

Editorial

E. G. EBERLE, Editor..... 63 Clinton Building, Columbus, Ohio

THE DYE INDUSTRY.

THOUGH the subjects are entirely different, the press has followed about the same lines of thought in presenting the possibilities of the dye industry as applied anent the cultivation of drug plants. The most important part of the subject namely, the research involved and the concomitant expenses have been obscured by the initial sources of supply.

More will be persuaded to venture into the cultivation of medicinal plants than will even contemplate the manufacture of dyes. The reason is obvious. Without considerable further experimentation, farmers should not be persuaded into drug plant cultivation as a source of profit, without being informed of the many difficulties they will meet with. The Journal has heretofore and again in this issue published papers on the subject. The work of experiment stations should in every possible way be encouraged.

The European war revealed that notwithstanding a high protective tariff on dyes, only a few and a very small proportion of those used, were manufactured in this country. The question, "Why this condition?" was to be expected; the answers in many instances evidenced lack of investigation. A general answer was indicated last month and may be repeated in these words, "the manufacturers and capitalists of this country have not co-operated with industrial and engineering chemists, not having come to a realization of the creative power and earning capacity of industrial research."

In this issue will be found an article on the "Dye Stuff Situation in the United States," by Thomas M. Norton. Among the many other problems confronting this industry is that the system of profitable production depends upon converting wastes or side-products into salable material. The manufacture of these thousands of products demands scientific control and expensive plants and then research work for their adaptation and successful exploitation.

The time seems opportune for keeping the importance of industrial research in the lime-light of publicity, for the discussions in the papers will be productive of good. Such work should be extended in pharmacy schools; even that done in the past, has developed men who have influenced the industries. We might refer to Herman Frasch for one example. He solved the problem of tapping the inexhaustible sulphur fields of Louisiana, that are 1000 feet below the surface and under 500 feet of quicksands. The striking feature of the largest sulphuric acid plant in the world, located at Ducktown, Tenn., is that the acid is made from smelter fumes, the nuisance of other plants. These references are only made to point out the very close relation of our laboratory work with methods that render manufacturing enterprises profitable and promoting others.

Arthur D. Little, of Boston, said recently, we should leave the dye business to the Germans, and consider some of the other things we might do with the vast

expenditure of effort, money and research that would be necessary to rival the Germans in that line.

He makes the statement that we waste 150,000,000 tons of wood a year; a billion feet of natural gas a day; coke ovens flame for miles in Pennsylvania and Colorado, wasting precious ammonia. One-tenth of the research, energy and skill which would be required to rival the German dye industry; if applied to the lumber industry of the South, would result in the creation of a whole series of great interlocking industries, each more profitable than lumbering. The South would be in position to dominate the paper market of the world, he says, transport denatured alcohol by pipe line and tank steamers, make thousands of tons a day of carbohydrate cattle feeds.

We have not made these statements to detract from the dye industry, which presents greater opportunities for pharmaceutical research, but to indicate the numerous avenues for applying our studies.

Finally we repeat that the accomplishment of great things in our related industries requires confidence and co-operation and the practical appreciation by our financiers of the earning power of research. In giving financial aid to research, colleges of pharmacy are entitled to consideration, for these institutions have largely contributed, directly or indirectly, to the development that sustains the chemical and other manufacturing industries, and such assistance will be many times repaid by the production of further opportunities and the discoveries of more economical manufacturing methods.



NOT MORE LEGISLATION, BUT BETTER LEGISLATION.

WE are pretty well agreed that too many laws are passed and quite a few of these are not adapted to the ends in view.

Systems of business have been radically changed in recent years in order to give more efficient service. The details of conducting a modern business house, especially the methods of publicity are very different to-day than they were ten years ago and the change has affected the manufacture and selling of drugs. Sacrifice of time and money and capable men who were willing to co-operate, has made the reforms possible. Years of experience under former systems and methods not only pointed out the necessity for change but developed the knowledge for practical application.

