

LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE.

ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC IN THE FAR EAST.

The Egyptian government's narcotics central bureau, in its report for 1931, shows that Turkey appears to have become an important center of illicit traffic, though the Turkish government is taking steps to deal with the matter. In Greece, again, traffickers are aided by the absence of provisions for the preventive arrest and detention of persons accused. Unfavorable comment is made on the number of cases in which members of certain steamship lines figure as traffickers' agents. The most striking fact of the report is that whereas the number of drug addicts in Egypt decreased considerably last year, the number of traffickers increased. In 1930, 2828 traffickers and 4580 addicts were arrested; in 1931 the numbers were 4327 and 2882.

DRAFT OF A GERMAN LAW REGULATING MEDICINAL PRODUCTS.

A number of existing provisions in the German Medicinal Products law have been recast in a different form, while for other matters, such as the supervision of production and the introduction of a test for certain medicinal products (vaccines, therapeutic and protective serums, arsphenamines, digitalis leaves) new provisions have been drafted.

"One of the important paragraphs contains the regulations concerning the manufacture and sale of medicinal products. The needs of the situation are to be the determining factors in the promulgation of regulations concerning

manufacture and sale. It is peculiar that it is not the production of a single preparation that requires authorization but the establishment of a pharmaceutical manufacturing plant. Such authorization may not be given an industrial plant unless the owner furnishes proof that he has the necessary scientific knowledge to carry on such an enterprise in a satisfactory manner. The aim is to eliminate the production of injurious medicaments or such as are likely to deceive the consumer, without imposing more burdens than actually necessary on the manufacture of unobjectionable products. All parties concerned have, on the other hand, an urgent interest in seeing that concessions are conferred only on reliable producers. It is, for example, in no wise desirable that persons without scientific training shall interest themselves in the production of specialties."

It is said that whatever form the law shall assume, it will lead to a clarification of the complicated legal situation in the field of legislation pertaining to medicinal products and will furnish a broad basis for opposing with great energy the illegal traffic in medicinal products and advance the standards of the professions for better medical and pharmaceutical service.

Among the demands are provisions for a responsible, scientifically trained director of a pharmaceutical manufacturing plant; declaration of the active ingredients, holding the producers responsible for the agreement of the declared ingredients with the actual composition, and the abolition of exaggerated or deceptive advertisements.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Colloid Aspects of Foods, Chemistry and Technology. By WILLIAM CLAYTON, D.Sc. (Liverpool), F.I.C. VII + 571 pages, with 64 illustrations. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., Inc., 1932.

In the preface the author states his reason for presenting this book and the function which he expects it to fulfil as follows:

"Whilst there are several textbooks available in English, German and French which deal with the organic chemistry of foods, the chemical aspects of nutrition and with food analysis, no attempt seems to have been made to survey the field in relation to those physico-chemical aspects of food chemistry which come within

the range of modern colloid chemistry. The present volume seeks to fill this gap in the textbook literature."

"It is not a treatise on food technology, but rather an introductory guide to those aspects and problems of a colloid nature which may be unfamiliar to the food chemist who has not specialized in colloid chemistry and physics."

On the whole it may be said that the author has achieved what he set out to accomplish; but before discussing the book in somewhat greater detail, it will be instructive to review briefly the historical background of modern colloid chemistry. Colloid substances, as we now call them, are not at all new to mankind,