

PHARMACIST AND THE LAW.

ALCOHOL TAX REDUCED.

The report of the conference committee on the revenue bill of 1926 has been adopted by both houses of congress and signed by President Coolidge. Besides reducing normal and surtaxes on incomes, reducing the estate tax and granting relief along numerous other lines, the act provides for reducing the tax on distilled spirits of alcohol from \$2.20 per proof gallon to \$1.65 a gallon beginning January 1, 1927, and to \$1.10 a year later. There is provision for a tax of \$6.40 per proof gallon on alcohol diverted to beverage use. Denatured alcohol, of course, continues exempt from taxation.

The bill makes the internal revenue tax apply on imported spirits in addition to the customs tariff duty. Smuggled and seized spirits are declared to be imported within the meaning of the act. However, smuggled alcohol may be sold under the terms of the act to industrial alcohol plants for denaturing, or re-distillation and denaturation without the payment of the internal revenue tax. The bill lifts government liens from premises formerly used for distillery purposes.

THE LATTIN BILL IN NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

At the request of the legislative committee of the New York State Pharmaceutical Association, Assemblyman Frank H. Lattin has introduced a bill in the New York State Legislature to amend the public health law by providing that no pharmacy, drug store or other store having a permit to sell intoxicating liquor shall be registered by the State Board of Pharmacy. The bill does not, however, prohibit the lawful possession, sale and use by licensed pharmacists or druggists of any United States Pharmacopœia or National Formulary preparation other than whisky and brandy. The bill, fostered by the State Pharmaceutical Association, is in line with a resolution adopted at the last convention of that body relative to the establishment of government dispensaries for the distribution of liquor and restoring to pharmacists and druggists the free use of alcohol for pharmaceutical purposes only.

ANDREWS SEEMS TO FAVOR GOVERNMENT DISPENSARIES.

According to the correspondent of the *Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter*, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, L. C. Andrews, has indicated that ultimately the government will have to

own the whisky supply of the country for medicinal purposes, although he has not made up his mind about the practicability of carrying out a plan for acquisition of these supplies at this time. It is learned that he has a committee of business men and lawyers working on the problem. Mr. Andrews has stated that he is "interested keenly in the distribution to retail druggists," of medicinal whisky, without diversion, and with the assurance that druggists would always have pure whisky. He has been informed that many retail druggists are voting, in a canvass, that the government should relieve them of the handling of medicinal whisky, but at the present stage Mr. Andrews does not see his way clear to approve a suggestion that the government should establish agencies for distribution of medicinal liquor direct to the consumer. A year or two ago there was a suggestion that the public health service take over the whisky supply and be responsible for its proper distribution for legitimate purposes.

SEPARATE BUREAUS.

The Assistant Secretary of the Treasury has endorsed the principle of a prohibition bureau separate from the internal revenue service, which was embodied in the Cramton bill as well as in the administration's new bill providing for bureaus of prohibition and customs.

Views of Secretary Mellon and of General Andrews, according to the Press, differ on a number of propositions. As a result of these differences there is considerable speculation in Washington as to whether General Andrews, when he goes before the House Committee, will advance formally his proposal for a Presidential prohibition committee. Officials wonder how the committee would receive recommendations from the Treasury that did not have the backing of the head of the department.

General Andrews thinks that a thorough investigation of prohibition should include the economic and sociological aspects of the problem. Mr. Mellon thinks that an investigation would not make any change in public opinion, as people have settled views on the question one way or the other, and it would be very difficult to find investigators in whom the public would have confidence.

FOREIGNERS INQUISITIVE.

General Andrews is embarrassed by the fact that foreign nations are continually asking for

information as to how prohibition is working in the United States. He has no official data to furnish them and thinks that a commission could supply that want. Mr. Mellon thinks that everybody knows how prohibition is working. He thinks conditions throughout the country are more or less evident.

Mr. Mellon does agree with General Andrews on one point. They both think that a Congressional investigation would be helpful. Mr. Andrews thinks such a probe would develop facts about prohibition that the Treasury does not have the machinery to uncover. Officials did not make clear exactly why Mr. Mellon thought a Congressional probe would be of value when an investigation by a Presidential prohibition commission would not.

TO PREPARE QUESTIONNAIRE.

Meanwhile the House Committee on Alcoholic Traffic is going ahead with the preliminary moves of an investigation. A sub-committee headed by Representative Upshaw, Democrat, Georgia, has been appointed to prepare a questionnaire.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATION.

Secretary A. L. I. Winne has sent out the circular of advice on Virginia legislation. The cosmetic and soda tax bills have been killed.

The Caustic Alkali Bill is on its second reading on the House Calendar, where it has been for some days.

The Peddlers' Bill has not progressed since last reports. It was then in the hands of a sub-committee for consideration.

The Registered Assistant Bill, introduced by Mrs. Fain of Norfolk, amends several sections of the pharmacy law with reference to the registered pharmacist. Its purpose is to prevent the registering of any more assistant

pharmacists after March 1, 1926, to allow such persons as are registered as assistants now to take the registered pharmacist examination for the purpose of registering as pharmacists if they can pass the examinations. It does not affect the status of those registered as assistant pharmacists, allowing them to continue to practice as such after March 1, 1926, if they do not subsequent to that date become registered as pharmacists.

NEW YORK X-RAY LABORATORY LAW AMENDED.

Commissioner Louis I. Harris reports in the *City of New York Department of Health Bulletin* for February 13, that the regulation anent X-ray laboratories, reading:

"Every X-ray laboratory shall at all times be in charge and under the direction of a duly licensed physician or *other person whose knowledge, experience and qualifications to operate and use an X-ray machine are satisfactory to the Health Department.*"

has been amended to read:

"Every X-ray laboratory shall at all times be in charge of and under the direction of a duly licensed physician or other person *who is licensed under the laws of this state to diagnose and treat disease* and whose knowledge, experience and qualification to use an X-ray machine are satisfactory to the Health Department."

The comment is made that "thus amended, the regulations will entitle all the members of professions licensed under the laws of the state to diagnose and treat disease to maintain and conduct X-ray laboratories and will safeguard the public from errors of omission or commission that might jeopardize life and health."

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Principles of Pharmacy. By Henry V. Arny, Ph.M., Ph.D., F.C.S., Professor of Chemistry in the College of Pharmacy of Columbia University, etc., 3rd Edition, Revised with 289 illustrations, octavo, 1088 pp. Cloth \$8.00—Philadelphia and London, W. B. Saunders Co., 1926.

Just off the press is Prof. Arny's well-known "Principles of Pharmacy" in its third edition. The appearance of the 10th revision of the U. S. P., and the 5th edition of the N. F., at an early date, requires a new edition of the

book with the inclusion of not only the new data of the U. S. P. and N. F. but also of the remarkable discoveries in the field of chemistry, medicine and pharmacy that have been made during the past decade.

The seven Parts of this excellent book deal with the following subjects:

I. Pharmaceutical Operations and Appliances. A striking feature is the inclusion of a chapter on the "Arithmetic of Pharmacy."

II. Galenic Pharmaceutical Preparations. It will be noticed that, whenever possible,