There is considerable truth in the assertion that our country is coming to a period of statutory morals of justification of any act not prohibited by statute; it is sought to correct and regulate everything by law, whereas there should be a deeper sense of personal, social and public duty. The Hon. Thomas W. Shelton, of Norfolk, Va., said recently: "This country needs fewer laws and more real men; less jural regulation and more moral sensibility; fewer codes and more decalogues." The intelligence of a people is reflected by character, and the stability and quality of government depends on the moral evolution of its citizens.

We advocate preventive medicine and are fully convinced that there is wisdom and economy in the correction of conditions that breed disease. This we have discovered through practical experience. It would seem that experience with unsatisfactory systems of legislation and impractical laws should have instilled suf-

ficient wisdom for legislative reforms. States have become deeply interested and some of them have nullified numerous laws, but so far this has amounted to little more than patch-work, erecting further structure on the same defective system.

We must have laws, but the methods of framing and enforcing them can be materially improved. The topic has been freely discussed in the magazines and there is no reason why we should not participate, as our work occasionally comes within the range of the legislators' aim. Though the laws relating to pharmacy may not be altogether satisfactory, we have fared remarkably well and the object of this writing is not a discussion of laws, but if possible, to assemble a few familiar thoughts anent the causes of defective and superfluous legislation.

Intelligent understanding of widely different subjects is necessary for enacting laws. Vigilance is required so that proposed legislation may be scrutinized, and initiative combined with persistence, is essential for needed legislation. Deficiencies promote divided responsibilities and willingness to take chances, that somewhere and somehow, if proposed legislation is not needed, the bill will not be enacted.

The recognition of legislators depends largely on their success in carrying bills through or killing those proposed by another; most of them come with local measures or promises that have secured them election. These are the predominant thoughts, rather than the study of general public interests. The protection of the latter is "everybody's business" and in practice it is "nobody's business."

Now as to divided responsibility, the lower house depends on correction by the upper and it in turn expects the Governor's veto if the measure is imperfect or undesirable. Within the several bodies there is also a divided responsibility, looking to chairmen or presiding officers for direction. The responsibilities are thrown backward when inquiry demands an explanation, and so no one definitely assumes responsibility.

The same practice obtains relative to measures that should be enacted, the responsibilities are shifted back and forth until about all that is known is, that the provision did not materialize.

Non-enforcement of laws and inefficiency of officials is also traceable to divided responsibility. The law is blamed, the judge or other officers, the grand jury, but the blame is seldom definitely fixed. The conduct of our public affairs is too frequently placed in the hands of plausible politicians. Competency is usually a demand of business, though many a large business has declined because a father's son or personal friend needed a job. In the selection of legislators and officials preferment is often given on account of political claims or sectional recommendation; lawyers secure many of the odd jobs in public service in consideration of their speech-making, prior to election.

Walker D. Hines in an article in the *Atlantic Monthly* for May on "Our Irresponsible State Governments," says:

"The American people have come to assume an attitude of indifference and hopelessness toward the state governments. Legislatures are expected to prove failures. Governors and other state officials are expected to be inefficient. The work of local officers is rarely taken very seriously, and is expected to be spasmodic and fragmentary. The public rarely has any disposition to locate respon-

sibility for inefficiency in affairs of general interest, because the inefficiency is so general and the search for responsibility is so hopeless. Is it not fair to say that our scheme of divided responsibility has been a school for the encouragement of political inefficiency, and for the promotion of petty local interests at the expense of the general welfare, and has supplied an atmosphere devoid of stimulus to efficient work?"

The legislative system can be improved just as business has become more efficient by fixing not only responsibility but demanding intelligent and studied co-operation. We should realize that laws without men avail little, that they must be honest, but also have vision and courage. Our attitude should encourage capable men to give their time to the important duties of legislation and office instead of erecting obstacles that intensify tendencies in the opposite direction.

