

CHEMICAL EXPOSITION AT GRAND CENTRAL PALACE, NEW YORK CITY.

The 1925 Chemical Exposition was held at Grand Central Palace, September 28 to October 3.

A section of the Exposition was given over to various government departments for a series of exhibits. The divisions which had exhibits included the Bureau of Chemistry, Bureau of Soils, Bureau of Animal Industry, Bureau of Plant Industry and others of the Department of Agriculture; the Chemical Division and the Bureau of Standards of the Department of Commerce.

The American Chemical Society program provided for four meetings, held during the morning of each day. The last of the sessions was held at the Faculty Club of Columbia University, as an informal dinner and smoker, the speaker of the evening was Dr. Alexander Findlay, of the University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

A CONVENTION OF NEW YORK CITY PHARMACISTS.

The Druggists Circular comments editorially on a convention of New York City Pharmacists—the number of pharmacists in the Metropolis exceeds that of most states. The convention is to be held during two days of the last week of this month. The following paragraph is taken from the editorial referred to:

"The New York City convention will concern itself entirely, with business problems. Cut prices, price maintenance measures, overcrowding in the retail field, prohibition rules and regulations and other timely topics will be discussed. State and national legislators will be asked to tell the convention what they propose

to do to remedy present conditions. Legal experts will explain exactly what may be done by manufacturers and their wholesale and retail distributors to prevent indiscriminate price cutting. The New York Pharmaceutical Conference will be given an opportunity to show what it has done and to demonstrate its usefulness to the limited number of local retailers who are not yet members of the organization."

AMERICAN PHARMACISTS RETURN FROM EUROPE.

The party of American pharmacists, that recently journeyed through Germany, Austria and Switzerland returned September 2. Editor Hugo Kantrowitz, under whose direction the tour was planned, reports a most enjoyable time and receptions that will linger long in the memory of the participants. The *Apotheker Zeitung* of August and September has given an interesting account of the trip and the issues have been nicely illustrated.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY ST. LOUIS COLLEGE OF PHARMACY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

Members of the Alumni Association of the St. Louis College of Pharmacy, numbering more than 3000, who are scattered throughout every section of the United States, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their organization on September 18 with a program and luncheon at the College of Pharmacy, 2108 Locust Street, and a dinner at the Chase Hotel. Among the speakers were Prof. Francis Hemm, Edward H. Wolff, Dr. H. A. B. Dunning, H. C. Christensen, William Mittlebach, Carl Meyers, William Böhm, Dr. H. M. Whelpley and Charles Gietner.

THE PHARMACIST AND THE LAW.

RULING ON DISPENSING OF LIQUORS AND SALE OF SOFT DRINKS IN WISCONSIN.

A news item states that drug stores, in Wisconsin, owned by corporations will be prevented from dealing in soft drinks and at the same time selling intoxicating liquors on prescriptions, Attorney-General Herman L. Ekern has informed District Attorney J. E. Murray of Fond du Lac, Wis.

The district attorney had made inquiry concerning an amendment to subsection 30 of section 165-01 which provides that regis-

tered pharmacists may be exempt from the provision of that section of the laws which states that no person licensed to sell soft drinks shall have in his possession intoxicating liquors.

The attorney-general holds that a corporation clearly cannot hold a pharmacist's license, and that as the pharmacist employed does not own the drug store, the exemption provided in the amendment does not apply to a corporation.

This section of the law applies only to drug stores which sell soft drinks in addition to their regular prescription business.

CANADA RATIFIES TREATY OF SECOND OPIUM CONFERENCE.

Canada deposited her first ratification of the second opium conference treaty at Geneva, September 22, according to a copyrighted cable from Geneva to the New York World. The action was taken by Senator Dandurand, but Dr. W. A. Riddell, the permanent delegate to Geneva, declared:

"While Canada regards the treaty as far from perfect and not all that could be desired, Ottawa ratified it because at present it regards the convention as the highest common denominator that can be secured.

"Repeated efforts the same day by Lord Cecil to secure a pledge from Prince Arfa-ad-Dowleh that Persia would seek to control the opium traffic failed. The Prince declared Persia's production and exportation would continue unrestrained so long as it remained an internal affair.

"He made, however, what he characterized as his last appeal to the League of Nations for a commission to investigate the economic situation in his country with a view to aiding in the securing of a loan and a substitute crop for opium."—*Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter*.

WORLD TRADE IN PREPARED MEDICINES.

