



NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PHARMACOGNOSY - EDITED BY MELVIN R. GIBSON

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY, PULLMAN, WASHINGTON

Volume 2, 1965
Number 3

Annual Meeting. The Seventh Annual Meeting of The American Society of Pharmacognosy will be held July 6, 7, 8, and 9, 1966, on the campus of the University of Minnesota. The symposium topic is "Natural Products and Mental Disease." The Scientific Committee is E. John Staba, University of Nebraska, Chairman; Arthur E. Schwarting, University of Connecticut; Varro E. Tyler, Jr., University of Washington; and Rolf S. Westby, Eli Lilly and Company. The local committee is Herbert Jonas and Lee C. Schramm.

Kilmer Prize. The Society this year will continue to supplement the Kilmer Prize with a cash award of \$200. The Prize will be awarded at the A.Ph.A. convention in Dallas in April. Rules governing competition for this undergraduate prize were sent to all schools early this fall. Papers to be considered in the competition are due at A.Ph.A. headquarters no later than January 1. This year the Committee on Kilmer Prize is made up of Melvin R. Gibson, Washington State University, Chairman; Carl Albers, University of Texas; and Daniel Tsao, University of Rhode Island (currently on leave at Oregon State University).

Japan Meeting. Isao Inagaki, Nagoya City University, reports that the 85th Annual Meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Japan was held October 27-29 at the University of Tokushima. In the section on pharmacognosy, chemical and pharmacognostic studies were reported on Omphalia lapidescens, Echinops latifolius, Arundo donax, Euonymus alata, Glaucidium palmatum, Alpinia oxyphylla, A. speciosa, A. kumatake, Cassia obtusifolia, Lycium chinense, Bupleurum, Juncus, Dioscorea and others. A symposium on the fundamental characteristics of Chinese medicine and research methods on Oriental drugs was given. Also reported were pharmacological studies on Illicium religiosum, Quercus salicina, Panax ginseng, Capsella bursa-pastoris, paeonia, Magnolia, Glycyrrhiza, Bupleurum, cow bezoar, toad cake, musk, and others.

Shikimic Acid Review. Leonard Worthen, University of Rhode Island, calls our attention to the 32-page review "Shikimic Acid" by Bruce A. Bohm, University of Rhode Island, appearing in Chemical Reviews, 65, 435(1965).

Paul in Japan. Richard A. Deno, University of Michigan, reports that Ara G. Paul, University of Michigan, is on leave during the academic year 1965-66 working in the laboratories of T. Abe, Tokyo University of Education. Dr. and Mrs. Paul live at 207 Takaishi, Kawasaki-Shi, Japan, and Paul commutes daily to Tokyo.

OSU Greenhouse. A \$45,500 greenhouse-research facility is now being occupied by the Pharmacognosy Department at Oregon State University. This includes two greenhouse units, a grinding and drying room, a soil preparation area, a phytochemical laboratory, and an office. The new facility makes it possible to expand the research performed by the department on the effects of growth regulators on medicinal plants reports Leo A. Sciuchetti.

Research at Mississippi. Wilbert G. Walter, University of Mississippi, believes that the following might be of interest to readers: For many years research at this institution has been largely limited to the area of pharmaceutical chemistry. With the addition of eight new faculty members in various departments in the last several years, this concentration has changed. In pharmacognosy, with the addition to the staff of Norman Doorenbos (University of Maryland), steroid chemist; William R. Nes (Clark University), steroid chemist to the staff of the School of Pharmacy; and Chien Li Haung, it is felt that there is potential for a strong natural product department. Nes has 4 postdoctoral students and 3 graduate students conducting work on the biosynthesis of cholesterol. Doorenbos has 2 postdoctoral students and 5 graduate students working in both the steroid and other natural product areas. Walter has 1 postdoctoral and 2 graduate students. Walter has three research grants: "Phytochemical Investigation of *Dieffenbachia* (NIH), "Phytochemical Screening of Flora of Mississippi for Medicinal Plants (University of Mississippi Faculty Research Grant), and "Phytochemical Screening of the Flora of Mississippi and Southeastern U.S. for Medicinal and Antitumor Agents (American Cancer Society Grant, Mississippi Division). In 1964 the Mississippi Legislature created the Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Science in the School of Pharmacy. The program is coordinated by Dean Charles W. Hartman, and the divisions are headed by the department heads. Walter heads the Pharmacognosy-Natural Product Division.

