

THE PHARMACIST AND THE LAW.

PROHIBITION LAW DECISIONS.

The following decisions are reported in the *U. S. Daily* of July 3.

In application of 1925 permittee to procure, use and sell on prescription, alcohol, whisky, other distilled spirits and wine, examiner's recommendation, after hearing and finding that permittee had been negligent in complying with law in use of permit, that 1926 permit be withheld for 90 days and that allowance of whisky be reduced for remainder of term, was not confirmed by Prohibition Administrator who held that negligence found was insufficient to deny issuance of permit for 1926. In review in equity, under Sec. 6, National Prohibition Act (Comp. St. Sec. 10138½ c), held, that there was no such wilful violation as would justify revocation of permit under Sec. 9 of the act (Comp. St. Sec. 10138½ dd) and order entered directing issuance of permit with reduced allowance for balance of term.—*Schreiber vs. Andrews et al.* (District Court, Western District of Penn.)

Where no evidence was offered, in suit in equity to review Administrator's refusal of permit, as to whether or not record had been sent to commissioner for review as required by Regulations 60, Sec. 1932, court assumed that it had been because Administrator made final finding and notice was served on permittee of revocation, and therefore court finds that there was a final decision in behalf of Commissioner which was subject to review under National Prohibition Act, Sec. 6 (Comp. St. Sec. 10138½ c).—*Schreiber vs. Andrews.* (District Court, Western District of Penn.)

OPIUM ADVISORY COMMISSION.

The Opium Advisory Commission of the League of Nations, which has been holding sessions in Geneva, is having problems of its own to solve, the alleged excessive importation of morphia into the Chinese Republic for hospital purposes as charged by Sir Malcolm Delevingne on the advice of the Chinese Anti-Narcotic Society being the point at issue, and to which the Chinese Minister at Rome, Chau Chin-Chu, took vigorous exception. Declaring that Great Britain was responsible for the introduction of opium into China and that she gained enormously by the opium traffic between her colonies and China, he made the statement that he pre-

ferred to fight on the question and declared that China was ready to tear up her treaties with foreign powers. According to cable despatches, the minister went on to say that the tremendous anti-foreign feeling in China, of which the foreign powers seemed to be unaware, was such that any Chinese who to-day did not hate foreigners was a poor Chinese. What would have happened had the discussion been allowed to continue can only be conjectured, for the despatch states that at this point the French representative intervened with a request for an adjournment for tea!

EXPORT OPIUM TRADE FROM INDIA TO CEASE.

A newspaper editorial comments on the discontinuance of export from India of opium, to become effective 1935. "A scheme of restriction by 10 per cent annually has been put into effect covering all exportations excepting those intended for medicinal or scientific use. Indian opium, being poor in morphia content, is, however, impracticable for these uses. The restriction scheme, therefore, means the total extinction of the traffic within ten years.

"The Indian Government has made a considerable sacrifice to clear itself of the charge of perpetuating opium-smoking in other countries, of which China has been the principal victim. Loss of revenue will run to \$5,000,000 or \$10,000,000 a year, and will have to be made up by the taxpayers. Indian leaders, however, have long been convinced that the sacrifice will be worthwhile, in spite of the reluctance of some other nations to take the same stand.

"Incidentally, suppression of the opium traffic is bound to have an important bearing upon the strained relations between Great Britain and China. Politically conscious Chinese have made the refusal of the British Government to act on the matter a main point in their anti-British agitation, which has had so tremendous an effect on Anglo-Chinese trade."

HARRISON ACT UPHELD.

Certain inmates of the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary lost their first move to test the constitutionality of the Harrison Narcotic Act to-day when Federal Judge Samuel H. Sibley denied a petition for a habeas corpus

writ requiring Warden John W. Snook to produce Dr. Frank Sofge, a Federal prisoner serving time for a narcotic violation.

Judge Sibley also denied a motion for bail for Dr. Sofge pending an appeal to the United States Supreme Court. In denying both the habeas corpus writ and the motion for bail Judge Sibley announced that he was forced to uphold the decision of the Supreme Court in the Doremus case, in which the Harrison Anti-Narcotic Law was held constitutional.

GERMANY BANS PROPYL ALCOHOL USE AS DRUG.

The German Minister of Public Welfare, in response to an inquiry as to the permissibility of the use of propyl and iso-propyl alcohol in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals, has stated that ethyl alcohol is the only alcohol suited for making tinctures and the like, basing his argument on the rules and regulations of the German Pharmacopœia.

He claimed that it is altogether too early to countenance the use of propyl alcohol or

iso-propyl alcohol in the place of ethyl alcohol, because its effect on the human organism is not yet thoroughly understood. A distinction must not be made between medicinals used externally and internally in this connection. Restriction of the use of propyl and iso-propyl alcohols for pharmaceutical purposes also applies to their use in the manufacture of cosmetics, for many cosmetics have a more or less medicinal use.—*Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter.*

PRICE MAINTENANCE TO BE CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE.

A special subcommittee will be appointed next winter to consider price maintenance legislation, according to Representative Parker of New York, chairman of the House committee on interstate commerce. The subcommittee, it was stated, will go over the testimony and briefs presented to the full committee, will receive suggestions from parties interested in the legislation, and make changes that may be deemed necessary to perfect the bill.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Chemistry and Recent Progress in Medicine. The Dohme lectures for 1924. By Julius Stieglitz, Ph.D., Chairman of the Department of Chemistry in the University of Chicago, 5³/₄ × 8¹/₂, VIII + 62 pages. Bound in cloth stamped in gold \$1.50, in paper \$0.75. Published for The Johns Hopkins University by The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore.

This volume contains the second series of the Charles E. Dohme Memorial Lecturers. In these lectures, the author has endeavored to bring up-to-date the record of the relation between chemistry and medicine as it is outlined in the "Report on the Future Independence and Progress of Medicine in the Age of Chemistry," prepared by a committee of the American Chemical Society in 1921. That he has done admirably well, all who read the volume must admit.

The subject has been approached from two main points of view, namely: from the standpoint of the materials which have to do with the cure and prevention of diseases and from the point of view of the functional or dynamic side of chemical action.

Beginning with an account of the recent discovery of the advantages of ethylene gas

as an anesthetic, the author reviews the more recent advances in the field of chemotherapy and the isolation (partial or complete) of the active principles of the internal secretions and biochemical products (antitoxins, sera and bacterial vaccines). These discussions take up the greater part of the first two lectures. The remaining lecture takes up the matter from the second point of view stated above, namely, the study of the functions of the commonest and simplest materials of the body organism by the experimental methods indicated by the laws of physical chemistry. In this discussion, the author takes up the work of Dr. Howland and his associates on the problem of rickets and tetany, the work on the physico-chemical equilibrium of the blood by Van Slyke, Wu and McLean, the theory of membrane equilibria developed by F. G. Donnan and finally the application of the newer theories of oxidation and reduction to this field of work.

The little volume is both interesting and instructive and deserves to be widely read.—A. G. DUMÉZ.

Chemical Synonyms and Trade Names. Dictionary and Commercial Handbook. By