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<i>Promotion of Medicine and Pharmacy</i> : PROFESSOR REID HUNT	49	<i>Scientific Apparatus and Laboratory Methods</i> : <i>A Belt Paper Kymograph with a Three Speed Gear Shift</i> : DR. ALVAH R. McLAUGHLIN	71
<i>Obituary</i> : <i>Ralph Hamilton Curtiss</i> : DR. J. H. MOORE	58	<i>Special Articles</i> : <i>Surface Tension by the Ring Method</i> : PROFESSOR WILLIAM D. HARKINS and HUBERT F. JORDAN. <i>The Revival of Comatose Adrenalectomized Cats with an Extract of the Suprarenal Cortex</i> : PROFESSOR W. W. SWINGLE and J. J. PFIFFNER. <i>The Hormone of the Adrenal Cortex</i> : PROFESSOR FRANK A. HARTMAN and KATHERINE A. BROWNELL	73
<i>Scientific Events</i> : <i>The United States Bureau of Fisheries; Award of the Storrow Fellowships; Awards of the American Society of Civil Engineers; At the University of Mississippi</i>	60	<i>Science News</i>	x
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	63		
<i>Discussion</i> : <i>International Cooperation in Geomorphology</i> : PROFESSOR KIRK BRYAN. <i>The Paragould Meteor and Meteorites</i> : DR. C. C. WYLIE. <i>Occurrence of Mammoth and Giant Bison in Glacial Moraines in the High Mountains of Colorado</i> : HAROLD J. COOK. <i>Zoopharmacology versus Phytopharmacology</i> : DR. DAVID I. MACHT. <i>The First English Popularizer of Science</i> : PROFESSOR ALBERT M. REESE	66		
<i>Quotations</i> : <i>Medical Patents</i>	69		
<i>Societies and Meetings</i> : <i>The North Carolina Academy of Science</i> : H. R. TOTTEN	71		

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PROMOTION OF MEDICINE AND PHARMACY¹

By Professor REID HUNT

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

ONE of the duties of the president of this convention, as stated in the by-laws, is the presentation of an address "embodying such subjects as may seem to him suitable to the occasion."

Since many of those present are attending a meeting of the convention for the first time, it may be well to speak briefly of the purposes and history of this organization. It was founded in 1820 and has been in continuous existence ever since; the first sessions were held in the Senate Chamber of the Capitol. It is one of the oldest organizations in the United States, antedating by many years the American Medical Association, the American Pharmaceutical Association, the National Academy of Sciences, etc. It was founded by physicians; perhaps it would be more accurate to say that it was founded by a single physi-

cian, Lyman Spalding. Spalding was a man of rare vision; he was a pioneer in medical education and sanitation; he had an important part in the introduction of vaccination into the United States. His most important service, however, was the founding of the U. S. Pharmacopoeia, which is the oldest national pharmacopoeia of a modern type in the world. The U. S. P. was the first pharmacopoeia to adopt the recommendations of the Brussels Conference for the Unification of Potent Medicaments; it thus became the first national pharmacopoeia with an international character. It has also been translated into Chinese and Spanish; it is the official pharmacopoeia of Cuba.

This convention, which is incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia, is different from most associations; the members are not here for any personal gain; all their activities are in the interest of the health of the people of the United States.

¹ Presidential address delivered at the 1930 U. S. Pharmacopoeial Convention, on Tuesday, May 13, in Washington, D. C.

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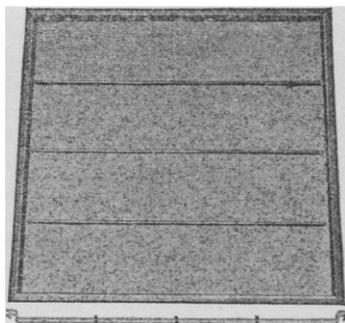
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