

NEW YORK PHARMACY OWNERSHIP
CASE WILL BE TAKEN TO U. S.
SUPREME COURT.

The decision of the New York Court of Appeals nullifying the Pharmacy Ownership Law and making it legal for any corporation or individual, whether pharmacist or layman, to own and operate a drug store by having a registered pharmacist in charge, will be appealed to the United States Supreme Court. Meanwhile, no certificate of registration will be issued to a non-pharmacist or a corporation for the conduct of a pharmacy.

The Pennsylvania law, the New York State Pharmaceutical Association, appearing in the action as *amicus curiae*, points out, carried a provision which made it impossible for existing corporations within the state to open additional stores. This is not true of the New York law, under which it was possible for corporations owning drug stores in the state at the time the law went into effect to purchase, or open new outlets.

It has been further noted by the Association that the Pennsylvania law was admittedly a measure designed to curb the growth of chain systems. The New York law was passed as a public health measure. While the bill was being debated in the legislature, both physicians and pharmacists appeared to testify that the law was needed to supply adequate protection to the public health.

NEW MEXICO PHARMACEUTICAL
ASSOCIATION.

President David L. C. Hover in a letter to the members expresses his opinion that a sales tax in some form will be put on the legislative books. He is in favor of a general sales tax, at a small rate with no exceptions granted to any class that does not at present carry a sales tax. He is not in favor of special taxes and, on general principles, he is against an income tax; if this is necessary, such tax should fall heaviest on those that pay no property tax.

MEDICINAL LIQUOR BILL
ADVANCED.

A sub-committee of the House judiciary committee has approved the bill introduced by Representative Emanuel Celler of New York to remove restrictions on the prescription of medicinal liquor. The bill would remove the limit on the amount to be prescribed for any one person, leaving this to the discretion of the physician, and would remove requirements as to disclosing ailments. A system of stamps to be affixed to prescriptions by the physicians before they may be filled is provided as a guard against counterfeiting. The bill has the support of the American Medical Association and was suggested by the Wickersham commission.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Organic Chemistry. By G. ALBERT HILL, Professor of Organic Chemistry, Wesleyan University and LOUISE KELLY, Professor of Organic Chemistry, Goucher College. P. Blakiston's Son and Company, publishers. VIII + 564 pages.

The authors state in the preface, "This text is planned for an elementary, but comprehensive one-year course in organic chemistry. It provides a survey of the subject for the student who will go no further in the study of organic chemistry and establishes a foundation not only for those who will study the subject more intensively, but also for those who plan to specialize in medicine or the biological sciences." A special feature in the text is a brief introductory chapter dealing with the historical development of organic chemistry. The subject-matter is presented in a

systematic manner and in a form which should facilitate the comprehension of fundamentals by students. The reagents and conditions necessary to bring about reactions are treated more fully than is usual in most organic texts of an elementary character. The nomenclature employed conforms with standard present-day practice. Biochemical and industrial applications of organic chemistry and the increasing importance of catalytic processes are emphasized. Information concerning the physiological action of many compounds is given. Questions appended to each chapter should guide the student in review and the problems should aid in the understanding of stoichiometrical relationships. The text is well written in a concise form and is notably free from errors in formulas and fact.

From the viewpoint of the pharmaceutical

chemist, the number of compounds considered which are employed in pharmacy is greater than might be expected in a text of this character. These substances are not referred to as pharmaceutical materials, however, and their use in pharmacy and production by the pharmaceutical industries is not pointed out. In a number of cases, the text might be improved by stating that a pharmaceutical preparation of a substance is used medicinally for certain purposes rather than to imply that the substance is used as such, *e. g.*, avertin, epinephrine. The statement of the physiological activity in a text of this character should be in general terms; thus the assertion that a certain commercial product "is an almost perfect urinary antiseptic" is open to question. Again the description of toxic symptoms such as those of phenol poisoning might advantageously be left to texts on toxicology. Likewise, the description and explanation of the operation of a polariscope seems out of place in a text which does not consider methods such as the determination of the melting point, boiling point and refractive index of substances. The text may offer certain advantages for use in the teaching of pharmacy students in schools which do not offer an applied course dealing with organic pharmaceutical substances in addition to the basic course in organic chemistry.—GLENN L. JENKINS.

Handbuch der Pharmakognosie. By A. TSCHIRCH, with many coöperators. Part 12. Price of each part 8 marks. Many illustrations in text, tables, charts, etc. Publisher, Bernard Tauchnitz, Leipzig, 1933.

The author, an honorary member of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, is known as an outstanding pharmacognosist and a review of his master work might be embodied in the statement that no comment is needed other than that it is his work in which he is assisted by many experts. The publishers are well and favorably known, so that the completed work will be a comprehensive source of information on all related subjects in volumes that reflect the printer's art.

The part under discussion is largely historical, biographical and geographical, giving sources and origins of drugs. The contributions of Greeks by their voyages and discoveries are intensely interesting. Writing of the Alexandrian period, Agatharchides Knidios is mentioned in connection with Arabian species and edible plants, description

of the Red Sea country and Egypt in general. Extended reference is made to a Greek merchant, Arrian by name. The beginning of the direct voyages to India is stated to be in the first century A.D. He described ports and routes and many drugs and spices. Evidently the name "Periplus" was given to several geographical records of antiquity; in one of these mention is made of many drugs still in more or less common use, as—aloes, olive oil, cassia, cotton, pepper, myrrh, styrax, indigo. It was Arrian also who was among the first to make known botanicals in commerce.

Ports are named together with the drugs that may be obtained or exchanged—imports and exports; thus, Malao exported myrrh, cassia; Socotra, dragon's blood, etc.

A section is devoted to the period between "Homer and Hippocrates." *Materia medica* and actions are described, for examples, emetics—hellebore, scammony; anthelmintics—cedar oil, juniper; for wounds—tar, myrrh; styptics—galls, mullein and so on through a long list of drugs and their properties.

The beginnings of pharmacognosy are traced from the root gatherers and cutters to later periods—brief sketches of Theophrastus, Dionysius and contemporaries are most interesting studies. Another division deals with later periods wherein "Nikander, Andromachus, Dioskurides" are given much attention, together with their knowledge of *materia medica*.

The Greek section is followed by the Roman period from the time of the destruction of Carthage and, in interesting sequence, the part other nations and countries had in the development of pharmacognosy are presented.

The purpose of the comment is not for reviewing this outstanding work, but to give a few references to the lines which are followed in this part. Other parts of the *Handbuch* have heretofore been mentioned in a more or less related way; part 10, for example, is a biographical bibliography of 2400 names wherein reference is made to each person, his activities, etc.; throughout, the illustrations, maps, charts are instructive.

The co-workers with Dr. Tschirch are: Dr. P. Casparis, Prof. E. Gilg, Dr. Ed. Fischer, Pharmacist H. Kutter, Dr. P. N. Schürhoff, Dr. H. Flück, Prof. W. Himmelbaur, Dr. A. von Lingelsheim, Dr. L. Winkler, Dr. L. Kofler, Pharmacist T. Tugendhold, Julius Grossmann, wholesale druggist; Prof. J. A. Häfziger, Dr. H. Marzell and Dr. E. O. von Lippmann.