Chemotaxonomy Symposium. R. Hegnauer, Leiden, has submitted the program for the Colloque sur la Chimiotaxinomie which was held in Paris, October 15 and 16. The topics presented and their authors follow: "Possibilités et limites de la Chimiotaxinomie" by R. Paris and P. Delaveau (Faculté de pharmacie de Paris), "Constatations sur la Chimie comparée de l'*Hieracium pilosella* L., de la sous-espèce *H. velutinum* Hegetschw. et de l'espèce voisine *H. peleterianum* Mérat" by P. Duquenois (Faculté de Pharmacie de Strasbourg), "Études chimiotaxinomiques sur les Diptérocarpacées" by G. Ourisson (Institute de Chimie de Strasbourg), "Études chimiotaxinomiques sur les Euphorbiacées" by G. Ourisson and M. Ponsinet, "Chimiotaxinomie des Papilionacées-Génistées" by G. Faugeras and R. Paris, "Recent Progress in the Chemical Taxonomy of Some Phenolic Constituents of Plants" by S. C. Bate-Smith (Cambridge University), "Les galactosides du saccharose chez les dicotylédones" by J. E. Courtois and F. Percheron, "Biosynthetic Variation and its Effect on Chemotaxonomy" by T. Swain (Cambridge University), "Études chimiotaxinomiques sur les Saxifragacées" by V. Plouvier (Muséum National d'Historie Naturelle, Paris). "Distribution des flavonoïdes dans le genre '*Saxifraga*'" by M. Jay and P. Lebreton (Faculte des Sciences de Lyon), "A. P. de Condolle, fondateur de la chimiotaxinomie moderne, et quelques aspects récents de cette branche de la science" by R. Hegnauer (University of Leiden); "Chimiotaxinomie des pervenches" by M. M. Janot (Institute de Chimie des Substances Naturelles-Gif-sur-Yvette), "Chimiotaxinomie des *Rauwolfia* et des genres apparentés" by J. Poisson (Faculté de Pharmacia de Paris), "Biochimie et taxinomie chez les Algues" by J. Augier (Institut Catholique, Paris), and "Sur l'intérêt taxonomique et phylogénétique des acides mycoliques" by A. H. Etemadi (Institut de Chimie des Substances Naturelles-Gif-sur-Yvette).

Herba Polonica. Finn Sandberg, Stockholm, submits the following information: Beginning with the first number in 1965, the name Herba Polonica will be substituted for Bulletin of the Institute of Medicinal Plants. The subtitle will be Bulletin of the Institute of Herbal Industry, and the old numbering of volumes will continue into the newly named periodical. The change of name was proposed in 1960, when the National Scientific Institute of Medicinal Plant Raw Materials, previously one of the Ministry of Health's responsibilities, became the responsibility of the Ministry of Food and Industry, receiving the name Institute of the Herbal Industry. The Union of the Herbal Industry, "herbapol," representing the herbal industry in Poland, became the sponsor of the Institute, its activities are closely tied to the needs of the herbal industry. The title Herba Polonica developed from this series of events. The newly named publication, like its predecessor, will publish the experimental works done at the Institute of Herbal Industry, as well as elaborations on medicinal plant problems and bibliographies of Polish works on medicinal plants and phytotherapy. The periodical also remains open for the description of research works done in the Research Laboratories and Research Centers of "Herbapol" and, if possible, also other research centers working in collaboration with the herbal industry in Poland. The Editorial Staff hopes the new name will be favorably accepted by readers and will be easier to cite abroad.

(Supplement page to Volume 2, Number 3, ASP Newsletter)

Personal. (Continued) Chimiothérapie Anticancéreuse, Paris, June 21; Third International Symposium for Biochemistry and Physiology of Alkaloids, Halle/Saale, June 24-27; Hungarian Academy of Science (under auspices of National Cancer Institute), Budapest, June 29; Czechoslovak Chemical Society, Prague, July 1; Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, July 3; Scientific Staff, J. R. Geigy AG., Basle, July 6; Faculty and Students, École Nationale de Médecine et de Pharmacie de Reims, July 8; and Institut de Chimie des Substances Naturelles, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Gif-sur-Yvette, July 9. .Antonin Jindra, Chairman, Department of Biochemistry, University of Komenskeho, Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, is recipient of an NSF Foreign Senior Postdoctoral Fellowship for one year in the Department of Pharmacognosy, University of Nebraska effective sometime in 1966. .Robert Dobberstein, pharmacognosy graduate student, University of Nebraska, is recipient of an NIH predoctoral fellowship. .Stephen Burton, currently completing requirements for the Ph.D. at the University of Connecticut, has accepted a position on the faculty of the University of Tennessee effective January 1, 1966. .Joseph Schradie is completing his doctoral dissertation at the University of Southern California and has accepted an appointment as assistant professor of pharmacognosy at the University of Toledo.