What the American people of to-day need is not only preventive medicine, that is, the adoption of rules of conduct that will eliminate the possibility of illness and the unnecessary use of drugs, to the end that the public health may be conserved; but also, preventive law, that is the cancellation or codification of existing laws, and not the enactment of new ones; and the education of the public, or rather the individual units composing the public, which go to make up public opinion, regarding their civic responsibilities. If the moral sense of the people of a city, state or nation, be raised, it will follow that the morale of the city, state or nation will be raised, also.



AN IMPORTANT RULING ON THE HARRISON LAW.

PHARMACISTS as well as physicians have been more or less concerned regarding the amount of narcotic that may be dispensed and prescribed for a patient. The law itself, leaves the decision with the pharmacist and physician, under the provision that the dispensing and prescribing must evidence good faith and not evade the purposes of the act.

The quantity for treating habitues will differ and in every instance, a larger amount will be prescribed than required in general practice. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has issued a ruling under date of May 11, as follows:

"Where a physician, dentist, or veterinarian prescribes any of the aforesaid drugs (those included in the provisions of the Harrison law) in a quantity more than is apparently necessary to meet the immediate needs of a patient in the ordinary case, or where it is for the treatment of an addict or habitué to effect a cure, or for a patient suffering from an incurable or chronic disease, such physician, dentist, or veterinary surgeon should indicate on the prescription the purpose for which the unusual quantity of the drug so prescribed is to be used. In cases of treatment of addicts, these prescriptions should show the good faith of the physician in the legitimate practice of his profession by a decreasing dosage or reduction of the quantity prescribed from time to time, while on the other hand in cases of chronic or incurable diseases, such prescriptions might show an ascending dosage or increased quantity. Registered dealers filling such prescriptions should assure themselves that the drugs are prescribed in good faith for the purpose indicated thereon, and if there is reason to suspect that the prescriptions are written for the purpose of evading the intentions of the law, such dealers should refuse to fill same."

This ruling requires that the dispensing and prescribing of unusual amounts of narcotics must be made a matter of record. The habitue may, of course,

object to such information passing from the physician to the pharmacist, but the ruling conforms to the purpose of the law, namely, to stop illegitimate use. Pharmacists will doubtless be pleased to have this ruling and it is for that reason editorial reference is made. How far the pharmacist will be expected to go in establishing good faith on the part of the physician, is a question of some importance in the larger cities. Physicians who treat habitues will write more prescriptions for narcotics than regular practitioners.



THE STEVENS BILL.

OPPONENTS of the Stevens Bill base their case on alleged restriction of trade that would follow its enactment.

No one will deny that monopolies have generally been established by unrestricted competition, promoted by price-cutting. One of the weapons of monopoly is to cut the price when a small dealer endeavors to compete; after he fails or sells out to the combination, prices are again restored. This seems to be true in oil dealings, the cause of idleness of cinnabar, copper and iron mines, etc. Monopolistic advantages obtain when concerns own stock in transportation companies that make special rates or grant rebates to the favored few; delay transit, thereby destroying the trade, profit or goods of those who dare compete.

Under the Stevens Bill a manufacturer may create a special value for an article in the mind of the public, but if corresponding merit does not exist, certainly another manufacturer of a similar article, but materially better, becomes a competitor. Price maintenance has for its purpose the *prevention* of restraints of trade and the practices which suppress competition and make monopoly possible.

The Stevens Bill would legalize restricted sales of certain merchandise, just as real estate transfers may provide protection against undesirable occupation, use or resale. Every one is familiar with such restrictions and no one considers these unjust or non-enforcible. Injury could otherwise be done to residential sections of a city. Equally as great injury is done to a manufacturer when the market for an article he has established is destroyed by cutting prices on such goods. Nobody is forced to buy articles on which a price has been fixed by the manufacturer.

