

were dedicated to public purposes. Attention was called to the fact that this provision was not contained in the Act of 1928.

The opinion relied also on decisions of the United States Supreme Court, which "has consistently held that a cession by a state to the United States of exclusive jurisdiction over a tract of land put the tract beyond the field of operation of all state laws except as to matters specifically reserved."

A SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO THE UNITED STATES PHARMACOPOEIA

At the recent meeting of the United States Pharmacopoeia Board of Trustees authority was given for the publication of the second United States Pharmacopoeia XI supplement. It is hoped that this can be issued on January 1, 1939.

Preparation has been under way for months, and subcommittee chairmen will be in a position in the near future to submit reports on a number of revised texts. The subcommittee on scope is also considering the admission of a number of additional important new drugs.

The members of the committee are fully familiar with the outstanding advantages of the interim revision and supplement features of the Pharmacopoeial program. This gives the opportunity to issue new standards after they have been subjected to extensive checking in many laboratories.

The Pharmacopoeia Board or Committee of Revision are responsible only for the preparation of the official standards. Whether or not the Pharmacopoeia and its supplements are purchased by retail pharmacists is, in some states, entirely optional. In other states where the state law requires the possession of these books, it is a matter for the responsible state officials to enforce.

Finances are reported to be in excellent condition, and the Board of Trustees has been able to meet the revision expenses of the decade, to increase greatly the research and conference programs, and still to hold its basic reserves intact.

In preparing the second supplement, every step will be taken to insure the carrying out of the requirements of the convention for the preparation of an official text. It is expected that the revised or new monographs will be submitted in the form of proof to members of the committee of revision and given wide publicity. Following their publication, a public hearing will be granted at which members of the executive committee responsible for revised texts will be in attendance. Following the public hearing a conference with the officials of the Food and Drug Administration and the Public Health Service will be held, after which the members of the committee of revision will be given an opportunity to see and

vote upon the finally approved text. When the supplement has been issued, ample time will be given before it becomes official.

AWARD OF THE WILLIAM H. NICHOLS MEDAL OF THE NEW YORK SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE William H. Nichols Medal of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society has been awarded for 1939 to Dr. Joel Henry Hildebrand, professor of chemistry in the University of California.

Professor Hildebrand has pursued investigations in every field of general, physical and analytical chemistry, including such diverse questions as the vapor pressure of metal amalgams and the use of helium in preventing caisson disease, the "bends" of tunnel and caisson workers and of deep-sea divers. He was cited by the jury specifically for his study of the fundamental thermodynamic and kinetic properties of liquid and solid solutions, a field in which he is preeminent. The statement made by the jury reads:

Professor Hildebrand is internationally respected for his contributions over many years concerning the experimental properties and theoretical aspects of substances when in the liquid or molten state. This work includes the study of mixtures of such common solvents as water, alcohol, carbon tetrachloride, chloroform and the petroleum solvents with iodine, sulfur, naphthalene, anthracene and a hundred other solids; mixtures of the solid metals with the one common liquid metal, mercury, and mixtures of solid and molten salts, like ordinary table salt, salt-peter, silver chloride, etc., with each other.

He has succeeded in classifying these solutions, correlating their behavior, finding their peculiarities and deriving theoretical and mathematical relations concerning them so that their properties are known or may be predicted in a way previously impossible.

In recent years, Professor Hildebrand has devoted more and more attention to the exceedingly abstruse but nevertheless fundamental theoretical problem of the intermolecular forces in liquids and liquid mixtures. If the scientist knew the exact nature of the electrical, gravitational and chemical forces exerted by each ultimate particle of matter—the molecule—on its neighboring molecules, he would be in a position to declare positively how any pure liquid or any mixture would behave.

If molecules were small, hard balls, with only gravitational forces at work, their distribution in a solution would be as simple as that of a mixture of black and white marbles shaken together and poured into a vessel. But molecules are composed of positive electrically charged atomic nuclei and negative electrons, with empty space, penetrated only by these electrical forces, accounting for a large part of their volume. The forces acting between adjacent particles vary from the intense electrical attraction and repulsion of charge ions to the much smaller forces between symmetrical molecules whose electric charges are all neutralized within the structure of the

particle. Professor Hildebrand's studies in this field have led to many valuable publications in scientific journals in recent years. He is a master of the problems of solubility and solution in general.