Books. David P. Carew, University of Iowa, suggests the following books: The Chemistry of the Antibiotics Used in Medicine by R. M. Evans (Pergamon Press, London, \$3.50), Streptomyces Products Inhibiting Mycobacteria by K. Maeda (Wiley, 1965 - from the 1963 Squibb Lectures in the Chemistry of Microbial Products), Biogenesis of Antibiotic Substances Edited by Z. Vanek and Z Hostalek (Academic Press, 1965, \$14); J.M. Kingsbury, Cornell University, suggests his Deadly Harvest - A Guide to Common Poisonous Plants (Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1965); Arthur E. Schwarting, University of Connecticut, lists Plantes Medicinales de Puerto Rico by E. Nunez Melendez (Bulletin No. 176, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, 1964), Geschnittene Drogen by K. Hammel (Gustav Fisher, Stuttgart, 1965); Jonathan L. Hartwell, National Cancer Institute, indicates that chapters on food and its technology, tanning, oils, fats, and waxes, dyes and dyeing, perfumery, and others may be of interest to pharmacognosists and others interested in plants to be found in Chemistry and Chemical Technology in Ancient Mesopotamia (Elsevier, 1959); James A. Duke, Beltsville, calls attention to his following work: Prelude to the Polyclave I: Embryo. 30 p. Sixty superimposable character cards showing which of 480 seed-plant families are reported to possess certain characteristics. The slips are superimposable and translucent permitting the determination of which families have combinations of any three characters. Mimeographed, \$2.50. Prelude to the Polyclave II: Seed. 17 p. Fifty-one superimposable seed character cards. Mimeographed, \$2.50. Prelude III: Sterile Specimens. 39 p. One hundred seventeen superimposable vegetative character cards. Mimeographed, \$5. Prelude IV: Flower. 28 p. Eighty-four superimposable floral character cards. Mimeographed, \$5. A Legume Polyclave I: Habit. 6 p. Twelve superimposable character cards showing which of 695 legume genera have certain characteristics. Mimeographed \$1.60. All five of the above are available for \$15 from Polyclave, 10604 Worcester, Beltsville, Maryland; George M. Hocking, Auburn University, suggests the following: The Monosaccharides by J. Stanek et al. (Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Prague, 1963), Plante Medicinali, Chimica, Farmacologia, e Terapia, Vol. 2 by R. Benigni et al. (Inverni & Della Beffa, Milan, Italy, 1964), The Peyote Cult (reprint) by W. LaBarre (Shoestring Press), Antibiotica aus Actinomyceten by V. Sevcik (Fischer, 1963).

The Editor has compiled the following list of books which may be of interest to Society members: Mechanisms of Hormone Action Edited by P. Karlson (Academic Press, 1965, \$14.50); Chemistry and Biochemistry of Plant Pigments by T.W. Goodwin (Academic Press, 1965, \$18.50); The Beyond Within: The LSD Story by Sidney Cohen (Atheneum, 1965, \$5); The Addict in the Street by Jeremy Lerner and Ralph Tefferteller (Grove Press, 1965, \$5.50); Essays on Crop Plant Evolution Edited by Joseph Hutchinson (Cambridge University Press, 1965, \$9.50); Radiotracer Methodology in Biological Science by C. H. Wang and David L. Willis (Prentice Hall, 1965, \$12); Antibiotic and Chemotherapy by Mary Barber and Lawrence P. Garrod (Williams and Wilkins, 1963, \$8); Plant Taxonomy by Earl L. Core (Prentice Hall, 1965, \$8.75); Soils--An Introduction to Soils and Plant Growth, 2nd Ed. by Roy L. Donahue (Prentice Hall, 1965, \$7.95); The Natural Geography of Plants by A. Henry and Arthur

