as to the actual date when the delegation would arrive in Adelaide, and he had asked for further information re this and in regard to the plan to be put before the meetings.

(6) **Colgate-Palmolive Products.**—Mr. R. C. Gray, Director of Trade and Commerce, reported on his extended interview with Mr. Sweeney, Colgate's S.A. manager, which he said was not very satisfactory from the Guild's point of view. The Secretary reported that, in response to a suggestion made by Mr. Gray, Mr. Sweeney had called on him and discussed the matter at length, and it had been agreed that Colgate-Palmolive would, from time to time, endeavour to give members advance information as to the stock position and new lines which may be coming on the market. Mr. Sweeney had stated, during this interview, that certain chemists were in the habit of substituting other lines for Colgate's, and also did not contact him often enough for stocks. He suggested that chemists should not hesitate to approach him periodically for supplies.

(7) **"Gilseal" Lines.**—The Secretary reported that the Prices Branch required a list of the lines and the margins obtaining in this State for "Gilseal" lines. After consultation with the President, Federal Office had been informed that as no "Gilseal" lines had been packed since the early war years, and S.A. was endeavouring to obtain supplies from Victoria, this branch would follow the prices and margins set by Victoria. Action endorsed.

(8) **Dye Prices.**—The Secretary reported that Federal Office was ascertaining other States' opinions regarding S.A.'s suggestion that the prices of "Gilseal" and "Princess" dyes should be the same.

(9) **Enemas.**—Notwithstanding the information received from Federal Office re short supply of this line, members stated that no reasonable quantities were available in this State, and it was decided that the Secretary should make inquiries from Dunlop Rubber (Aust.) Ltd. and the wholesale drug houses. If these companies had no indication as to when supplies were likely to be increased, the Federal Office should be again notified.

(10) **Food Parcels for Britain.**—The committee considered the suggestion of the W.A. Branch a good one, and it was decided that the Secretary ascertain the number and names of pharmacists in Britain to whom the South Australian pharmacists should send parcels, after which the committee would again consider the matter.

From the Victorian Branch re supply of "Gilseal" lines to South Australia. The Secretary reported that, owing to Mr. Glover's illness, he had been unable to get very far with the question of supply of "Gilseal" lines from Victoria, but had received information to the effect that the suppliers were unlikely to be able to meet South Australia's requirements for some time, owing to material and labour shortages. Resolved that the Secretary should seek the wholesale and retail prices from the Victorian Branch, when the matter would be further investigated.

From a country member re "Farex" chemist-only policy. The Secretary reported that a member had complained that the grocers in his town had, according to his information, sold their stocks of "Farex" and then replenished same. He considered that, as he had been in business for over two months, the chemist-only policy should now apply in his town. Resolved that the Secretary notify Glaxo Laboratories (Aust.) Pty. Ltd. of the position, and ask the company to notify its State distributors that this member was carrying on business as a chemist.

From Nicholas Pty. Ltd., re release of Solarsenox.

From T. and G. Mutual Life Assurance Society Ltd., re Accident and Sickness Assurance Scheme. After discus-

sion on this scheme, and also a scheme submitted by Australian Provincial Assurance Association Ltd., it was resolved that the executive committee consider the merits of sick and accident assurance, and also ascertain whether Pharmaceutical Defence Ltd. had any scheme available to members.

From the Chamber of Retail Trades and Professions of S.A.—Notice of meeting to be held on March 21. This meeting would deal with the proposed formation of the South Australian Council of Retailers (embodying the Rundle street traders), the Early Closing Act, Taxation Reduction Campaign, etc.

From the Pharmaceutical Association of Australia and New Zealand (circular), re the meeting to be held in Adelaide during August, Mr. F. C. Kent's visit re same, presentation to Mr. Finnemore, and Repatriation Dispensing. Regarding the latter it was learned that the arrangement for dispensing for dependants of deceased members of the Forces was expected to come into force on July 1, 1946.

Finance.—Finance statement to 12/3/46 was adopted, and accounts totalling £14/16/7 passed for payment.

Membership.—Applications for membership were received from Messrs. A. Bentley, E. E. Hogben, R. E. Brown, J. M. White and G. M. Smylie. All were accepted, providing there was nothing in the rules limiting the proximity of business as between a Guild member and an applicant for membership.

Federal Delegate's Report.—Mr. Finlayson reported on Federal Circular 557, dealing with Merchandising, Pharmaceutical Benefits Act, Prices Conference, Chemists-Only Policy, Colgate-Palmolive Products, D.D.T. Insect Powder, Enemas, Faulding's Calcium, "Gilseal" Dyes, "Gilseal" Soaps, Guild Convention, and Johnson and Johnson Pty. Ltd.