The second bulletin of the series by U. S. Department of Commerce on above-named industry reports on conditions in Denmark. Evidently these are not favorable to the development of this business. One reason evidently is that there are no drug stores in Denmark of the U. S. type; medicines are sold and prepared by pharmacists. The first paragraph of the bulletin carries the information, the other matter gives interesting details and the report speaks well for the secretary to the commercial attaché in Copenhagen, A. E. Fonselau. The paragraph referred to follows:

"Danish consumption of prepared medicines, never large, has declined considerably during recent years, and it is reliably stated that the decline can be expected to continue and to become even more marked. The reasons for this situation are found in the strict regulations governing the sale of pharmaceutical preparations of all kinds, the opposition of pharmacists and physicians to prepared medicines, and the general disinclination on the part of the public to 'dose' themselves with various compounds."

RECENT ALCOHOL PROSECUTIONS.

The concern of pharmacists in recent investigations of illegal traffic in alcohol is not only that of all law-abiding citizens, but the possibility of enactments in state legislatures for stopping illegitimate sale of denatured alcohol, which may interfere with its legitimate uses. Those who seek to carry out the law should have support and encouragement. Radicals are always with us, especially in state legislative bodies; they know exactly how to correct the defects of existing laws, and in their minds are the solutions of the very problems now creating disturbance and awaiting their presentation. The evidence in some of the recent cases involving the sale of denatured alcohol has been rather startling—as to methods employed in buying and selling and also those made use of in developing arguments of prosecution and defense. Recent investigations have thrown further light on a system of far-reaching coöperation in the traffic of alcohol, which has been partially or wholly deprived of its denaturants.

FEDERAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO CLOSER RELATION.

Surgeon General Cumming, at the annual health encampment of the Pennsylvania Public Health Association, said that a federal health department should have major functions as follows:

"The supervision and control of national and international health matters, such as the spread of disease from one country to another, or between States.

"Research and investigation of health problems.

"Coöperation with States in health measures where necessary and desired by the States.

"Formulation of minimum health standards.

"Dissemination of information with regard to health matters for the education of the public.

"Furnishing leadership in health service.

"Giving medical care and treatment to the beneficiaries of the national Government, by which, of course, I refer more to our disabled service men of the late and previous wars."

Dr. Victor Heiser revealed the progress American medical methods have made in the Philippines.

"Simple methods ferreting out the diseased individuals where it was impossible to handle the mass and spreading sanitation measures

through the islands have done a great deal to wipe out the toll of malaria, cholera, beri-beri and leprosy," he said.

"We found the death rate 300 in a thousand when we got there and we cut it down to something more than our own in the years America has occupied the territory."

Dr. C. J. Vaux, Health Director in Pittsburgh, brought a new suggestion to the encampment when he told of the success his city has had in curbing pneumonia by quarantine. He predicted the next step in preventive medicine would be the eradication of the malignant disease by this method.

PATERNAL GOVERNMENT.

Hanford Henderson in the *North American Review* says that the present world disaster is the direct and inevitable result of excessive and malevolent mass action. An individual sometimes runs amuck, but the number is never great enough at any one time to constitute a social menace, and it is the primal, though too much neglected, duty of the state to see that he does not do it a second time. But a single ruler, or a group of men, or even a small clique in an otherwise respectable group, if given the power of compelling mass action, can make a whole nation run amuck and can create the havoc of a world war. Obsessed by the idea that force is a legitimate means and that world dominion is a legitimate end, mass action is capable of unparalleled evil. We have seen such action in Germany; we see it to-day in Russia; we may see it before long in the Far East.

It requires no intricate analysis of our profound world trouble to discover the way in. It is by the tyranny of mass action, the imposing of an alien will upon others. The way out of the trouble is a simple reversal of the way in. It is to cut down just so far as possible, to cut to the very bone, all mass action involving compulsion; that is, to minimize to the utmost the function of the state and in every legitimate way to encourage and stimulate all wholesome, self-directed individual effort. We ask of the state and of society only one thing—a fair field and no favors. * * * It is our own mature, leisurely conviction that that form of government is most truly American, is most truly the best, which most completely protects its citizens from violence and injustice of every

sort, both at home and abroad, while taking the least possible part in their daily individual lives and imposing the smallest burden of taxation consistent with such protection. It is a man's own job to feed himself, to clothe himself, to educate himself, to occupy himself, to amuse himself, to look after his own family—in the end, to save his own soul. When the state attempts these tasks it not only does them very badly and expensively, but, as we have been pointing out, it only does them by neglecting its own proper job. Worst of all, the paternalistic state robs the individual of that character and self-development which would have been his as the result of sturdy, manly self-activity. * * * "Hands Off!" must be the motto of the wise parent, the wise leader, the wise priest, the wise state.

A TRAVELING MEDICINE VENDOR WITH ETHIOPIAN TROUBADOUR NOT SUBJECT TO SHOW TAX IN TEXAS.

