

LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING LIQUOR PRESCRIPTIONS FOR MEDICINAL PURPOSES ARE AMENDED.

Changes in the regulations governing the issuance of prescription blanks to physicians for use in prescribing liquor for medicinal purposes were announced, October 26th, by the Bureau of Prohibition, in an order signed by the Commissioner of Prohibition, Dr. J. M. Doran. The order reads in full text:

To prohibition administrators, and others concerned: Sections 1710 and 1712, of Regulations 2, are amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1710.—Stubs to be returned to the Administrator—Prescription blanks on Form 1403 for medicinal liquor are printed in duplicate with stubs attached to both original and duplicate. The stubs of the original prescriptions will not be detached by the physician, but must remain in the book.

The stubs of the duplicate prescriptions issued during the month must be detached by the physician and forwarded to the Prohibition Administrator at the end of the month or within ten days thereafter. Any mutilated or defaced prescription blanks, both original and duplicate, in the possession of the physician must be returned to the Administrator and proper notation made by the physician on the stubs.

The duplicate copies of prescriptions for medicinal liquor written on unofficial forms in emergency cases must be forwarded to the Administrator at the end of the month when issued, or within ten days thereafter. Prescription blank, Form 1403, must in all cases be used by the physician in the order of the serial numbers in the book.

Sec. 1712.—Official blanks to be delivered to physicians in person or by registered mail—Books of official prescription blanks, Form 1403, will be delivered by the Administrator to a physician only upon receipt of a written request therefor, signed by the physician, except that if a physician holding a permit to prescribe medicinal liquor personally calls at the office of the Administrator, to whom he be known or properly identified, prescription blanks may be delivered to the physician and a receipt signed by him taken.

In cases where written request is received from the physician for a book of prescriptions, the Administrator will forward it to the physician by registered mail. The book containing

all the stubs of the used original prescriptions must accompany the request of the physician for a new book of prescription blanks.

The book of stubs will be returned to the physician by the Administrator, together with the new book of prescription blanks. The book of stubs returned to the physician must be retained by him as a permanent record of prescriptions issued by him, subject to inspection by Federal officers.

Paragraphs 78 and 79, of Regulations 1, are amended to read as follows:

Par. 78.—Physicians' prescription books, Form 1403, will be issued from the withdrawal section. Stub books of returned original prescriptions will be promptly checked and records pertaining thereto will be kept current. Each stub in the book will be examined to ascertain particularly the following information:

(a) Whether the previous book was issued within 90 days;

(b) Whether the stubs are signed by the physician in his own handwriting;

(c) Whether the physician's signature and address agree with the card record;

(d) Whether the prescriptions have been written in chronological order;

(e) Whether the kind and quantity of liquor and directions for use are properly stated;

(f) Whether two prescriptions were written for the same patient within 10 days;

(g) Whether the prescription has been given for a disease usually prescribed for;

(h) Whether any prescription was written by the doctor for himself.

Prescription books must be sent to physicians by registered mail when request for the book is made in writing. If the request is made by the doctor in person, a receipt will be taken for the book delivered to him. A record of books issued will be made on Form 1416.

Upon receipt of advice that a doctor has lost his book or that it has been stolen, the doctor will be required to make an affidavit setting out the circumstances. In such cases an inspection should be made with a view to recovering the missing book.

"Physicians' requests for additional books of prescription blanks shall be acted upon promptly in accordance with Section 1708 (b), Regulations 2.

Par. 79.—The stubs of duplicate prescriptions sent to the Administrator by physicians at the end of each month will be filed in

numerical sequence for each physician. These stubs will require no audit and will be used only for reference in connection with the audit made of canceled original prescriptions under Paragraphs 598 to 601, inclusive."

Par. 602 of Regulations 1, is hereby rescinded.

CHAIN STORE INVESTIGATION.

On October 18th the Federal Trade Commission announced that the inquiry into chain stores was directed by Senate Resolution 224, Commission. Agents of the Commission are investigating chain stores, interviewing their officers, with reference to chain store organization and distribution and a general questionnaire is being formulated. A study will be made by the Commission of competitive conditions and consolidations to determine whether there have been any violations of the anti-trust laws. This was ordered under what is known as the Brookhart resolution.

THE DRUGGISTS' LIABILITY.

When a druggist delivers to the customer the article called for, with the label of the proprietary or patentee on it, he cannot justly be charged with negligence in so doing (*West vs. Emanuel*, 198 P. 180). A druggist who holds himself out as the actual manufacturer cannot claim the benefit of exemption from responsibility for the quality or strength of patent or proprietary medicines where injury is suffered by their use.

CACHE OF OPIUM FOUND IN ANCHOR-CHAIN ROOM.

The largest shipment of opium ever seized east of San Francisco, according to the *New York Times*, was found by customs' inspectors on the arrival at New York of the President Harrison of the Dollar Line after a world cruise. After the ship had been searched from top to bottom and the ship's officers ordered to run out ninety-nine fathoms of anchor chain, they found the opium in the chain room. There were thirty-one burlap bags containing 2665 six-ounce tins, the peddling value of which runs into very large figures. Of the 163 members of the crew of the President Harrison, 131 were Chinese. The ship had touched at Hongkong and other Asiatic ports on her cruise. The ship's officers were taken before the law division of the customs service,

and the ship was ordered not to leave port pending the filing of a \$400,000 bond.