In discussing the merchandising scheme, Mr. Finlayson said it was noted that N.S.W. and S.A. had made gifts to the merchandising scheme, South Australia had loaned an amount equivalent to 5/1 per member, but Victoria and Queensland were not mentioned. He stated he had that day received a communication regarding the scheme, which gave no details, but was evidently a draft of a circular to be sent to all members urging them to become participants and to subscribe an amount towards the establishment of the scheme. The committee expressed interest in the scheme, but wanted to know full details as to administration methods and modus operandi.

Re Faulding's Calcium, Mr. Finlayson stated that the Federal Office was anxious that contact be made with F. H. Faulding and Co. Ltd., with a view to seeking the retention of their calcium as a chemist-only line. It was pointed out that this particular line had been made available to retailers other than pharmacists, and that, in view of the nature of the product and the particular use to which it is put, the Federal Executive was strongly of the opinion that the marketing of the line should be confined to pharmacists. A letter had been sent by the Federal Secretary to the managing director of the company in this connection.

Office Accommodation.—The Secretary reported that the proposition put to the R.V.A. had been considered by a special committee, and a general meeting of members of the Association called for March 18 to consider the proposition. He had continued to search the city, but accommodation was not available and, indeed, the position had been aggravated by the large number of ex-servicemen and women who were desirous of entering business of one kind and another.

Easter Closing Hours.—Mr. V. L. Mitchell suggested that now was the time to make arrangements for Easter closing, and after discussion it was resolved that the Secretary ascertain the hours to be observed by grocers and butchers, then consult the President and make arrangements with the F.S.M.A. for uniform closing.

"Gilseal" Bath Soap.—It was considered that the time was now ripe for resumption of the sale of "Gilseal" Bath Soap, and the Secretary was instructed to make the necessary inquiries from Australian Soaps Ltd. and the Federal Office.

Patents List.—A letter received from Federal Office had been handed to Mr. Garrett for attention, and he had reported that the list had been prepared and handed to the Prices Branch last October. It was understood that this branch was still dealing with the matter and, under the circumstances, it was decided to carry out the Prices Branch advice and await its further communication with the Guild.

Meeting closed 10.30 p.m.

#### WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH.

S.B.C. meeting, March 12, 1946.

Present.—Messrs. Dallimore (chair), Cvenell, Baxter, Cohen, Dalby, Healy, Howling, Jaenstch, Lorman, Misses Dick and Richards and Mrs. Adlard.

Business Arising from Minutes:

Repatriation Dispensing.—As the local Repatriation Department had not received any notification of the proposed change-over for the dispensing for dependants of deceased soldiers, further information was sought. A notice was received from the Hon. General Secretary of the P.A. of A. and N.Z., stating that inquiries from the Repatriation Headquarters disclosed the fact that an unfortunate delay had occurred. Officials stated that this was due to the delay in settling terms of the agreement with the British Medical Association, which was closely concerned with the alteration, printing of new forms, and notifying the dependants concerned. Representations had been made with a view to obviating this delay, and the most recent advice received from the Commission was that the plan should be ready for the change-over as from July 1, 1946.

Pricing of Broken Quantities.—A report was received from the Chairman of the Pricing Committee, in which he explained that both the Victorian and the New South Wales system for the pricing of broken quantities had been examined, and it was recommended that this State should adopt the method as used by Victoria.

Correspondence.—From Federal Office (1), thanking this branch for the gift of £50 towards the Merchandising Fund; (2) notifying that Canberra had accepted the Guild definition of "stock preparations," and asking that notice of the definition be included in the next "Gilseal" Bulletin; (3) notifying that a further number of Constitution and Rules of the Guild was being printed and a portion would be allotted to each State; (4) asking for a list of "Gilseal" household lines at present packed; (5) in reference to the forthcoming visit of Federal merchandising officers to Perth; (6) enclosing a copy of a letter received from the Editor of the "A.J.P.," suggesting that more publicity be given in the "A.J.P." to Federal Guild affairs; (7) notifying that the T. and G. Mutual Life Association had not approached the Federal Office regarding its sickness and accident policy, but had been negotiating with the Queensland branch for some time; (8) stating that a suggestion had been received from South Australia that "Gilseal" dyes be reduced to 1/-, and asking the opinion of this branch on the matter.

Circular letter from the Pharmaceutical Association of Australia and New Zealand.

The Pharmaceutical Society of South Australia, intimating that they intended to forward a paragraph for "Gilseal News" in connection with the conference which is to be held in Adelaide in August next.