The *Dallas News* says that a traveling medicine vendor, reinforced by *one* guitar strummer is not subject to the medicine show tax in addition to the medicine vendor's tax. The reply of Assistant Attorney General Ernest May of Texas to the Texas Comptroller is not in the usual serious vein that characterizes law correspondence; in fact, it reads as though the ruling escaped on a day when the legal minds were not burdened with very serious considerations. A reprinting of the reply may be permitted because it reads somewhat like documents or arguments of grave (?) importance, when the proponent just had to say or write something.

"You have presented a serious question, but after mature consideration we have concluded that the vendor of medicine liable to a tax under section 2 of article 7355, who is accompanied upon his peregrinations by only one Ethiopian troubadour, is not within the purview of section 38 of the same statute. You will have observed that section 38 applies to owners, managers, or keepers of every show or company of persons giving exhibitions of music, songs, gymnastics, sleight of hand performances, etc., in connection with the sale of medicines or other articles of value. The tax therein provided is imposed when such exhibitions are given in a 'tent, house or elsewhere,' whether charge is made only for seats or not.

The word 'elsewhere' as used in the statute might include a farm wagon upon the public square, but it is a matter of common knowledge, of which this department will take notice, that on such occasions the troubadour in question makes no charge for his soothing of the savage breast through the restful strumming of this three-stringed guitar. It is known to us, further, that ordinarily for such performances chairs are not provided, and in no event is any charge made for standing room or for seats upon the curb. It would seem from the text

of section 38 that before the occupation tax thereby imposed can accrue one must require some sort of compensation for the musical or theatrical performance contemplated. A charge may be made only for seats, and not for the medicines or other article of value from the sale of which profit is to be derived, but at least seats or some other means of rest must be provided and a charge made therefor before the producer becomes liable to the occupation tax provided by section 38 of the statute."

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

The Arithmetic of Pharmacy. By Clyde M. Snow, Ph.G., A.M., professor of pharmacy, University of Illinois School of Pharmacy; instructor in pharmacology, therapeutics and materia medica, University of Illinois College of Medicine, etc. 8 vo., 125 pages, cloth. St. Louis, The C. V. Mosby Company.

The results of the Fairchild Scholarship examinations indicate that the highest records are made in Pharmaceutical Arithmetic and, probably, a greater number of students go above the average in this branch. In this connection consideration is to be given to the fact that those who enter for this Scholarship have good records to their credit in the school, which would hardly be possible if they were deficient in mathematics.

A comment on this book in the *Pharmaceutical Journal and Pharmacist* states in that connection: "The average American student of pharmacy is apparently as slow at his arithmetic as his contemporary here. One would think that a good grounding in the principles of arithmetic would serve for all the purposes of pharmacy into which figures enter. But evidently that is not the case. There is a demand for books specially compiled for the student of pharmacy, and quite a number have been published. There is much truth in the author's observation that, 'notwithstanding that graduation from high school is now a prerequisite for entrance into a school of pharmacy, and that such graduation implies a sufficient knowledge of arithmetic and to solve all problems encountered in a course of pharmacy, the fact remains that this branch sees the failure of more students than does any other course.' What appears to be at the root of the trouble is that the present-day system of education does not take sufficient account

of the three R's, for a similar backwardness is to be found in the subject of Writing, here as much as, if not more than, in America, and that applies not only to caligraphy itself, but to the composition of the written sentence. Those who write books, therefore, must take things as they find them, and that is why we have so many 'aids' of this kind."

The author has adopted the question and answer methods of his "Essentials of Pharmacy," and has endeavored to make and succeeded in making the "Arithmetic" serve proprietor as well as student through the subjects which are considered in connection with the mathematical problems involved. The considerations are progressive; that is, there is a sequence, beginning with the fundamentals of arithmetic and concluding with problems of alkalimetry and acidimetry; between these there are problems in weights and measures, common and decimal fractions, the metric system, alligation, doses, specific gravity, specific volume. There are problems of thermometry, measurement of gases, reducing and enlarging formulas; and the business problems have relation to buying and selling, percentage, brokerage, discount, etc. The book will be an aid to students and that is its purpose; however, it will also be found of value in the pharmacy.

The Modern Soap and Detergent Industry, including glycerol manufacture. By Geoffroy Martin, D.Sc., Ph.D., F.I.C., etc. D. Van Nostrand Company, New York. Royal 800, cloth. Price \$12.00.

The author is a well- and favorably-known industrial chemist and engineer; fellow of societies and other organizations of his profession, and director of research of the Portland Cement Research Association; author of "Industrial and Manufacturing Chemistry,"