

EDITORIAL

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FEDERAL FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

THE bill providing for a new Federal Food and Drugs Act is now before Congress, but its enactment will not be possible until its next session. Some of the outstanding changes in the bill for the provisions of the present law applying to pharmacy, are:

Extension of jurisdiction to advertising; inclusion of cosmetics; provisions to control more adequately false or misleading therapeutic claims on drugs; requirement for fully informative labeling of drugs; more adequate remedial provisions.

Among definitions the term "drug" includes: (1) all substances and preparations recognized in the United States Pharmacopœia or National Formulary or supplements thereto; and (2) all substances, preparations and devices intended for use in the cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of disease in man or other animals; and (3), all substances and preparations other than food, and all devices intended to affect the structure or any function of the body of man or other animals.

The term "cosmetic" includes all substances and preparations intended for cleansing or altering the appearance of, or promoting the attractiveness of the person. Except as indicated in the definitions of food, drug and cosmetic they shall not be construed as mutually exclusive.

Under the provisions of the bill a drug shall be deemed to be adulterated: If it is or may be dangerous to health under the conditions of use prescribed in the labeling thereof. If its name is the same as or simulates a name recognized in the United States Pharmacopœia or National Formulary or in any Supplement thereto, official at the time the drug is introduced into interstate commerce or if it purports to be such a drug and fails to meet the definition, formula and prescription set forth therein or differs from the standard of strength, quality or purity as determined by the tests or methods of assay set forth therein; except that whenever tests or methods of assay have not been prescribed therein or such tests or methods of assay are prescribed are found by the Secretary to be insufficient, he is hereby authorized to prescribe by regulations, tests or methods of assay for determining whether or not such drug complies with such standards. No drug shall be deemed to be adulterated if its label appears in the manner and form prescribed by regulations of the Secretary, a statement indicating wherein its strength, quality and purity differ from the standard of strength, quality and purity set forth in the United States Pharmacopœia or National Formulary, or in any Supplement thereto, official at the time the drug is introduced into interstate commerce, as determined by the tests or methods of assay applicable.

Further comment will be made from time to time on the measure because of its importance. This Act shall take effect six months after the date of approval; the present Act remains in force until that time.

THE FUTURE OF PHARMACY.

IN AN editorial by this writer a few years ago it was said that the thoughts and acts of the young men and women who during "Commencement Month" will

become accredited pharmacists will show the influence of those who have taught them.

It has been repeated for centuries that the problems of the day are more difficult than ever before; it was said by our forefathers and it will be said by those who now enter pharmacy. Those who preceded us solved some of the problems that were left to them, some were passed on to their successors. We have problems which disturb us; others are about to be solved and new ones are looming up before us; the difficulties they present point out our duties and give us opportunities; the solution or adjustment of them aids in our uplift and advancement in the better service for humanity. Throughout the world pharmacy has been grappling with big problems and in every country there has had to be readjustment to changed conditions. The history of pharmaceutical achievement of the last decade compares favorably with the accomplishments of the past half century and the story is being told at the Chicago World's Fair; what is wanted is constructive thought and action.

In discussing the Report on the Costs of Medical Care at the District No. 2 meeting of the members of the Boards of Pharmacy and of the College Faculties, in Philadelphia, Dean Hugh C. Muldoon said in part:

"Whatever may be our opinion of its worth and of its possible future influence, we cannot but be interested in those parts of the Report of the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care which touch directly or indirectly upon pharmaceutical education. We will all agree with the Committee that the safety of the public is paramount, and that the pharmaceutical educators should lose no opportunity to emphasize the pharmacist's responsibility for public health and safety. We believe, too, that the pharmacist must be well trained professionally, and we agree that he should have also a sound cultural and scientific background. The suggestion will commonly be approved that the pharmaceutical educational program should be more closely correlated with education in the other public health professions in order that pharmacists may be able to coöperate more intelligently and capably with workers in those fields."

An editorial of the *Australasian Journal of Pharmacy* closed with these words: "The call in pharmacy to-day is the will to adopt a plan and to stick to it until it is brought to a final and successful conclusion. There is much that cannot be done—there are forces that cannot be overcome by direct attack—but by means of flank attacks and concerted action by the whole body along definite lines the way can be paved to brighter and better things. The heritage of pharmacy lies in the traditions of the past. Its future depends on those who are practising its profession to-day. Great responsibility is cast on those who are leading in the van, but equally is the need on the part of all of the true coöperative spirit that is willing to sacrifice to some extent its individuality in order to gain a greater success for the good of all."

A PROPOSED STANDARD TABLE OF POISONS.

THE National Drug Trade Conference has undertaken the preparation of a reference list of drugs and chemicals which properly bear the poison label when dispensed otherwise than upon the prescriptions of physicians. It is a matter of

impossibility to form a definition for poison which will serve as an accurate guide in every case, hence this work is very timely and will meet a necessity long recognized. The Committee having this work in charge is composed of A. G. DuMez, S. L. Hilton, Robert L. Swain, A. C. Taylor and James H. Beal, *Chairman*. A tentative list has been prepared and is submitted with the express purpose of listing comment and criticism; it is published in this issue of the JOURNAL.

U. S. P. X INTERIM REVISION.

THE U. S. Pharmacopoeial Convention for the revision of the United States Pharmacopoeia X provided for interim revisions whenever deemed necessary. "Interim Revision Announcement" No. 1 has been issued under date of June 1, 1933, by Chairman E. Fullerton Cook, being a revision of the text and assays for "Ergot and Fluidextract of Ergot," also a revised test under Lactose. This revision becomes official January 1, 1934. The three groups responsible for the revision of this text—namely, the Sub-Committee on Botany and Pharmacognosy; the Sub-Committee on Extracts, Fluidextracts and Tinctures; and the Sub-Committee on Biological Assays—are continuing their investigations and it is expected that still other changes will be recommended for the U. S. P. XI.

GERMAN PHARMACY ORGANIZATION.

THE Deutscher Apotheker Verein (German Apothecaries Society) and other pharmaceutical societies have effected an organization—the Standes gemeinschaft, conforming to the program of the new National State. Included are all *qualified* pharmacists—retailers, wholesalers and those in the chemical and pharmaceutical industries. The *Pharmazeutische Zeitung* of April 29th comments at length on the organization, its aims and purposes and hopefully quotes lines from Schiller:

"Das Alte stürzt, es endert sich die Zeit, und neues Leben blüht aus den Ruinen." (In substance—The old falls, times change and new life blossoms out of the ruins.)

A decree issued on April 18th by the Prussian Government directs that all applications for admission of apprentices in a pharmacy are to be refused in view of alterations in the examination regulations in the near future. New legislation restricts pharmacy to those qualified, the Government controls proprietary preparations, makes unlimited free distribution of samples to physicians illegal.

The presentation of the organization plan in the publication referred to concludes by expressing hope for success, the welfare of the profession and the German people.

A comment in the *Pharmaceutical Journal and Pharmacist* on the new German Pharmaceutical organization states that "in the plan there are certain points which, if enforced, should excite the admiration and envy of British pharmacists."

We hope that the people will be better served, pharmacy enabled to render better service, its opportunities developed and productive of financial returns commensurate with the importance of the profession.