

## THE BRITISH PHARMACOPŒIA IN WAR-TIME

THE text is available of a further addendum to the British Pharmacopœia. Published under the direction of the General Medical Council, it became effective on January 1. Of main interest is the inclusion of monographs on a number of synthetic substances, formerly of foreign manufacture, and first introduced to the medical profession under proprietary names, which are now produced in Great Britain, in some cases under licences granted by the Comptroller-General of Patents.

The probability that certain 'new remedies' of this type would be introduced into the British Pharmacopœia in due course has already been mentioned in NATURE (August 31, p. 309). In selecting eleven of the more important of these products for official recognition the authority has adopted new names for their pharmacopœial titles. The substances under their official designations are as follows, the names in brackets being those under which they were first known: bromethol (avertin), carbachol (doryl), hexobarbitone and soluble hexobarbitone (evipan sodium), iodoxyl (uroselectan-B), leptazol (cardiazol), mepacrine hydrochloride (atebrin), mepacrine methanesulphonate (atebrin musonate), nikethamide (coramine), phemitone (prominal), and stibophen (fouadin).

The purpose of laying down standards for these products is to ensure that important synthetic remedies previously obtained from abroad will continue to be available in medical practice; the substances can be so adequately tested for identity and purity by chemical means that no question of the equivalence of the British preparations can arise.

Other monographs which have been added are on aneurine hydrochloride, chlorocresol, and paste of tannic acid. The inclusion of aneurine hydrochloride is of general interest since it is the vitamin—B<sub>1</sub>—which it is proposed to add to white bread to replace the loss resulting from milling. Aneurine, which is also known as thiamine, plays an important part in carbohydrate metabolism. Chlorocresol (*parachloro-metacresol*) has been added because of its use as a bactericide in sterilizing solutions for injection and as a bacteriostatic preservative in certain solutions; it is one of the ingredients of the newly introduced paste of tannic acid.

Monographs which are amended are those on atropine sulphate, injection of bismuth salicylate, hard soap and soft soap. The only change in the case of atropine sulphate is in the official statement of the melting point; for lead plaster arachis oil may be used in place of olive oil, and the alterations in the monographs on the soaps are made with the object of enlarging the choice of vegetable oils and authorizing the use of soda instead of potash in the process of saponification.

The addendum also embodies monographs which had already been amended by notices in the *Gazette*, the items concerned being lead plaster, injection of mercury, injection of mercurous chloride, strong ointment of mercury and ipecacuanha. Amendments which have been made in the appendixes, which relate to tests, are naturally the result of the additions to the British Pharmacopœia and the alterations which have been effected by the new addendum.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Monday, January 13

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND (at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London, W.1), at 3 p.m.—Prof. H. A. Harris: "Growth in General".

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY (at Kensington Gore, London, S.W.7), at 3 p.m.—Prof. O. T. Jones, F.R.S., and Mr. W. V. Lewis: "Water Levels in the Thetford meres".

Tuesday, January 14

ILLUMINATING ENGINEERING SOCIETY (at 32 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1), at 2.30 p.m.—Dr. W. D. Wright: "The Fundamental Principles of Vision in Very Weak Light".

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND (at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London, W.1), at 3 p.m.—Prof. H. A. Harris: "The Anatomy and Physiology of Locomotion and Posture".

Wednesday, January 15

ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS (at John Adam Street, Adelphi, London, W.C.2), at 1.45 p.m.—Miss Caroline Haslett: "Women in Industry".

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND (at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London, W.1), at 3 p.m.—Prof. H. A. Harris: "The Inherent Weaknesses of the Human Body with reference to Orthopædic Practice".

Thursday, January 16

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE (at 1 Wimpole Street, London, W.1), at 2.15 p.m.—Prof. P. A. Buxton: "Some Recent Work on the Louse".

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY (at 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1), at 2.30 p.m.—Mr. Arthur Mortimer: "Drug Supplies in War Time".

Friday, January 17

NORTH-EAST COAST INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS AND SHIPBUILDERS (in the Mining Institute, Newcastle-upon-Tyne), at 6 p.m.—Mr. G. E. Manville: "Optical Instruments: particularly Large Astronomical Telescopes".

## APPOINTMENTS VACANT

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments on or before the dates mentioned:

ASSISTANT ENGINEER FOR THE MALAYAN PUBLIC WORKS SERVICE—The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4 Millbank, London, S.W.1 (quoting M/9306).

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF TRAINING COLLEGE AND SCHOOL OF DOMESTIC SCIENCE of the Witwatersrand Technical College, Johannesburg—Frank Ross and Co., 9 Fenchurch Avenue, London, E.C.3.

## REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

(not included in the monthly Books Supplement)

### Great Britain and Ireland

University of Cambridge. Twenty-eighth Annual Report of the Director of the Solar Physics Observatory. Pp. 2. (Cambridge: Solar Physics Observatory.) [1942]

Bibliography of Spectrochemical Analysis. Compiled by D. M. Smith. Second edition. Pp. 56. (London: British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association.) 3s. [1942]

Scientific Proceedings of the Royal Dublin Society. Vol. 22 (N.S.), No. 33: The Chlorination of Derivatives of o-Oresellenic Acid. By Dr. T. J. Nolan and D. Murphy. Pp. 315-320. 6d. Vol. 2 (N.S.), No. 34: Studies in Peat, Part 9: The Cerotic and Carboceric Acid Fractions of Mona Wax. By Prof. J. Reilly and John P. Wilson. Pp. 321-326. 6d. (Dublin: Hodges, Figgis and Co., Ltd.; London: Williams and Norgate, Ltd.) [1942]