Cronquist (Columbia University Press, 1964, \$10); Transmethylation and Methionine Biosynthesis by K. Stanley and Fritz Schlenk; (University of Chicago Press, 1964, \$12.50); Pharmacognosy, Ed. 5 by Edward P. Claus and Varro E. Tyler, Jr. (Lee & Febiger, 1965, \$15); Introduction to Thermodynamics by D. C. Spanner (This is the first of a series of monographs in experimental botany) (Academic Press, 1964, \$7.50); Mushrooms, Molds and Miracles by Lucy Kavalier (John Day, 1965, \$6.50); Arginine (CIBA study group reports of one-day symposium) (Little, Brown and Co., 1965, \$2.95); Hashish (CIBA study group reports of one-day symposium) (Little, Brown and Co., 1965, \$2.95); Mechanisms in Bioenergetics by Efraim Racker (Academic Press, 1965, \$3.45 (paper), \$6.50); Light: Physical and Biological Action by Howard H. Seliger and William D. McElroy (Academic Press, 1965, \$12); Radiation and Immune Mechanisms by William H. Taliaferro, Lucy Graves Taliaferro and Bernard N. Jaroslow (Academic Press, 1964, \$3.45 (paper), \$5.95); Comparative Biochemistry of Arginine and Derivatives by G.E.W. Wolstenholme and M.P. Cameron (Little, Brown & Co., 1965, \$3); Biologie der Antibiotica by Hans Zahner (Spring, Berlin, 1965, DM 8.80 (paper)); The Biology of Cells by Herbert Stern and David L. Nanney (Wiley, 1965, \$7.95); Cell Biology Edited by P. DeRobertis, Wiktor W. Novinski and Francisco A. Saez (Edition 4 of General Cytology) (Saunders, 1965, \$10.50); Genetics Ed. 2 by Robert C. King (Oxford University Press, 1965, \$8.50); Pharmacogenetics: A Fresh Approach to the Problem of Allergy Edited by Harold E. Whipple (Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci. 118, No. 8, N.Y. Acad. Sci., 1964, \$1 (paper)); Plant Analysis and Fertilizer Problems, Vol. 4 by C. Bould, P. Prevot, and J. R. Magnen (Am. Soc. Hort. Sci., East Lansing, Michigan, 1964, \$7.50); Biological Statistics: An Introduction by S. C. Pearce (McGraw-Hill, 1965, \$9.50); The Alkaloids: Chemistry and Physiology, Vol. 8 Edited by R. H. F. Manske (Academic Press, 1965, \$32); Drug Addiction in Youth by Ernest Harms (Pergamon, 1965, \$9.50); Elsevier's Encyclopedia of Organic Chemistry, Series III: Carboisocyclic Compounds, Vol. 14, Suppl. VII Steroids (V). Spirostans, Furostans, Steroidal Alkaloids Edited by F. Radt (Springer, 1965, \$145); Progress in the Chemistry of Organic Natural Products, Vol. 23 Edited by L. Zechmeister (In English and German) (Springer, 1965, \$22.50); Biochemistry of Quinones Edited by R. A. Morton (Of particular interest -- the chapter "Role of Quinones in Photosynthetic Reactions") (Academic Press, 1965, \$18); Essays in Biochemistry Edited by P. N. Campbell and G. D. Greville (Of particular interest -- the chapter "The Biochemists' Green Mansions: the Photosynthetic Electron-transport Chain in Plants") (Academic Press, 1965, \$4); The Hormones, Physiology, Chemistry and Applications, Vol. 4 Edited by Gregory Pincus, Kenneth V. Thimann, E. B. Astwood (Of particular interest--the chapter "Plant Hormones") (Academic Press, 1964, \$22); Molecular and Cellular Basis of Antibody Formation Edited by J. Sterzl (Academic Press, 1965, \$20).

The following listings appear in the catalogs of Blackwell's Broad Street, Oxford, England: Biochemistry of the Amino Acids Ed. 2 Edited by A. Meister (Vol. 1, 8/16/-; Vol. 2, 8/-/-; Cells and Tissues in Culture, Methods, Physiology and Biology Edited by E. N. Willmer (Vol. 1, 7/7/-; Vol. 2, 7/7/-; Vol. 3, 7/7/-); Grudzüge der Biochemie der Pflanzen (Hochschulbücher für Biologie, Vol. 10) by W. L. Kretowitsch (Translated from the Russian) (6/1/-).