From a country chemist, asking information regarding extension of the Bankers' Health Scheme to other than bank officials.

New Member Elected.—The nomination of Mr. Medd was accepted.

Financial.—Accounts totalling £42/8/6 were passed for payment.

Proposed Visit of Messrs. Leggo, Scott and Ross.—The Secretary reported that he had received a notification from the Federal Secretary, in which it was stated that Messrs. Leggo, Scott and Ross would be arriving in Perth early in April. The object of their visit was to contact chemists for the purpose of introducing a merchandising

scheme. It was recommended that the State Executive draw up a suitable programme.

**Pharmacy for Pharmacists' League.**—A letter was received from the Federal President, together with a memorandum giving the general set-up of a proposed league of pharmacists of Australia. After considerable discussion, it was decided that the matter be more fully discussed at a subsequent meeting.

**Profit Margins.**—Attention of members at the meeting was drawn to the fact that inroads are being steadily made on chemists' profits. The latest move appears to be in the price of hypodermic syringes. The 2cc record syringe, costing 10/4, is listed to retail at 14/1. In other words, the chemist is allowed a profit of 26 percent, on turnover on a line that he has to carry perhaps for six months before making a sale. It would be interesting to know who fixes these prices, because it has always been the policy in the past to work on 50 per cent. margin on slow-moving lines such as hypodermic syringes.

The meeting then terminated.

#### TASMANIAN BRANCH.

S.B.C. meeting, November 1, 1945.

**Present.**—Messrs. J. H. Gould (Chairman), K. Jenkins, D. R. Crisp, A. P. Brammall, G. M. Fleming, C. B. Dillon, R. S. Stephenson, J. Thomas, V. Browne and L. W. Palfreyman (Secretary).

**Shops Act.**—Reported that the Shops Act amendments had passed the Lower House. After discussion, it was resolved that the Secretary should interview the Chief Secretary with a view to the operation of the amendments being made effective on and after December 1, so that advertising of the new hours could be proceeded with.

Regarding Friday nights, it was resolved that, as chemists' shops would be closing on Saturday morning, shops in Hobart and suburbs should be open from 7 till 8 p.m.

Preparation of printed cards, showing the new trading hours and the necessary advertising in the press, were left in the hands of the President and the Secretary.

**Taxation Deduction Cards.**—Mr. Gould reported that the matter was being investigated by the Federal Office and the Commonwealth Taxation Department.

**New Member Elected.**—Miss P. B. Wragg, of Deloraine. Accounts totalling £12/1/10 were passed for payment.

**Pharmaceutical Benefits Act.**—The rest of the evening was devoted to a report from the Federal Delegate regarding the latest developments in connection with the Pharmaceutical Benefits Act.

S.B.C. meeting, December 12, 1945.

**Present.**—Messrs. J. H. Gould (Chairman), K. H. Jenkins, C. B. Dillon, D. R. Crisp, K. Gillham, T. A. Stephens and L. W. Palfreyman (Secretary).

**Shops Act.**—It was noted that the New Shops Act Amendments had come into force and was being favourably received by all concerned.

**Holidays.**—After discussion on attendance at pharmacies for urgent requirements during holidays, it was decided that, in order to prevent any adverse criticism regarding the closing of chemists' shops, it should be the policy when any chemist was going away during any holidays that he should notify a nearby chemist, so that arrangements could be made to supply urgent requirements after hours.

**Chest X-ray Survey.**—Circulars regarding the chest X-ray survey were tabled. After discussion, Mr. Gould undertook to try and arrange some Saturday morning after the holidays for chemists to attend.

**Pharmaceutical Association.**—A circular re the meeting of the Pharmaceutical Association of Australia and New Zealand, in Adelaide next August, was tabled.

**Johnson and Johnson.**—Letter from the representative of Johnson and Johnson Pty. Ltd., advising that the prices of maternity kits 21/6, combine dressings 4/-, and New Era cotton wool 2/6, had been fixed.

## The Chemists' Service Guild of New Zealand

### CANTERBURY DISTRICT.

The annual general meeting of the Canterbury division was held in the Canterbury Manufacturers' Rooms, Christchurch, on March 12, at 7.45 p.m.

**Present.**—Mr. W. E. Aitchison presided over an attendance of 21 members.

**Annual Report and Balance-sheet.**—The President, Mr. W. E. Aitchison, read his annual report, as follows:—

"Herewith I present my report upon the activities of this division for the past year:—

**Meetings.**—Five general meetings and seven executive meetings were held during the year, the average attendance at the former being 25, which is a decided improvement upon past attendances. There are still a number of local chemists who neither attend any of our meetings nor take any active interest in our organisation, but who cheerfully accept all privileges. We point out to these few that our division needs their active interest and support. All meetings of the executive have been very well attended.

