

is head of the School of Pharmacy and has charge of the Department of Biology.

HOPKINS GROUPS OBSERVE CENTENARY OF LORD LISTER.

The centenary of Lord Joseph Lister was observed October 10th at a joint meeting of the Medical Society of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and the Medical Society of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, held at the School of Hygiene.

Dr. John Stewart, a former student and associate of Lord Lister, now professor of

surgery at Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, delivered the principal address. Speaking on "Lister, the Man and Surgeon," he brought out the wide range of his knowledge of the use of disinfectants.

DES MOINES COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

The Des Moines College of Pharmacy, recently organized, sponsored by Carl Weeks, Frank C. Waterbury, L. H. Chamberlain and others, opened for instruction September 26th. Prof. E. O. Kagy is the dean.

THE PHARMACIST AND THE LAW.

ALCOHOL ADVISORY COUNCIL IS APPOINTED.

Appointment of an industrial advisory council has been announced by James M. Doran, Commissioner of Prohibition, with the approval of Seymour Lowman, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

There are twelve members of the council representing different groups affected by prohibition regulations applying to industrial alcohol. The members are as follows: Dr. Martin H. Ittner, Jersey City; Dr. Harrison E. Howe, Washington; H. S. Chatfield, New York; A. Homer Smith, Baltimore; Frank A. Blair, New York; Samuel C. Henry, Chicago; Frank J. Noonan, Boston; Russell R. Brown, New York; George F. Dieterle, Cincinnati; C. Mahlon Kline, Philadelphia; Fred S. Rogers, Middletown, N. Y.; Charles L. Reese, Wilmington.

The new industrial advisory council will be consulted by Mr. Doran in working out the program for the allotment of quotas to manufacturers of alcohol under the plan to control production. As already announced the new alcohol production control scheme will be made effective January 1st. Mr. Doran plans to consult with the council in the near future in connection with this matter.

It is also expected that the council will be consulted by Mr. Doran on other questions of prohibition administration, which affect the industries of the country.

ERGOT IMPORTATIONS.

Adoption of a more liberal policy in connection with the importation of ergot has been urged upon officials of the Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration of the Department

of Agriculture by representatives of the New York crude drug trade. The head of one house conferred with Dr. A. E. Taylor, acting chief of the administration and in immediate charge of the office of imports. Dr. Taylor promised sympathetic consideration of the matter, but explained that no definite promises could be made as each shipment of ergot would have to be considered separately. Under the practice now prevailing, large quantities of Russian ergot have been barred, its quality as a rule being inferior to that of the Spanish product.

Dr. Taylor was told that there is a threatened shortage of supplies of ergot in this country and that there are reports of an attempt to corner available stocks with a resultant soaring of prices. To meet this situation, it was urged that the Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration adopt a more liberal policy in passing upon imports. It was proposed that where there is a question as to whether a shipment is sub-standard it be given the benefit of the doubt and permitted to come in wherever possible, under assurance that the preparations made from it would be brought up to standard. It was especially urged that a liberal policy be pursued with respect to the Russian ergot.

NARCOTIC RULES REVISION TO BE PROMULGATED SOON.

Revised regulations for the enforcement of the Harrison narcotic law will be promulgated in the near future. The work of revision, which has been in progress for several months, has been completed and the document is now awaiting approval of the Secretary of the Treasury. No date on which the revision will become effective has been announced.

NARCOTIC CONVICTIONS ARE UPHELD BY CIRCUIT COURT.

The United States Circuit Court of Appeals has affirmed the conviction by the district court of William Vachuda, Charles Webber and John C. Weller for the illegal importation of narcotics. The opinion by Judge Manton holds that the testimony was sufficient to present a question for the jury as to the connection of the defendants with the crimes for which they were convicted. The finding of the jury was supported by the trial judge's denial of the motion to set the verdict aside at its rendition. The judgment of conviction was accordingly affirmed.

GUATEMALANS HOLD AMERICAN PREPARED MEDICINES IN HIGH REGARD.

Guatemalan prepared medicines are manufactured by retail dealers in drugs, handling both their own and imported preparations.

Some of these manufacturing chemists have been operating more than 50 years. Through systematic advertising they have kept their preparations before the public. A number of these preparations are duplications of American and European products for which a demand has been created, the formulas of which permit of slight changes without altering the remedial effects. These are sold much cheaper than the imported preparations.

Almost all well-known American prepared medicines are carried in stock by the druggists. The Guatemalans of the better class hold almost all American curative products in high regard.—*Consul General P. Holland.*

The Department of Commerce, Bureau of Standards, has issued a "Directory of Commercial Testing and College Research Laboratories."—Miscellaneous Publication No. 90—it may be had for 15 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

The Law of Chemical Patents. By Edward Thomas, of the New York and District of Columbia Bars; Member, New York Patent Law Association, American Chemical Society; Associate Member, American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers. New York. D. Van Nostrand Company, 8 Warren St. 1927.

This valuable treatise will be found of great interest to readers, laymen as well as lawyers, who begin at the beginning and read the book through. Its 358 pages, 6 x 9, are printed in large type on excellent paper and the contents are well classified for reference and study.

The book consists of a selection from the author's digests of patent law. It is, of course, impossible in a book of this size to quote all decisions of the Courts on every point. Some points, in fact, are clearly grasped by the reader after perusing two or three quoted rulings. Others, especially those involving questions of equivalency, must be viewed in many phases. In a few instances, where the cases seem to be squarely contradictory, the author has deemed it advisable to include all the quotable cases bearing on the point at issue. The chapters, therefore, vary greatly in length. Those who desire to study more cases on many of the points taken up in the present book, are referred by the author to his *Chemical Patents*, published by

John Byrne and Co. in 1917, where, in the appropriate headings in the notes they are cited.

The value of the book is greatly enhanced by a table at the beginning of approximately parallel volumes of law reports thus avoiding the overloading the quotations and the table of cases with parallel citations. Also included are every decision of the Supreme Court and many other decisions cited, which have been published weekly since January 1, 1872, in the Official Gazette of the Patent Office and the Commissioners Decisions, beginning with 1876.

The common belief is that inventors of all kinds possess a natural or common law right to the exclusive use of their inventions irrespective of the patent laws. This, however, is not the case. This fact is clearly brought out by the author in Chapter I, which deals with the nature of a patent. He illustrates the nature of the patent privilege very clearly by the following quotations from accepted authority:

"An American patent is a written contract between an inventor and the Government. . . . The consideration given on the part of the inventor to the Government is the disclosure of his invention in such plain and full terms that any one skilled in the art to which it appertains may practice it. The consideration