

is a promise, also, of a Bill that will segregate the Narcotic Enforcement from the present State Board of Pharmacy, making a new Narcotic Commission. All Legislation introduced at this session of the legislature dealing with Narcotics will have to be handled with extreme care and tact.

"We all know that the druggists are unanimously opposed to the narcotic evil and in the

past willingly supported bills tending to correct or improve the handling of narcotics. Your officers and committee must keep careful watch on narcotic legislation, inasmuch as bills often introduced with the best of intentions are not practical and fail to protect the public and instead prohibit the necessary physicians' requirements to treat the incurable sick and those needing relief."

THE PHARMACIST AND THE LAW.

MEETINGS OF LEGISLATURES.

The following are dates of legislative sessions in more than forty states and the period during which they will remain in session.

January 1—Indiana, sixty days.

January 5—Arkansas, sixty days; California, unlimited; Iowa, unlimited; Montana, sixty days; Ohio, unlimited; Tennessee, seventy-five days.

January 6—Delaware, sixty days; Kansas, fifty days; Minnesota, ninety days; Nebraska, sixty days; North Dakota, sixty days; Oklahoma, sixty days; Pennsylvania, unlimited; Rhode Island, sixty days; South Dakota, sixty days.

January 7—Colorado, ninety days; Connecticut, unlimited; Illinois, unlimited; Maine, unlimited; Massachusetts, unlimited; Michigan, unlimited; Missouri, seventy days; New Hampshire, unlimited; New York, unlimited; North Carolina, sixty days; Vermont, unlimited; Washington, sixty days.

January 12—Arizona, sixty days; Idaho, sixty days; Oregon, forty days; Utah, sixty days.

January 13—New Jersey, unlimited; New Mexico, sixty days; South Carolina, forty days; Texas, sixty days; Wyoming, forty days.

January 14—West Virginia, forty-five days; Wisconsin, unlimited.

January 19—Nevada, sixty days.

April 7—Florida, sixty days.

June 3—Georgia, fifty days. The Georgia Legislature heretofore has met annually, but beginning with the 1925 session it will meet biennially. The next session after the 1925 session will be held in 1927.

FEWER BUT BETTER LAWS.

"Statesmen and jurists have repeatedly dwelt upon the plague of too many laws in the United States. We sometimes seem in danger of being smothered in our own legislation. On the other hand, it sometimes seems as if Con-

gress were afflicted with a kind of paralysis that prevented it from enacting any laws at all. Consider the situation in Washington to-day. After the conference between President Coolidge and Senate leaders the other evening, it was unofficially indicated that almost all the important bills pending in Congress would have to be jettisoned if the ship were to be brought into harbor on March 4, with the appropriations for carrying on the Government safely on board. There was no hope of action on any of the treaties at this session; the bill for reorganizing the departments of the Government in the interest of economy and efficiency can hardly hope to get through; the Muscle Shoals bill, the MacFadden Banking bill, the Federal Building bill—all seem to have fallen by the wayside.

"Does this mean that Congress, particularly the Senate, has lost the power to legislate? Not if one looks at the remainder of the story. On a given day, not long ago, the Senate passed no less than 155 bills in the space of about two hours. Of course, these were minor measures. They were bridge bills, bills for claims against the Government, private pension bills. And they went through by consent. The calendar was called, and on it there was a fair apportionment to each Senator of a bill or bills in which he was particularly interested. So, without debate, they were "kissed through." But just the same they add to the bulk of legislation. They also illustrate one of the vices of law-making as it is at present practiced. Large measures, proposals of country-wide interest, have to fight for their lives, and often do it in vain. Meanwhile private legislation is speeded on its way.

"Doubtless a need of our time is fewer laws. But a still greater need is laws better drawn and more conscientiously enacted. A mere slackening in the volume of legislation will be of no great avail unless at the same time legislation is made more intelligent and discriminating."

The foregoing is from an editorial of the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*; the speed of enacting laws above referred to was nearly equaled in the session of January 31, when 137 measures were passed through; the general character was about the same as that of the holiday rush.

DRUG CONFERENCE FAILS TO AGREE —OPIUM AGREEMENT IS AGAIN IN SIGHT.

The title expresses the condition of "now it is—now it isn't" and really at this writing it is difficult to determine whether the reference in the editorial prepared for this issue is correct or incorrect.¹

One dispatch of January 31 reads: "The joint commission of the two opium conferences failed to-day to bring forth the magic formula for solving the perplexing problem of how and when to abolish opium smoking in the Far East.

Great Britain, France and Holland, in whose Far Eastern possessions opium smoking pre-

vails under governmental supervision, explained that suppression within a definite term of years was impracticable and dangerous, until the illicit cultivation of the poppy should be checked in China and some means found to prevent smuggling into other Oriental countries.

Another item informs that "the committee of sixteen appointed to seek a compromise between the first and second opium conferences held its first meeting this afternoon.

"The British attitude toward the prepared opium traffic was supported by France, Holland and Portugal, who are more or less agreed on a common plan. There is a good possibility of this being combined with the American proposals to make an agreement satisfactory to everybody."

Mrs. Hamilton Wright has been unable to attend the last meetings of the conference, because of illness, and a session was held February 3.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Introduction to Organic Research. By E. Emmet Reid, Professor of Organic Chemistry in Johns Hopkins Univ. Pp. 343. D. Van Nostrand Company, New York, 1924. Price \$4.50.

The purpose of the author in the preparation of a work bearing the above title may be indicated by the following statement which occurs in the preface: "Research as a vocation, or even as an avocation, offers alluring joys to the individual as well as benefits to the race. This book is put forth with the hope of assisting those beginning research and of aiding some not now engaged in it to take it up."

It may be well to note in the first place that the plan of this work with reference to its character and scope is quite different from that generally adopted in chemical textbooks. Inasmuch as it consists of a series of essays and special monographs on topics pertaining to research it is apparently not intended to serve so much as a work of reference as to inculcate those principles upon which successful research may be considered to depend. It would therefore appear to the writer of this review that the title of the book does not convey a perfectly correct idea of the subject-matter, for it is believed that under such a title as "Introduction to Organic

Research" one would expect to find a more detailed account of the methods involved in special lines of investigation. If the suggestion may be permitted, it would seem that the purpose in view might be more appropriately indicated if the work were entitled: "Qualifications for Organic Research."

The contents of the book have been divided into eighteen chapters which bear respectively the following titles: I. On Research; II. Concerning Researchers; III. Incentives to Research; IV. Problems; V. Chemical Literature; VI. Secondary Publications; VII. Libraries; VIII. Literature Searches; IX. Patent Searches; X. Study of Known Compounds; XI. Preparation of Known Substances; XII. Preparation of New Compounds; XIII. Synthesis of Medicinals; XIV. Study of Structure; XV. Study of Reactions; XVI. Organic Analysis; XVII. Plant Processes; XVIII. Writing up Results. Several of these chapters, which have numerous subdivisions, are interspersed with quotations from prominent chemists or contain short articles written especially by them for the book. A few of the chapters represent special contributions by various authors, such as that on "Synthesis of Medicinals" by Dr. A. D. Hirschfelder; on the "Study of Reactions" by F. O. Rice; on the "Quantitative Analysis of Mixtures of Organic Compounds" by Professor Louis F. Wise, and

¹ According to Associated Press the American delegation withdrew from the International Opium Conference.