MORE CONSOLIDATIONS.

The Vadsco Sales Corporation has been chartered, merging American Druggists' Syndicate, V. Vivaudou, Inc., Kny-Scheerer Corporation. Under the plan Vadsco will be a holding company, owning all capital stock of the manufacturing units, which will continue under their present names, including in addition to the three leading companies, Alfred H. Smith Company, Parfumerie Melba, Inc., Delettret, Inc. and Kleanwell, Inc., retaining all trade names and marks. David H. Schulte will be chairman of the board of the Vadsco Corporation.

The Van Vleet-Mansfield Drug Company, one of the oldest, if not the oldest, wholesale drug house of the South, and Hessig Ellis Drug Company have been consolidated. The central business of the two companies is in Memphis and they have branches in Jackson, Miss., and Little Rock, Ark.

The May Drug Stores Corporation of Pittsburgh have consolidated with Drug, Inc.

Plans in New York contemplate a combination of a thousand independent retail stores in the Drug Service Corporation, of which Samuel S. Dworkin is the treasurer. Joseph Nemerov has been named as president.

Articles of incorporation have been filed in Ohio for "Ure" Druggist, Inc. The incorporators are F. T. Roosa, R. E. Lee Williamson and Norman L. Sheffer. The incorporation papers state that the purposes for which this company is formed are: "To carry on the business of manufacturing, buying, selling, preparing, compounding and otherwise dealing in drugs, medicines, compounds, chemicals, proprietary articles, druggist's sundries, surgical apparatus, physician's and hospital supplies of every kind, nature and description; to establish warehouses incident thereto. To carry on the business of advertising in all its branches incident thereto to print, publish and circulate publicity material; to buy, sell, make, maintain, lease and erect signboards, display spaces, and posters and labels of every kind, nature and description."

The principal office will be located in Cleveland. Options have been secured on wholesale, retail and manufacturing establishments throughout the country. The plan also contemplates the location of warehouses for constituent members. It is also proposed

to finance the expansion of Ure druggist individually owned drug stores.

UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE INSPECTION OF VACCINES AND SERUMS IMPORTANT.

The United States Public Health Service, in connection with its inspection of biologic products as required by law, performs a service of inestimable value to the general public. Before a biologic product, such as a serum, toxin, vaccine or antitoxin, may be sold in the United States in interstate or international commerce a license must be obtained from the Public Health Service. The granting of a license means that inspection of the establishment concerned and laboratory examinations of samples of its products are made regularly to insure the observance of safe methods of manufacture, to ascertain freedom from contamination and to determine the purity or safety, or both, of the various products and the potency in cases where standards exist. From time to time lists of the manufacturing firms which produce such products that are licensed are published, together with the names of the products for which they are licensed. Such a list recently issued by the Public Health Service emphasizes the importance of this work.

ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION.

H. R. 11998 seeks to prohibit experiments upon living dogs in the District of Columbia or in any of the territorial or insular possessions of the United States, and providing a penalty for violation thereof. It was introduced by request, by Representative Frear of Wisconsin and is pending before the Committee on the Judiciary. This bill aims to prevent the use of living dogs for experimentation or operation in any manner, in any jurisdiction under the exclusive legislative control of Congress. The bill is designed, it is understood, as an entering wedge, to be followed, if it is enacted, by legislation to prevent experimentation on other animals. Incidentally, the enactment of such legislation by Congress would presumably be urged as a reason for the enactment of similar legislation by the legislatures of the several states.

DRUG ADDICTION.

Many wild "estimates" have been made in recent years of the numbers of "drug addicts"

in the United States. It is hard to understand how—and harder to understand why—some of these "estimates" were made. When, after all the guesses and propaganda, we can find figures that are based on facts, even though they are small, we are really pleased.

The Marine Hospital, operated by the U. S. Public Health Service, discharged 98,714 patients in the years 1925, 1926 and 1927. Of this large number, fifty-five were classified as "Cases of Drug Addiction." In 1925, there were thirty, in 1926, seventeen, and in 1927, only eight. The total number of patients was greater in 1926 than in 1925, and greater in 1927 than in 1926, but the number of cases of addiction went down 50 per cent in 1926 and again in 1927.

These figures are from a report of the U. S. Public Health Service. They are small but significant, because the Marine Hospitals probably get their full share of "addicts." *American Medical Association Bulletin*, October 1928.

BRAZIL A MARKET FOR PROPRIETARY MEDICINES.

There is a large demand in Brazil for proprietary medicines of various kinds, especially tonics, blood purifiers and remedies for rheumatism. The enervating climate and the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing in many parts of the country have stimulated the demand.

A large and well-developed pharmaceutical industry in Brazil produces many articles of good quality. In addition, several important foreign companies have established laboratories for the manufacture of their more important products in order to avoid the payment of import duties, which are very high. It is estimated that approximately 70 per cent of the total consumption is supplied by local manufacturers. Brazil's imports of medicinal pills, capsules, globules, etc., and chemical and pharmaceutical products have about doubled since 1922.

It is estimated that approximately 25 per cent of the total imports come from France, about 20 per cent from Germany and about 15 per cent each from the United States and Great Britain. The remaining 25 per cent come from Italy, Switzerland, Netherlands, Austria and other countries. (Consul General Claude I. Dawson, Rio de Janeiro.)