Professor Hildebrand will receive the medal at a dinner of the New York Section on March 10, at which time he will speak on "The Solubility of Non-Electrolytes."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

SIR WILLIAM BRAGG, director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain and president of the Royal Society, has been appointed to give the first Pilgrim Trust lecture at the April meeting of the National Academy of Sciences. As has already been announced, Dr. Irving Langmuir, of the Research Laboratories of the General Electric Company, will give the corresponding lecture in London on December 28. The Pilgrim Trust, established in England by Edward S. Harkness, provides funds for the exchange of lecturers on alternate years between the National Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society.

A NEURO-PSYCHIATRIC clinic building for the State Hospital for Mental Diseases at Providence, R. I., has been named for Dr. Adolf Meyer, Henry Phipps professor of psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. To mark the occasion a testimonial dinner was tendered to Dr. Meyer at the University Club, which was attended by a distinguished group of psychiatrists and neurologists. Dr. Meyer was characterized as "a wise, scientific leader of psychiatry, who has piloted the bark of this developing branch of medicine through its years of growth . . . avoiding the many pitfalls of new cults . . . always searching for scientific truth."

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association reports that the Richmond Academy of Medicine gave on September 27 an informal testimonial dinner in honor of Dr. Stuart McGuire, emeritus professor of surgery at the Medical College of Virginia, in appreciation of his interest in and devotion to the academy. A portrait was presented to the academy on behalf of a group of donors by Dr. Roshier W. Miller. Dr. John M. T. Finney, emeritus professor of surgery at the School of Medicine of the Johns Hopkins University, was the principal speaker.

THE University of California Press announces the appearance of the volume prepared in honor of Dr. Alfred Louis Kroeber, who was for thirty-five years a member of the department of anthropology in the university. It contains thirty-six essays, on a variety of anthropological subjects, from writers in this country and from abroad, contributed "in appreciation of the scholar and in affection for the man." There is also a chapter of personal reminiscences and professional appreciation, and a list of Professor Kroeber's published writings to the present year.

At the annual dinner on October 19 of the Congress of Anesthetists, meeting in New York City, silver plaques were awarded, in recognition of their work in "making Bellevue Hospital a world center in the research and development of anesthesia," to Dr. S. S. Goldwater, commissioner of hospitals; to Dr. Arthur M. Wright, professor of surgery, New York University; to Dr. E. A. Rovenstine, professor and director of anesthesia, New York University, and to William F. Jacobs, superintendent of Bellevue Hospital. A silver plaque was presented also to Dr. John S. Lundy, of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., founder and editor of *Anesthesia Abstracts*. Loving cups were presented to Dr. Paul M. Wood, of Columbia University, for work in anesthesia and to Dr. Juan White-Morquecho, of the University of Mexico, for his work in the development of anesthesia in Mexico.

PRESENTATION of the gold medal of the Royal Aeronautical Society of Great Britain was made by Sir Neville Henderson, the British ambassador to Germany, to Dr. Hugo Eckener at a dinner given in Berlin on October 12 by Field-Marshal Göring for the German and foreign delegates to the annual Congress of the Lilienthal Society for Aeronautical Research. The British ambassador stated that it was the first time that the gold medal of the Royal Aeronautical Society had been awarded outside the British Empire.

DEAN JULIAN PARK, of the University of Buffalo, has sailed for France to receive the degree of doctor *honoris causa* from the University of Dijon. He will also represent Buffalo at the meeting in commemoration of the discovery of radium and x-rays to be held at the Sorbonne on November 23.

THE National Association of Science Writers has elected Leonard Engle, Science Service, Washington, D. C., and Wesley Fuller, Cambridge, Mass., to active membership. J. G. Crowther, London, has been elected to associate membership.

THE University of St. Andrews, at the annual autumn graduation ceremony, conferred the honorary degree of LL.D. on Sir Gilbert Thomas Morgan, director of chemical research in the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington.

IN recognition of his "distinguished contributions to science," the University of Halle-Wittenberg has