

EDITORIAL

E. G. EBERLE, EDITOR

2215 Constitution Ave., WASHINGTON, D. C.

WE GREET 1934 WITH HIGHER HOPES.

IN ENTERING a new year it is frequently the indulgence of the introspective to recall thoughts of past successes or linger on remembrances of evil days and bemoan prospects, based on deductions made by them. The value of both depends on whether the aim is to "carry on."

The year enrolled on the records of time has been an eventful one; unexpectedly, hidden or unknown conditions were brought to light and the great majority met with difficulties; the Government, with natural wealth, economic productiveness, potentialities of material prosperity, had to deal with problems that obtain in countries we consider less fortunate than our own. It was deemed necessary to apply methods to which the people of the United States were not accustomed; a study of them may bring the individual to conclusions, but in order to solve the problems it is necessary that all citizens do their part. Viewing the conditions of the earlier months of the past year and comparing these with the later—there is evidence of progress. True it is, that we have to submit to rules and regulations, methods and what not, many of which we do not understand; some prefer to say—"most of us do not comprehend." The inconveniences are many and the average citizen is disturbed by expenditures that seem beyond the possibilities of ever being adjusted; but, despite all of this, the inextinguishable impulse of our people is to believe that this year will be better than the last; somehow, the memories of the mistakes and disappointments of 1933 will be shaken off and we greet 1934 with higher hopes.

FOOD AND DRUG LEGISLATION IN CONGRESS.

SENATOR ROYAL S. COPELAND has introduced a revised food and drugs bill numbered S. 2000, based on the former bill, S. 1944. Many changes and additions have been made; among the latter, the creation of a Committee on Public Health and a Committee on Foods, each to consist of five persons appointed by the President "with a view to their distinguished scientific attainment and interest in public health" to assist the Secretary of Agriculture in preparing and amending regulations which must be approved by the majority of the appropriate committee. Provisions have also been included for hearings on regulations and for court review by injunction proceedings, of promulgated regulations.

Relative to labeling, the Copeland revision says "if its labeling is false or misleading in any particular; provided that no drug shall be deemed to be misbranded because of any representation concerning any effect of such drug if that representation is supported by substantial medical opinion or by demonstrable scientific facts." The "not a cure" provision in the definition of misbranded drugs has been entirely rewritten to require that the label show that the drug is a palliative and how and to what extent.

Congressman Loring M. Black, of New York, has introduced the bill of the National Drug Trade Conference to amend the present food and drugs act.

The purposes of the Conference in preparing the amendment were set forth by Representative Black; They are, in part, as follows:

1. Enlarge the definitions of the act so as to include devices and cosmetics.
2. Extend its provisions to include advertising.
3. Provide that notices of hearing shall be furnished to the manufacturer of the product, if known, and if unknown to the party who caused the article to be introduced in interstate commerce, instead of to the party from whom the sample was obtained, as provided in the present law.
4. The provision relating to the United States Pharmacopœia and National Formulary is amended to provide that the article shall not be deemed to be adulterated if the finished product complies with the pharmacopœial or National Formulary standards, without regard to the manner in which such product may be manufactured.
5. Cosmetics are deemed to be adulterated if they contain poisonous or deleterious ingredients in such quantities as are likely to be imminently dangerous to the user under prescribed conditions. This in lieu of provisions of Senate 1944, which provide in effect that the cosmetic shall be adulterated in case there is any remote danger of injury to persons with an idiosyncrasy.
6. The term, "package" or "original unbroken package," is defined as that intended for delivery to the ultimate consumer—that is, the retail package. The Supreme Court of the United States (*McDermott vs. Wisconsin*, 228 U. S. 115), has in effect indicated that under the present law such is the defined package of commerce.
7. "Label" and "advertising" in the amendment proposed by the National Drug Trade Conference are in effect the same as in Senate 1944.

THE PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT (GREAT BRITAIN).

THE British Pharmacy and Poisons Act became effective December 31st; under this Act every one (in Great Britain) at present registered as a "pharmaceutical chemist" or "chemist and druggist becomes a member of the British Pharmaceutical Society without any action having to be taken by him. The annual registration fee is £1, 11s., 6d. which includes a copy of *The Pharmaceutical Journal*; a provision, registering pharmacies, will come into force.

We quote from an editorial comment in *The Pharmaceutical Journal* on the effects of the Act "though the Act does not contain all that could be desired, even though it falls short of the expectations of the mildly optimistic, it is a gigantic step in the right direction. If it did no more than to compel every person engaged in the business of a chemist and druggist to bear his share of the cost of administration it would have been worth while . . . The essential constitution of the Society (British Pharmaceutical) remains unaltered. The Act strengthens not weakens the Society. Pharmacy remains a self-governing calling, controlled by a Council elected on a democratic basis, fixing its own qualifications, setting its own standards of education, regulating its own method and right of entry. The presence of three lay members—the Privy Council may appoint three members of the Council and these need not, necessarily, be members of the Society)—will add to, rather than detract from, the powers of the Council."

Inspectors are provided for; anyone who is registered under the Act may be deprived of his certificate for misconduct.
