

**ALUMNI REPORT,
VOL. XXXII, 1895-
1896, NOS. 1-9**

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Alumni Report, Vol. XXXII, 1895-1896, Nos. 1-9 by Joseph W. England

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JOSEPH W. ENGLAND

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PUBLISHED BY THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE
PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

VOLUME THIRTY-SECOND.

(1895-1896.)

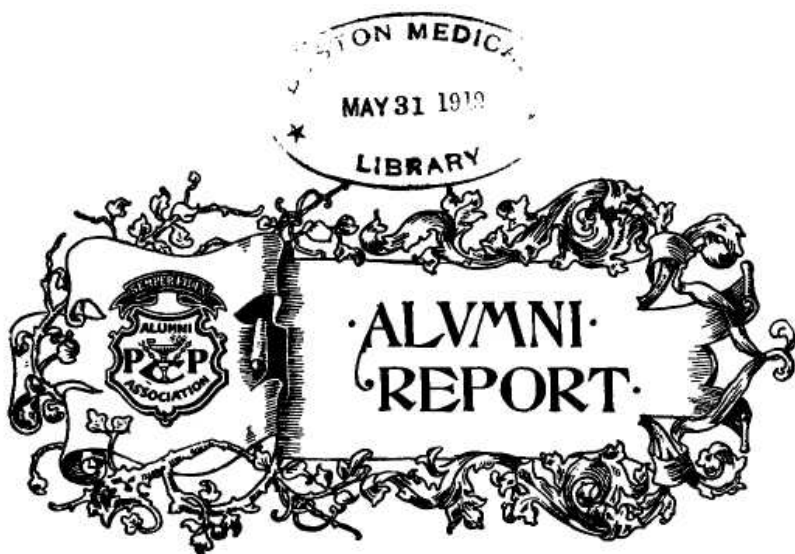
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Jacob S. Beeten, '78, Wm. E. Krewson, '69, Wm. L. Cliffe, '84, Jos. W. England, '83, Wm. Nelson Stem, '73.

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VOL. XXXII.

... OCTOBER, 1895 ...

No. I

JACOB S. BEETEM.

Jacob S. Beetem, son of Jacob and Isabella Beetem, was born at Carlisle, Pa., on October 5, 1856. In his early years he attended the public schools of Carlisle, and in 1873 graduated from the Carlisle High School with honors, being the salutatorian of his class.

In October, 1873, Mr. Beetem began the study of pharmacy with Dr. George H. Markley, of Harrisburg, remaining in his employ until September, 1876. Anxious to perfect himself in his chosen calling by a college training, he then secured a position with S. S. Bunting, of this city, late treasurer of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, and commenced his studies at the College. He graduated in 1878.

In July, 1878, Mr. Beetem accepted a relief position with Messrs. Smith &

Painter, of Wilmington, Del., for a period of ten months, returning then to Mr. Bunting's employ in the capacity of senior clerk, which position he continued to fill until January, 1884, when he assumed charge of Smith & Painter's retail business, with a view of ultimately becoming a member of the firm. In April, 1885, he succeeded in purchasing a one-third interest, and a few months later secured the entire retail business, Messrs. Smith & Painter devoting themselves entirely to the manufacture of fruit juices.

From the start of his business career Mr. Beetem has evinced a lively interest in the betterment of the professional side of pharmacy, and has taken part in a number of movements looking towards that end. He was one of the organizers of

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the Delaware Pharmaceutical Association, and was chairman of the committee representing that Association at the Convention for the Revision of the Pharmacopœia of 1890.

While in Wilmington he succeeded in building up a lucrative business, and in March, 1893, opened a branch store in

and he passed through the several chairs until he reached that of presidency. The nomination for this office he felt he could not conscientiously accept, as, living in a distant city, he believed it would be impossible for him to properly perform the functions of the office, and he declined a nomination.



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that city, which he still controls. In June, 1894, he sold his older store, and, after a few months of much-needed rest, accepted a confidential position with the firm of John Wyeth & Bro., of this city, which he still retains.

His interest in the Alumni Association became active when, in 1879, he was elected a member of its Executive Board,

In 1892, however, he was made, for the second time, Corresponding Secretary of the Association; in 1893 he became Second Vice-President; in 1894, First Vice-President, and in 1895, President.