Meeting in Hungary. Finn Sandberg, Stockholm, also reports on the Hungarian Institute of Medicinal Plants fiftieth anniversary meeting in Budapest, September 20-25, with participants from most East-European countries as well as a few participants from western Europe: France, Belgium, and Sweden. The program included three days of scientific papers, two days visiting the Gideon Richter and Herbaria drug companies and the Medicinal Plants Research Institute. Herbaria deals mostly with the export of Hungarian medicinal plants. Two days were spent in an excursion to see the cultivation of plants used for the production of volatile oils, ergot, Vinca minor and Vinca rosea.

Green Medicine in Swedish. Margaret Kreig's Green Medicine has been translated into Swedish with an introduction by Finn Sandberg, Stockholm. In this edition about half of the photographs have been changed to new ones.

Articles. Several articles have been suggested by readers as worthy of specific mention. A. Hofmann, Sandoz AG., Basel, reports that ergot alkaloids of the peptide type. i.e., ergosine and ergosinine have been isolated from the seeds of Ipomoea argyrophylla Watke (Convolvulaceae). It is the first case where alkaloids of this type, which were known until now only as constituents of lower fungi (Claviceps species) have been found in a higher plant (D. Stauffacher, H. Tschertter and H. Hofmann, Helv. Chim. Acta, 48, 1379(1965). . . Julia F. Morton, University of Miami, suggests her article "Honeybee Plants of South Florida" appearing in Proceedings of the Florida State Horticultural Society, 77, 415(1964). . . A. Der Marderosian, PCP, as well as a number of other readers have called our attention to the article "Flora Bloom as Growing Source of New Drugs" by Maynard W. Quimby and Norman R. Farnsworth (Medical World News, September 10, 1965, pp. 77-85). Single copies of the article are available from the publication, 777 Third Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10017 for seventy-five cents each. Der Marderosian also calls our attention to the articles "Healers from the Sea" and "Medicinal Plants of the Cherokees" appearing in Tile and Till in the May-June and July-August issues respectively. These are available from the Eli Lilly Company, Indianapolis, Indiana. ①

Chart Available. A. Der Marderosian, PCP, writes that a display chart for the undergraduate laboratory (27" x 39") entitled "Poisonous Plants of Sweden" and printed in full color is available from Dr. Bo Holmstedt, Dept. of Toxicology, Swedish Medical Research Council, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm 60, Sweden. The chart includes house plants, wild plants, trees and shrubs. no charge?

PCP Garden Reestablished. Under the guidance of A. Der Marderosian a botanical garden for the cultivation of medicinal and poisonous plants has been reestablished at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. The 2500-square-foot garden will be known as the Kilmer Botanical Area, a part of the Griffith Memorial Garden. During the summer more than a hundred different species and varieties of plants have been started. The cultivation and maintenance of the garden has been afforded by The Kilmer Drug Research Fund established in 1923 by the late Frederick B. Kilmer who also established the Kilmer Prize.

Plant Supply and Needs. C. G. Farmilo, Food and Drug Directorate, Canada has accepted an appointment in Ghana from September 15, 1965 to September 15, 1967. He reports that he will be able to collect African plants for interested pharmacognosists. His address is Dr. C. G. Farmilo, Director, National, Central, Chemical Laboratory, c/o Office of the High Commissioner for Canada, P.O. Box 1639, Accra, Ghana. . . R. Hegnauer, Leiden, is interested in obtaining 2-3 large herbarium specimens, viable seeds, and (if possible) a fresh plant of Trautvetteria carolinensis. . . Charles L. Winek, Duquesne University, is interested in obtaining species of Dieffenbachia other than D. exotica and D. picta. . . K. Hummel, Furstin-Eugenie-Institut for Arzneipflanzenforschung, Schloss Lindich bei Hechingen, Germany, is interested in knowing sources for vegetable drugs of the natives of North and South America. The Institute is willing to obtain these by exchange or purchase.

Stockholm Symposium. Information regarding the IUPAC Fourth International Symposium on The Chemistry of Natural Products scheduled for June 26- July 2, 1966, in Stockholm is now available from Dr. (Mrs.) G. Aulin-Erdtman, General Secretary, Natural Products Symposium, Drottning Kristinas väg 53, Stockholm Ö, Sweden. Orders may be placed for the volume containing the main lectures of the symposium before February 1, for \$6.