**Membership.**—The year closed with a membership of 89, as compared with 90 twelve months ago.

**Combined Window Displays.**—An earnest appeal is made to all members to combine in the Dominion-wide window display during each month, as advised by circular. The value of these displays to each individual pharmacy and to the profession generally cannot be too strongly expressed and applies to our country, as well as our city members.

**Welcome Club.**—A well-organised party of ladies from a number of city pharmacies served tea and supper at the Welcome Club last winter, the funds for which were provided by our members. The function was a great success, and we are grateful to those ladies for their splendid work and to our members for their financial assistance.

**Social Activities.**—Late last year a most enjoyable day was spent at the Waitakiri Golf Links, when the annual match was played with the Wholesale Drug Houses for the Stevens Cup and the K.P. Tankard. Another enjoyable function was the smoke night held in the Mayfair Lounge towards the end of the year. Both of these functions were well attended. Our hearty thanks are due to the small committee responsible for their organisation.

**40-Hour Week.**—Late last year, when legislation proclaiming a 40-hour week was suddenly thrust upon us, there was a good deal of speculation—and consternation—as to what its results would be. Your members decided that Saturday closing would commence with the present year, and, so far, we have not had many reports of a falling-off in business as a result. In fact, the scheme seems to be giving a greater degree of satisfaction than was expected by most of us.

**Peace.**—This is our first annual general meeting since the war, both in Europe and the Pacific, came to an end. Let us express our sincere thanks to all those branches of the services that made victory possible, and let us show our gratitude to those same people by each one of us doing everything in his power to help them get back into their civilian occupations as speedily and peacefully as possible.

W. E. Aitchison, President."

The Secretary-Treasurer tabled an audited balance-sheet. Accounts for the year showed a loss of £57/15/3.

The annual report was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Derbidge, and accounts were adopted on the motion of Mr. Percy, seconded by Mr. McKay.

**Election of Officers.**—The following office-bearers were elected:—

**President:** Mr. W. E. Aitchison.

**Vice-Presidents (City)**—Mr. E. Dash; **(Country)**—Mr. H. Oddie.

Mr. Shier declined nomination as Country Vice-Presi-

dent, as he thought it advisable that this was an office which should circulate among country members.

**Secretary-Treasurer.**—Mr. J. A. S. Marris.

**Auditor.**—Mr. A. J. Derbidge.

**Executive.**—Ex-officio members.

Resolved on the motion of Mr. Sarney, seconded by Mr. Dash, that members of the Pharmacy Board and P.P.I.C. shall be ex-officio members of the Executive.

**Executive.**—The following were elected: Messrs. Masson, McKay, K. Reynolds, Douglas, Price, Thompson, Sutton, J. Shier and Falvey.

**Emergency Committee**

**Price Committee**

**Formulary Committee**

**Guild Delegates**

The meeting decided that these various offices should be appointed by the Executive.

**Notice of Motion.**—Mr. McKay, in accordance with notice of motion given, moved that the subscription rates be increased from £2/2/- to £3/3/-; seconded by Mr. Price. After some discussion the motion was defeated.

**Levy.**—Moved by Mr. McArthur, seconded by Mr. Dale, that in order to meet increasing expenses and improve the financial position of the division, a levy of £1/1/- shall be payable by all members. Carried.

**Guild Annual Meeting.**—Mr. Shier reported fully upon the business transacted at the Guild annual meeting at Wellington. He stressed the importance of having full representation at that meeting, in order to give the remits from the division the backing that they deserved. Resolved, on the motion of Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. McKay, that the report be received and our thanks to Mr. Shier be recorded.

**Appreciation.**—Mr. Shier announced that Mr. A. Doig had been recommended by his medical adviser to reduce his activities in the future, hence he had resigned from active participation in Guild matters. Mr. Shier moved that the Secretary write to Mr. Doig, expressing the gratitude of this division for the splendid work he had done for pharmacy. Seconded by Mr. Derbidge and carried.

Mr. Shier stated that the three members of the Dominion Executive had done excellent work during a very strenuous year, and he wished to express the thanks of the division to those three gentlemen for their keen and practical interest in pharmacy. This was carried with acclamation.

