

object of the law is to prevent possible injury to the mails or to those handling the mails it will be seen that the term "poison" should be construed as including only those articles or preparations which are liable to poison persons who handle them. Such a restriction of the term would exclude the large majority of medicaments which consist of or contain substances which are poisonous if taken internally in considerable quantities. The latest information which your committee is able to present is contained in the following letter addressed to the Chairman by the Second Assistant Postmaster General:—

"The receipt is acknowledged of your communication of the 5th instant, concerning the sending of poisons and articles and compositions containing poisons through the mails.

"The Department now has under consideration the question of the advisability of promulgating a regulation admitting these articles to domestic mails. If such a regulation shall be issued I will be pleased to forward a copy to you. Until a final conclusion in the matter is reached this office is not in a position to state the attitude of the Department in the matter."

It will be seen from this letter that the post office authorities themselves are not wholly pleased with the regulations as they now stand, and it will only be a matter of time when new regulations will be issued.

There has apparently been a disposition shown in some quarters to use the postal regulations as a means of suppressing the traffic in habit-forming drugs, though there seems to be no warrant for such a construction of the law. The passage of the Harrison antinarcotic bill, which will probably occur soon, will, fortunately, take care of this traffic in a satisfactory manner and do away with the need for burdening the postal authorities with a duty which is apparently not contemplated in the postal law.

We believe that the work of this committee and of other representatives of the drug trade has been of some use in enabling the Postmaster General to arrive at a clearer understanding of the subject. In view of the fact that matter has been taken up by the Drug Trade Conference and that the members of your committee have already laid their views before the department, we respectfully suggest that the committee be discharged.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PHARMACEUTICAL NOMENCLATURE.

In view of the disruption of communication incident to the European war the International Pharmaceutical Conference which was to have been held in Berne, on August 8, has been indefinitely postponed. Under existing circumstances we cannot hope for any international coöperation in our efforts to minimize the danger arising from the duplication of names. We can, however, urge all manufacturers of pharmaceutical preparations to exercise the utmost caution in naming new products so as to reduce as much as possible the danger from that cause. The use of certain prefixes has grown to such an extent that even the most tenacious memory can hardly keep track of the preparations bearing them. Among these prefixes are: bio-, eu-, fer-, farm-, glyco-, hæma-, hæmo-, leci-, radio-, thio-, thymo-, uro-, uri-, val-, etc.

But aside from these names, which have merely one syllable in common, there are a vast number of new remedies being launched every year the proprietors of which do not seem to take the trouble to avoid exact duplication of names. We not only have identical names for wholly dissimilar preparations, but also have a number of names which resemble each other so closely either in sound or spelling that confusion is very apt to occur. Below we give a list of some striking instances of this character:—

Absorbine,	(1) a mercurial salve. (2) an embrocation consisting of ethereal oils and alcohols.
Acetal,	(1) a hypnotic remedy. (2) a liniment for headache.
Amol,	(1) an embrocation. (2) a moth preventative.
Borol,	(1) an antiseptic. (2) a cough syrup.
Cascarin,	(1) the active principle of cascara sagrada.
Cascarine,	(2) are pills made by Leprince, Paris.
Cascarino,	(3) a tea for the treatment of obesity.
Citrol,	(1) a laxative. (2) a photographic developer.
Dormol,	(1) a cathartic.
Dormal,	(2) a hypnotic.
Dormiol,	(1) a preservative for wood. (2) a hypnotic.
Energin,	(1) a chocolate preparation of Cod liver oil. (2) an albuminous nutriment.
Gallin,	(1) a remedy against gallstones. (2) a serum against cholera of fowl.
Guaiiform,	(1) a condensation product of guaiacol and formaldehyd. (2) a syrup containing guaiacol-sulphonate and bromoform.
Kreosal,	(1) an internal remedy.
Kreosol,	(2) an external application.
Lactal,	(1) a solution of aluminum lactate.
Lactol,	(2) an intestinal antiseptic.
Monol,	(1) a disinfectant for drinking water. (2) a photographic developer.
Navigo,	(1) a meat extract.
Navigol,	(2) a remedy for seasickness.
Nephretin,	(1) two subrenal preparations of different origin.
Nephritin,	(2)
Ozonur,	(1) a serum. (2) a nervine. (3) a dentrifice.
Salacetol,	(1) a remedy in intestinal disorders.
Salactol,	(2) an injection against diphtheria.
Sulfosol,	(1) a remedy in syphilis.
Sulfosot,	(2) a remedy in tuberculosis.

In view of the conditions which are likely to obtain in Europe for the next year your committee deems it improbable that any international coöperation can be obtained in any direction and therefore respectfully requests that your committee be discharged.