Cycads. Marjorie Whiting of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, NIH, Bethesda, Maryland, at the June meeting of the Society presented a summary of the reports of the Fourth Conference on the Toxicity of Cycads held at the Institutes in April. Several cycad products, including crude starch from different species of cycads, glycosides extracted from the starchy portion of cycads, and, more recently, the aglycone which is common to the glycosides from different genera, has been found to produce cancer in animals. The glycoside is an azoxy compound, one of the first to be identified in a natural product. Cycasin (from Cycas) is methylazoxymethyl-b-D-glycoside; macrozamin (from Encephalartos, Zamia and Macrozamia) is methylazoxymethyl-b-primeveroside. Structure of the aglycone has been elucidated. Similarities between the carcinogenic effects of this compound and the effects of dimethylnitrosamine have been demonstrated. MAM-acetate has been synthesized, and both labeled and unlabeled material will soon be available commercially. The third Cycad Conference is reported in Federation Proceedings, 23, (6) Part I; pp. 1337-1387 (November-December), 1964. Copies of the transcript of the Fourth Cycad Conference will soon be available. For copies of the report of the Fourth Cycad Conference and for information regarding sources of procurement of seeds of Cycas circinalis, tubers of Zamia floridana, cycasin, macrozamin, and labeled and unlabeled MAM-acetate, write to Dr. Marjorie Grant Whiting, Epidemiology Branch, C&FR, NINDB, NIH, Wiscon Building, Room 10c04, 7550 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.

Grants. Jack K. Wier, University of North Carolina, has been awarded a contract to evaluate reports from the Iron Curtain countries dealing with natural products of possible military significance. . . F. C. Chang, University of Tennessee, is the recipient of a \$43,000 supplement to his USPHS grant for the purchase of a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrophotometer. . . The School of Pharmacy of the University of Southern California has been awarded a renewal of its undergraduate research participation grant in the amount of \$16,800. Steven Bashin, an undergraduate recipient, is carrying out a project involving a chemotaxonomic study of the Orchidaceae. . . The Department of Pharmacognosy of the University of Nebraska received a \$2,500 grant from NIH to continue study of tissue cultures of medicinal plants containing cardenolides. . . Govind J. Kapadia, Howard University, has been awarded a two-year \$21,580 grant for work on natural products of medicinal significance.

Personal. Daniel P. N. Tsao, University of Rhode Island, is on leave for the current academic year and is engaged in research at the Laboratory of Respiratory Enzymology, Oregon State University. . . Rustem Medora, University of Rhode Island, has accepted a position as assistant professor of pharmacognosy at Idaho State University. . . It is with regret that we announce the death of Mrs. Maynard Quimby on August 2 and of Eric Smith, Penick, on October 23. . . E. F. Woodward has resigned from his position with S.B. Penick & Co. and is now associated with Morningstar-Paisley, Inc., 630 West 51st Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. . . Norman R. Farnsworth, University of Pittsburgh, has been promoted from associate professor to professor. . . Tharcillo A. Neubern de Toledo, head of the Department of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry of the University of Sao Paulo has been elected and appointed Director of the Faculty of Pharmacy. . . Nouri Y. Mary has been appointed associate professor of pharmacognosy at Brooklyn College of Pharmacy. . . A paper entitled "Therapeutic Availability of Antibiotics in Parenteral Solutions" was awarded the first annual Parenteral Drug Association Award of \$1000. The recipient was Mr. Jan Bair, former graduate student in hospital pharmacy at the University of Iowa. Research leading to the award-winning manuscript was done under the direction of David P. Carew. . . George M. Hocking, Auburn University, has been named a member of the International Commission for Plant Raw Materials and a collaborator in the publication of its Qualitas Plantarum et Materia Vegetabiles. . . Robert F. Raffauf attended the Halle Symposium, and after a brief visit in C. S. R. spent the rest of the summer collecting plants in New Guinea. He returned to SKF toward the end of September. . . John K. Brown, who received his Ph.D. from the University of Washington with a major in pharmacognosy, has joined the staff of Drake University. . . Gordon H. Svoboda, Eli Lilly and Company, was a symposium participant in the Tri-State Hospital Assembly, April 27, in Chicago. He has also been appointed to serve on the Ebert Prize Committee. Speaking on phases of the "Current Status of Research on the Alkaloids of Vinca rosea Linn. (Catharanthus roseus G. Don) and their Role in Cancer Chemotherapy" Svoboda presented lectures to the following groups: First Symposium of the Groups Européen de