

be accomplished. We are yet surrounded by innumerable mysteries, which can only be solved by persistent research. Not all men are fitted by temperament or training to engage in this great work, but more are thus fitted, I am sure, than are awakened to its opportunities. For those of you who are ready, here is a challenge to the supreme use of all your powers—to your imagination, your ingenuity, your patience and enthusiasm, and to your spirit of disinterested service.

W. B. CANNON

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

#### THE CONDUCT OF THE BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY

THE committee on personnel of the department of agriculture, composed of W. M. Hays, assistant secretary; George P. McCabe, solicitor, and C. C. Clark, chief clerk, have made to the secretary of agriculture a report on the engagement of Dr. H. H. Rusby as pharmacognosist in which they come to the following conclusion:

That Drs. Wiley, Bigelow and Rusby, throughout the negotiations for the readjustment of Dr. Rusby's salary, had in view the purpose to restore Dr. Rusby's rate of compensation to \$20 per diem for days actually employed, thus to retain his expert services both in the laboratory and in court, which services were highly valued by the Bureau of Chemistry; to accomplish this purpose they made a secret arrangement, and, through Dr. Wiley, proposed to the Secretary of Agriculture the appointment of Dr. Rusby at a legal rate per annum, without disclosing to the Secretary that Dr. Rusby was in fact to be paid at an illegal rate, different from the rate specified in the appointment.

Based upon this report, the committee submits the following recommendations:

1. That Dr. H. H. Rusby, pharmacognosist in the Bureau of Chemistry at \$1,600 per annum, be dismissed from the service, on account of irregularities in connection with his appointments and recommendation for appointment of Dr. William Mansfield as unskilled laborer.

2. That Dr. L. F. Kebler, chief of drug laboratory in the Bureau of Chemistry, be reduced from

his present position as chief of the drug laboratory to a position and status in which he will have no authority to make recommendations regarding the salaries or periods of service of other employees, on account of irregular conduct in procurement of services of Dr. H. H. Rusby.

3. That Dr. H. W. Wiley, chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, and Dr. W. D. Bigelow, assistant chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, be given an opportunity to resign from the positions which they now hold in the Bureau of Chemistry, on account of irregularities in appointments of Dr. H. H. Rusby.

The attorney-general has recommended to President Taft the approval of the findings of the committee. It does not, however, appear to be likely that President Taft will dismiss Dr. Wiley, Dr. Bigelow and Dr. Rusby, for an alleged technical violation of the law. Dr. Rusby is a botanist and student of *materia medica* of high distinction and dean of the College of Pharmacy of Columbia University. If he was employed at a salary of \$1,600 a year by the government, it was known to every one that he did not devote his entire time to government work. Dr. Wiley should be reprimanded if he has permitted a technical violation of the law, and the law should be altered so that scientific experts can be employed by the government on part time at a reasonable salary. And the president and the congress may very well take the opportunity to express their appreciation of what Dr. Wiley has accomplished for the public health.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

PROFESSOR L. H. BAILEY has tendered to the trustees of Cornell University his resignation as director of the New York State College of Agriculture. He has made no public statement about the matter except to admit that it is his intention to retire from teaching.

SURGEON-GENERAL WYMAN has appointed Dr. E. C. Franklin, since 1903 professor of organic chemistry at Stanford University, to be professor of chemistry in the hygienic laboratory of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.

THE director of the Museo Nacional, Mexico, Sr. Garcia has resigned and Sr. Robelo