

## EDITORIAL NOTES

### KENTUCKY FARM FOR NARCOTIC ADDICTS.

The \$4,000,000.00 narcotic farm established by the Federal Government in the heart of Kentucky's blue grass country for the segregation and rehabilitation of narcotic addicts will be dedicated May 25th, by Surgeon General Hugh S. Cumming.

Construction of the huge plant, which covers eleven acres in the centre of a 1000-acre farm tract acquired by the government, began in the Spring of 1932. A similar institution is being erected at Fort Worth, Texas.

Efforts will be made to restore to health and train to be self-supporting and self-reliant those who are admitted. Experiments will be carried on to determine the best methods of treatment.

The farm staff will number several hundred with an annual payroll of slightly less than \$500,000.00. Additional operating costs will bring the yearly cost to about \$750,000.00.

### A REPORTED POISONING CASE.

A case of poisoning in Brooklyn reported in the press, is now before the Grand Jury, hence names are not mentioned. References to a married man whose wife and three children died between the last of March and middle of April. The Police Department in Brooklyn, struck by the coincidence, had post-mortem examinations made and thallium was found in the viscera. Chemical analysis by spectroscopy revealed the presence of thallium, not only in the viscera but in some cocoa. However, ordinary chemical analysis failed to detect thallium.

Mention is made because of the article in this issue by James C. Munch.

### CHIEF OF THE BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

By an act of Congress, March 3, 1871, it was provided that "the chiefs of the bureaus of medicine and surgery, provisions and clothing, steam engineering and construction and repair, shall have the relative rank of commodore, while holding said position, and shall have, respectively, the title of surgeon general, paymaster general, engineer in chief and chief constructor." The first to bear this new title of Surgeon General, though the fifth to hold office as Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, was William Maxwell Wood of Maryland.

### PHARMACEUTICAL MUSEUM FOR MOSCOW.

The *Pharmaceutical Journal* of April 27, 1935 states that "a pharmaceutical museum has been opened in Moscow. The first dispensary in Russia was founded by the English pharmacist, Jameson French, in 1651, but it was intended exclusively for the service of the Tsar, his family and members of the Court. In 1675 a second crown pharmacy was opened in Moscow, and this was empowered to supply medicines to the public. The following year, in 1701, Peter I ordered the opening of eight chemists' shops in Moscow. At the present time Moscow possesses ninety-eight chemists' stores, but over 50 per cent of the prescriptions are dispensed by Moscow's three pharmaceutical factories. In 1923 817,000 prescriptions were dispensed in Moscow, in 1933 they made up 4,700,000."

### VITAMIN "A" AND "D" PRODUCTS.

The Food and Drug Administration has received numerous inquiries about the proper labeling of products represented to contain vitamins A or D or both.

Many products compare their vitamin A and D potency with a stated volume of cod liver oil. If statements of this character are made, they should be literally true. For example, if the label of a medicine states "Each tablet equals one teaspoonful of cod liver oil in vitamins A and D potency," it should contain the same number of vitamin A and D units as would be contained in not less than 4 cc. (3.67 Gm.) of cod liver oil, of U. S. P. potency. In terms of the U. S. P. standard for cod liver oil which became official on January 1, 1935, this would require each tablet to contain not less than 2200 units of vitamin A and not less than 312 units of vitamin D.

Manufacturers should state vitamin A and D potencies in terms of the new U. S. P. units. Because differences in the clinical efficacy of vitamin D from different sources have been reported, it is desirable, and in many instances necessary in order to meet the requirements of the Federal Food and Drugs Act, to state the source of the vitamins A and D. For example, "From cod liver oil." All direct and implied claims comparing products of this sort with cod liver oil should be true in terms of the new standard for cod liver oil.—W. G. CAMPBELL, *Chief*.