

## METALLURGY

## Honor Discoverer of Cheap Process For Aluminum

THE 50th anniversary of the discovery of the cheap process for producing aluminum and the start of a successful aluminum industry, was celebrated at a dinner of the Electrochemical Society on February 17. The actual discovery dates from February 23, 1886. The inventor was Charles Martin Hall, young graduate of Oberlin College.

It was Hall's discovery which lowered the cost of aluminum from \$500 and more a pound, as it was at one time, to 20 cents a pound.

Aluminum, if it was to be had at all, was quoted at \$545 a pound just before the Civil War. In 1879 an American purchased a pair of opera glasses in Paris and the jeweler offered an aluminum or platinum setting at about the same price. The purchaser took aluminum, and lived to see aluminum used for pots in his kitchen and sold in the 5-and-10-cent stores.

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## MEDICINE

## \$10,000 Prize Offered For Relief or Cure of Disease

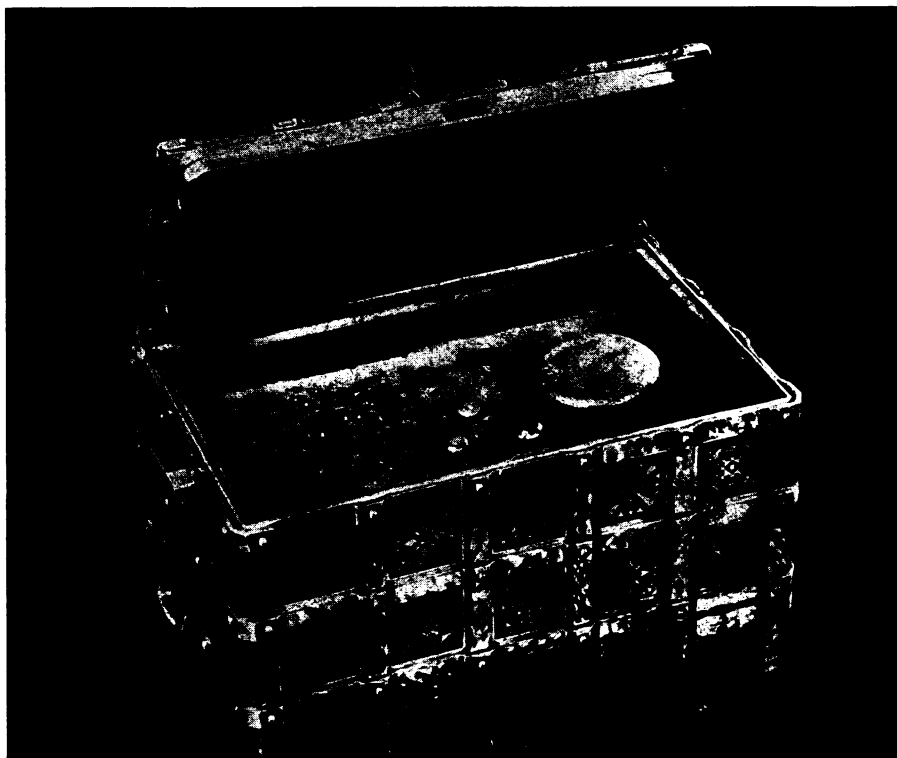
A PRIZE of more than \$10,000 will be awarded in 1940 and every seven years thereafter by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Boston for "outstanding work with reference to the alleviation or cure of diseases affecting the human genital organs." The award is to be known as the Francis Amory Septennial Prize, since it is made possible by a fund established by the will of the late Francis Amory of Beverly, Mass.

In case there is work of a quality to warrant it, the first award will be made in 1940. It rests solely within the discretion of the Academy whether an award shall be made at the end of any given seven-year period, and also whether on any occasion the prize shall be awarded to more than a single individual or research program.

### No Essays

While there will be no formal nominations, and no formal essays or treatises will be required, the Committee invites suggestions, which should be made to the Amory Fund Committee, care of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 28 Newbury Street, Boston, Mass.

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### HISTORIC BITS

*This treasure chest holds the little globules of aluminum that were made just 50 years ago by Charles Martin Hall, the first made by the electrolytic process he discovered. The large globule at the right is from the first run made by this process in 1888 by the Pittsburgh Reduction Company.*

## PHARMACOLOGY

## Synthetic Drugs on Increase, New Pharmacopoeia Shows

INCREASING use of synthetic chemicals to treat disease is seen in the pages of the new U. S. Pharmacopoeia, by Dr. Arthur Osol, associate professor of chemistry at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. The new Pharmacopoeia, representing the eleventh revision, will become the legal standard for drugs in this country on June 1, 1936.

"It is evident that the medical profession is becoming synthetic-chemical minded," Dr. Osol said, after analyzing the new drugs and their standards as given in the new Pharmacopoeia.

Of 58 articles added to the eleventh revision, 28 are organic chemicals, mostly synthetic in origin. There are three inorganic chemicals and the remainder of the 58 new articles includes oils, serums, toxins, antitoxins, vaccines, tablets and solutions. For example, the synthetic forms of two old stand-bys, cam-

phor and menthol, are admitted to the eleventh revision.

Of the 119 articles not admitted to the eleventh revision, only 16 are organic chemicals, mostly alkaloidal salts; 9 are inorganic chemicals and the rest are chiefly fluid-extracts, solutions, pills, syrups, tinctures, troches and ointments.

An important new feature of the eleventh revision of the Pharmacopoeia is the inclusion of a section on hydrogen ions and hydrogen ion concentration, since this deals with the quantitative expression of the acidity of solutions.

Of special value to the research worker and the student is the inclusion of structural formulas for the various chemicals listed in the Pharmacopoeia. These formulas, Dr. Osol explained, are true pictures of the chemical compound, based on its chemical behavior.

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