Personally, Mr. Beetem is of very genial nature, and has won for himself a host of friends, who wish him the fullest measure of success in life.

Editorials.

LAW IS LAW.

Elsewhere in this issue of THE REPORT we give an opinion by Russell Duane, Esq., of the Philadelphia Bar, upon the liability of the Government for rebate of tax on alcohol used for manufacturing purposes. There is little doubt in many minds that the legislative branch of the Government, having once enacted a law giving certain rights and privileges to certain classes, cannot constitutionally have its work nullified by the failure or neglect of the executive branch of the Government to frame the necessary regulations to carry the law into effect, and it is a matter of interest to retail pharmacists to have this opinion confirmed by so competent an authority as Mr. Duane.

The difficulty of securing cheaper alcohol for manufacturing purposes is one that will solve itself in time, even if the executive branch of the Government is not forced by the legislative to carry out the latter's mandate, and even if Congress should take a backward step and repeal the law providing for the rebate of tax on alcohol used for the purposes mentioned.

All injustices are righted in time. The tax on alcohol that has existed has been a crying injustice, handicapping every American manufacturer in his work; and if legislative action will not lighten the

burden, inventive genius will, either in an endeavor to discover a new solvent with which to replace alcohol, or in a new process for making cheaper alcohol. In this connection, it is of interest to note in the *Popular Science* (October, 1895, p. 157) the following editorial:

"The recent discovery by Mr. Wilson of acetylene gas from lime and coal dust treated with electricity from carbon electrodes, has made it possible to produce ethyl alcohol so cheaply that all other processes will be abandoned. Should this discovery prove to be what is expected, alcohol will be made for 2 or 3 cents a gallon, or even less. Its uses in the arts will be largely increased, and, as a beverage, it could be cheapened to an enormous extent; the occupation of distilling will be superseded, and the manufacture of whiskey and other alcoholic beverages will change, and the great problems which centre about them commercially, scientifically and socially, will have new features."

While this very sanguine prophecy can be accepted at present only as a possibility, it clearly shows the direction in which the inventive minds of the age are working; and in these days, when to inventive genius nothing seems impossible or improbable, it is not unreasonable to assume that the problem of cheap alcohol will be solved in the near future, along with many other problems equally difficult.

THE EDWARD C. JONES MEMORIAL FUND.

In the last issue of THE REPORT we printed a circular letter issued by the Memorial Fund Committee of the Alumni Association, addressed to the graduates of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and the friends of the late Edward C. Jones, asking for contributions to a

Memorial Fund, the interest of which was to be used for the paying of an "Edward C. Jones Scholarship in the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy." It will be recalled that the Alumni Association celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary by establishing an "Edward C.

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Jones Scholarship" in the College, but its scope is limited to a free ticket in but two of the laboratories.

This scholarship, the Alumni Association feels, is inadequate to properly honor the memory of one who, during his life, did so much for the College and the Association, and it is now proposed to have the "scholarship" embrace as many of the obligatory studies and as much of the laboratory work as possible.

Will you help the movement?

No man ever loved an institution more than did the late Edward C. Jones the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, and no man ever made more sacrifices to help its students in their student-life, and keep them in touch with the old *Alma Mater* in their after life, than did he. Hence, this movement to perpetuate his good name must meet with a sympathetic response from graduates of the College in every State of the Union.

We earnestly ask the members and friends of the Alumni Association to help along the movement with subscriptions. Never mind how small the amount may be that you can afford to give, send it along

—it's the total that counts—and it will aid in giving a pharmaceutical education to some deserving student in the name of Edward C. Jones. Send your contribution to the Chairman of the E. C. Jones Memorial Fund, 145 North Tenth Street, Philadelphia. The contributions will be acknowledged by name only, and *not* amount, in future numbers of THE REPORT. Subscriptions amounting to \$250 have been received from the following:

