

FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATIONS

86 Shipments of Food Seized By FDA During May

A total of 86 shipments of food were seized by inspectors of the Food and Drug Administration during the month of May according to their monthly report recently issued. Danger to health was charged in two of the food seizures: a carload of wheat containing fungicide treated seed wheat mixed with good wheat and frozen clams containing shellfish toxin. Fifty food shipments aggregating 513,260 pounds were seized because of filth or decomposition, in addition 34 other lots of food were impounded following economic inspections which revealed shortweighing and labeling which would tend to deceive the purchaser about the quality of the contents.

In addition to the seizures 15 convictions for violations of the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act were obtained in cases involving 50 misbranded and substandard foods.

Wheat Agreement Approved

The Senate Foreign Relation Committee has approved the three-year extension of the International Wheat Agreement. The new pact, up for ratification, raised the world price for wheat from \$1.55 a bushel to \$2.05. A total of 45 nations signed the international agreement. However, Great Britain, the largest wheat importer, refused to sign on the grounds that the ceiling price of \$2.05 was too high. Under the previous pact, which expires July 31, the ceiling price for wheat had been fixed at \$1.80 per bushel. The British urged a \$2.00 limit.

The new pact will not be active till ratified by the Senate. Meanwhile, the Department of Agriculture has announced a subsidy program to maintain U.S. wheat exports in the interim between the expiration of the '49 treaty and ratification of a new one.

Governor Vetoes Bill on Antibiotics in Feeds

The proposed bill to authorize the sale of penicillin for animal feed supplements without a doctor's prescription was passed by the Pennsylvania legislature but vetoed by the Governor (AG AND FOOD, April 29, page 275).

The Governor, in his veto message, expressed his approval of the intention of the bill to make penicillin more readily available as a feed supplement source, but he said that as passed the bill did not contain adequate safeguards to insure

that penicillin purchased under provisions of this act would be used as intended.

On June 8 another bill was introduced in the legislature, HB 1440. This bill is essentially the same as the previous one but contains safeguard provisions.

Sanitary Requirements Change For Egg Processing Plant

The Production and Marketing Administration of the Department of Agriculture has announced proposed changes in sanitary requirements for egg products plants. The proposed regulations cover sanitary facilities and operating procedures in plants processing and packaging egg products. The regulations will apply to plants operating under the

USDA's voluntary egg products inspection service.

The USDA says that similar requirements have been in effect for a number of years but that the development of new processing techniques have made it necessary to modify the existing regulations. The proposals include requirements for the building, plant facilities and operating procedures which are considered necessary to insure the purity of frozen and dried egg products. The proposed regulations were announced after consultations with representatives of the egg products industry and other interested persons.

The regulations have appeared in the Federal Register, June 27, page 3690, and the industry will have 30 days to submit comments and views before they become effective.

NEW BOOKS

The Road to Abundance

JACOB ROSIN and MAX EASTMAN, VII + 166 pages. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York 1953. \$3.50. Reviewed by FRANCIS JOSEPH WEISS, Washington, D.C.

The ability to make chemical changes of his environment could well serve as a measure of man's development. And yet the dominant role played by chemistry at all stages of civilization has never been set forth as clearly and convincingly as in this small book by Rosin and Eastman, the perusal of which should be an intellectual delight to scientist and layman.

Man ceased to be an animal, when he made his first conscious chemical change: fire. This "exothermic age" which coincides with the Stone Age was followed by another chemical revolution when man learned to reduce copper and later iron minerals by supplying the necessary heat. Thus the Bronze and Iron Ages might be called the "endothermic stage" of human civilization.

The third stage of human development began towards the end of the eighteenth century, when Lavoisier introduced an era which can well be called the Age of Scientific Chemistry. Once the foundations of scientific chemistry were laid, all resources of the world became potentially available to man. When in 1945 the atomic bomb ushered in the fourth age of civilization which we may call the Nucleonic Age, man also became the master of all the physical energy to make

the natural wealth of this planet, all the animate and inanimate objects of his environment, subject to his will.

It is indeed fascinating to speculate with the authors how modern chemistry could satisfy our mineral needs from the "dilute abundance" which surrounds us on land, water, and air and thus give us freedom from the mine.

The readers of this paper will be particularly interested to follow the authors' exposition on how, in the present century, chemistry is taking over agriculture lock, stock, and barrel not leaving a single phase of agricultural activity without its decisive influence. This is the very road to abundance and, while we all will agree with the authors that chemistry can bring about an end to the further depletion of our non-renewable resources, the reviewer cannot follow their argumentations that it would be equally possible or even desirable to replace all the benefits and services we obtain from our renewable resources, the plants and animals, by products of chemical reaction. On the contrary, some kind of symbiosis or intimate union between biologic action and chemical reaction appears to be more conducive to ushering in the Age of Abundance than competition between natural and synthetic products.

The book is splendidly written, thought stimulating, and contains a wealth of material. For this reason the absence of an index will be missed by many readers.