**Appointment of Guild Inspector.**—This matter was discussed very fully, most members taking an active part in the discussion. Mr. Sarney stated that from the point of view of pricing, an inspector was hardly necessary, as from tests he had carried out over a number of years, the work of the local Pricing Office was both fair to all members and accurate. Mr. McArthur expressed the view that our aim should be towards getting a reasonable price for dispensing, rather than a profit upon the drugs used. He pointed out that during the past few years labour costs had increased considerably, and yet no increases had been granted in the dispensing fee. Mr. Henty also spoke on these views, and it was felt that nothing further could be done in the matter in the meantime.

**Eli Lilly Products.**—Mr. McKay stated that this organisation proposed to supply these products direct to the chemist who would handle them on a percentage basis. The matter was left in the hands of the Executive.

**Nyal Products.**—The Secretary, in accordance with a promise given to Frederick Stearns Ltd., read a letter in which this company denied a rumour that it was departing from the policy of "chemists-only" lines, and pointed out that it had recently signed a four-years' contract with the Guild for the purpose.

**Employment.**—The Secretary stated that he is now receiving a number of applications for employment, and asked that members should apply to him for particulars when considering further staff changes.

**Retiring Officers.**—A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the retiring officers.

**Price Changes.**—Members were reminded that upon observing material changes in prices, they should immediately communicate with the Secretary, who would in

turn hand the information on to the price committee. Only in this way could the pricing system be kept in efficient working order. All members were asked to cooperate.

The meeting terminated at 10.30 p.m., with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

## Classified Advertisements

The charge for these Advertisements is 3/- for four lines and 8d. for each additional line, payable in advance.

**ENGLISH PHARMACIST**, 31, at present in R.A.F., desires position in W.A., preferably Perth or suburbs. Any situation considered. Excellent experience and references. —Replies to "Pharmacist," 38 St. Quentin avenue, Claremont, W.A.

**WANTED.**—Pharmacy, Melbourne, in N.E., E., or S. suburb, with residence if possible. Turnover about £3000. —Reply "777," c/o "A.J.P.," Office, 360 Swanston street, Melbourne.

**SALES REPRESENTATIVE** with thorough knowledge of Local Drug, Fine Chemical and Industrial Raw Materials Trade required for responsible position with Melbourne branch office of H. BLEAKLEY & CO., 397-399 Kent street, Sydney. Reply by letter only to Sydney Head Office, stating present and past experience.

**CHEMIST WANTED AS PRODUCTION MANAGER** by old-established Sydney firm. Applicant must be familiar with plant and modern methods of manufacture, with proven ability to control staff. Permanent position with salary range of £650-£850 per annum. Applications to "Superintendent," c/o J. B. Dillon, 17 O'Connell street, Sydney.

An Indian company trading in Fiji invites applications from qualified chemists to open and manage a drug department. Generous salary and leave conditions. Great opportunity for energetic, ambitious man. Living conditions and taxation very favourable. Reply to Amratlal Jamnadas, P.O. Box No. 13, Lautoka, Fiji Islands.

**APPLICATIONS** are invited, for the position of **INSPECTOR** for the **PHARMACY BOARD OF VICTORIA**. Applicants must be registered pharmaceutical chemists, preferably under 35 years of age, with some knowledge of Victorian Poisons and Pharmacy Laws. Preference will be given to ex-servicemen. Applications in writing should reach the Registrar of the Board, 360 Swanston street, Melbourne, before April 30. Particulars regarding salary, etc., available on application.

**ALBERT KOCH**, Qualified Analyst and Technical Chemist, Brougham Chambers, 469 Little Collins Street, Melbourne. Analyses made of poisons, medicines, oils, waters, foods, cordials, raw materials and manufactured products. Drugs and chemicals tested for pharmacists at special rates. Telephones: MU 1922 and LF 1069.

**C. A. SMYTHE & CO.**—Public Analysts and Consulting Industrial Chemists, Lister House, 196 North Terrace, Adelaide.—General analysis of drugs, foodstuffs, metals, etc. Duplication and substitution of products. Technical research, plant design and legal testimony. Bacteriological examination of foods, canned foods, etc. Special rates to Pharmacies. Telephone: Central 601.

**ANALYTICAL SERVICE:** O. A. MENDELSON & CO. (O. A. Mendelson, B.Sc., A.A.C.I., and graduate staff), Public Analysts and Chartered Consulting Chemists, 386 Flinders Lane, Melbourne (Tel.: MU 3863 and 2849); Brookman Buildings, Grenfell Street, Adelaide (Cent. 1491, 1492); 29 Bligh Street, Sydney (B 2707); and 74 Eagle Street, Brisbane (B 4452). Established 1922. Analyses of drugs, cosmetics, foods, and general manufactures. Professional discount on fees to pharmacists.