Wm. L. Cliffe, Wm. A. Bullock, J. W. England, Wm. E. Krewson, Dr. C. B. Lowe, T. S. Wiegand, Adam Pfrohm, Allan Shoemaker, Henry C. Blair, Wm. Nelson Stem, Dr. C. A. Weidemann, S. P. Sadtler, Jos. P. Remington, Geo. M. Beringer, Edson S. Bastin, W. J. Jenks, T. Morris Perot, Dr. A. W. Miller, Frank X. Moerk, Harry L. Stiles, B. L. Brown, Dr. J. L. D. Morison, James C. Perry, Jacob S. Beetem, Dr. H. A. Newbold, F. W. E. Stedem, Jos. Crawford, Wallace Procter, Otto Krause, Thos. D. McElhenie, John Maule, Chas. Menkemoller, Chas. R. Haig, S. A. D. Sheppard, Chas. T. Heintisch, Chas. T. George, Joseph Cave, Jesse B. Duble, Jacob H. Redsecker, W. W. Jones, John F. Patton, C. M. Edwards, Jas. B. Weaver, Henry Trimble, Robert Shoemaker and Richard M. Shoemaker.

Will you help the movement?

NEWSPAPER PRESCRIBING.

There seems to be no limit to the enterprise of modern newspapers. As in the commercial world, the battle for supremacy among them is most keen. In their management, every effort is made to render public service and please popular fancy, and it is to their credit that they stand so high in popular regard.

But when a newspaper in its zeal to serve the public establishes in its pages, as has been done, a correspondent's column for the treatment of its sick, or thought-to-be-sick, readers, making diagnoses simply from letters received,

and giving in its columns treatment and prescriptions for individual cases, ordering, among other things, such poisonous drugs as strychnine, corrosive sublimate and arsenious acid, then the newspaper steps outside of its legitimate field of work, and does a public wrong instead of a public service.

It does a wrong, for the reason that its advice and treatment are based wholly upon diagnoses furnished by sick patients, and such must be crude and inadequate, and result in useless, and probably harmful, medication. It may

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be argued that physicians, in the framing of their diagnoses, are compelled to accept as facts the statements of patients concerning their condition and ailments. To a degree physicians are forced to do this, but in so doing they always strive to ascertain, by personal examination and study, the actual truth. The sick are prone to exaggerate or understate, and of all persons they are the least competent to pass judgment upon their physical condition.

It may be truthfully said that the seriously sick physician who has himself for a patient has a fool, for the reason that he is not competent, in his abnormal physical and mental condition, to rightly diagnose and treat himself. Like the layman, he lays undue stress on certain symptoms or conditions, and ignores others that may be more important. But if he calls to his service the clear, normal brain of a colleague, and follows directions, he displays the part of true wisdom. One of the most eminent physicians this country has produced was accustomed to call in a fellow-physician when sick, and this practice is daily followed by many others. Now, the point we wish to make is simply this: if physicians of eminent ability feel their incompetence to properly diagnose and treat themselves when sick, how much less competent must the sick layman be to make his own diagnosis and have himself treated at long distance by a newspaper?

The vital preliminary of successful medical treatment is an accurate determination of the patient's structural condition, so to speak, including an examination into his past medical history, and this is a matter which can be determined only through a personal examination. If the human body was always the same in each human being—varying, if

ever, within certain and well-defined limits, and uninfluenced by any special factor—then a diagnosis would be a comparatively easy matter. But, in a broad sense, it is not, and medical practice cannot be an exact science. It is true that human organs and tissues are of analogous structure, but each being is dominated by a distinct and different individuality; and there is no fact more clearly established in medical practice than that the element of personal equation is a very important factor in the action of a drug within the human economy. The therapeutic action of a drug varies with the varying contents of the cellular tissues in which the drug acts, modified by the personality of the individual taking the drug, and medical practice must, of very necessity, be experimental in character. It must be a study of usual drug actions in certain diseased conditions as modified by individual characteristics. From this it will be seen how impossible it is to obtain careful, rational treatment of the sick through the medium of a newspaper column. A most serious result that flows from the practice of newspaper prescribing is the formation of habits of self-medication. It is serious for the reason that the public is encouraged to use remedies as potent for evil as for good, for any length of time it may see fit; and such license with powerful drugs must result in harm, either positive harm in aggravating diseased conditions, or negative in making recovery the more difficult when a physician is called in. To secure proper medical treatment, personal examination, study and treatment by a physician is an absolute necessity. We earnestly hope that the practice of newspaper prescribing will not become general. If it does, self-medication will be greatly increased, and the public health will be greatly endangered.

Executive Board Meetings.

The first stated meeting of the Executive Board of the Alumni Association for 1895-96 was held in Alumni Hall, on May 2, 1895, at 4 P. M., President Jacob S. Beetem in the chair.

The following members were present:

Jacob S. Beetem, Dr. J. L. D. Morison, Edward C. Jones, Wm. E. Krewson, Jos. W. England, C. Carroll Meyer, Wm. A. Bullock, Wm. L. Cliffe, Harry L. Stiles, Wm. N. Stem, Frank X. Moerk, and Dr. Clement B. Lowe.

Secretary Krewson read a communication from the President announcing the following appointments:

Finance Committee—Chairman: Dr. J. Louis D. Morison, '88; Wm. A. Bullock, '86, and Harry L. Stiles, '85.

Committee to report upon suggestions contained in President Cliffe's annual address, and upon Professor Remington's and David H. Ross' suggestions:

Chairman—Wallace Procter, '72; Dr. J. L. D. Morison, '88, and Frank X. Moerk, '84.

The Secretary submitted a report to the Executive Board, in which he stated that he had received, from fees and sales of badges since the annual meeting, the sum of \$59, and had paid the same over to the Treasurer.

Wm. N. Stem, the Business Manager of THE REPORT, submitted a report in which he stated that he had received since the annual meeting the sum of \$84.56, of which amount he had paid over to the Treasurer \$69.56, leaving a balance still in his hands of \$15.

Treasurer Edward C. Jones read his report, in which he said that he had received, since the annual meeting, the sum of \$128.56.

On motion, it was ordered that the reports of the Secretary, Business Manager and Treasurer be accepted, and spread upon the minutes.

The Finance Committee reported that they had examined the books of the Secretary, Business Manager and Treasurer, and had found them correct.

The Treasurer had a balance on hand, at the close of the annual meeting, of \$826.82; he had received from the Secretary \$59, and from the Business Manager \$69.56, a total of \$955.38.

The committee had approved of bills amounting to \$368.08, which, when paid, would leave a balance of \$587.30.

On motion, the report of the Finance Com-

mittee was accepted and ordered spread upon the minutes, and their action in approving the bills was sustained.

On motion, it was directed that the bills approved by the Finance Committee have orders drawn for their several amounts.

The following application for membership was read, viz.:

Emanuel Manko, Class '95, 724 North Eleventh Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

On motion, a ballot was directed to be cast for the applicant, after which he was declared elected a member of the Association.

The Secretary stated that he had received the following applications for the Alumni Badge, viz.:

John C. Wyatt, '95, Portland, Ore.

Edward B. Labbe, '95, Portland, Ore.

Thos. D. Macphree, '95, New Glasgow, N. S.

Chas. H. Raudenbush, '91, Reading, Pa.

Wm. A. Bullock, '86, Philadelphia.

Francisco Pazmino, '95, Machale, Ecuador, South America.

Mrs. Anna Rex Stephen, '95, Reading, Pa.

Chas. Bullock, '47, Philadelphia.

Wm. Lewis Bucher, '95, Shenandoah, Pa.

The Chairman of the Committee on Quiz Transfer, Jos. W. England, made a verbal report, stating that the Board of Trustees of the College had, at the meeting held on April 24, 1895, accepted all the terms and conditions of transfer of quiz prepared by the Executive Board of the Alumni Association, with the single exception of the clause giving the Executive Board the right to name the Committee on Alumni of the Board of Trustees. This clause was not accepted; the privilege of recommending the names for such a committee to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees was, however, acquiesced in; but the Board reserved to itself the right to appoint. Wallace Procter stated to the Board of Trustees the probable expenses of the Alumni Association for the next College year, and this was not objected to.

C. Carroll Meyer moved that the report of the Chairman of the Committee on Quiz Transfer be accepted, and that the action of the committee be approved. So ordered.

On motion, the President of the Alumni Association was authorized to recommend to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Col-