The Stevens Bill simply presents that manufacturers have a right to protect their property by similar restrictions recognized as lawful in connection with real estate. The recognized opposition to the measure ought to furnish sufficient argument for the retailers that their stand should be enthusiastically favorable to the Stevens Bill. Retailers should also be assured that the bill will never become a law unless they exert themselves and give moral support to those who are endeavoring to promote its enactment. We speak for the measure at this time, because the associations of various states hold their annual sessions during this and succeeding months.

IN AID OF BELGIAN PHARMACISTS.

LAST November the Netherland apothecaries inaugurated a plan, providing assistance for Belgian pharmacists who had suffered loss as a result of the European war. While realizing that their financial ability was not adequate, they believed their initiative would encourage pharmacists of other neutral countries to join them in this worthy undertaking.

The contemplated fund is to be placed in the hands of a Belgian Commission and the money thus collected loaned without interest to their Belgian colleagues. The Netherland committee of pharmacists felt assured that if the Belgian Commission could say to pharmacists in other countries that in Holland 50,000 francs had been subscribed, liberal responses would be forthcoming.

A letter from Amsterdam, addressed to the American Pharmaceutical Association in March, and signed by President J. J. Hofman and Secretary J. F. Suijver of the Netherland Society for the Promotion of Pharmacy, advises that 25,000 francs have been subscribed. With this communication, an authentic list of Belgian pharmacists, who have lost everything, is transmitted, and also views of quite a number of ruined pharmacies.

The encouragement of the American Pharmaceutical Association is solicited, and this reference is made so that the members may consider the subject, preparatory to action by the Association or as individuals. In this connection it may be said, that the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy has responded to the call; we are not advised as to whether other institutions have done so.

The subscription is to be made up of 100-franc shares and the intention is that this shall constitute a loan-fund, though it is indicated that repayment will doubtless be slow. Pharmacists of Belgium who have sustained loss of their pharmacies will be loaned an amount to be decided upon by the Belgian Commission, without interest. Five hundred Holland pharmacists have been asked to donate and out of that number 192 had responded at the time the communication addressed to the American Pharmaceutical Association was written. The Commission is to make periodical reports of contributions and expenditures.

It should be understood that the creation of this loan-fund is only for the benefit of Belgian pharmacists and is to be distributed after peace has been restored. We make no further comment than to ask the members to give this communication, which expresses the sympathy of pharmacists in one country for afflicted colleagues in another, fraternal consideration.



PAN-AMERICAN FINANCIAL CONFERENCE.

WHILE this editorial must be written, even before the Pan-American Financial Conference convenes, pharmacists, as all other American citizens hope for its success. Invitations were extended by the United States to every other American Republic, and all except Mexico and Haiti will be represented.

In a communication to the press, Mr. John Barrett, Director General of the Pan-American Union, said:

"Pan-America and Pan-Americanism are becoming the slogans of the hour. The people of this country are awakening, as never before, to an appreciation

of the importance of the relations of the United States with its twenty sister American Republics. These countries and their peoples, in turn, are showing today a more kindly feeling than they have ever done before toward the United States and its people. While the work and propaganda of the Pan-American Union, the official international organization in Washington of the twenty-one American Republics devoted to the development of commerce, friendship and peace among them all, together with the attitude and addresses of its governing board, has been in a large degree responsible for this new spirit of Pan-Americanism, the European war has also been a mighty influence in its promotion.

"Considering the effect of great political and international events in history, it might be said that the European war has done more than any other similar influence, since the declaration of the Monroe Doctrine in 1823, to encourage solidarity, common sympathy, common interest and common purpose among the republics of the Western Hemisphere. In other words, the silver lining of the European war cloud is the favorable effect which that terrible conflict has had upon the commercial and political relations of the American nations."

We are interested largely because of the opportunities for our chemical and pharmaceutical industries. Incidentally, we have made reference to this important conference, in order to again bring up the subject of more general use of metric weights and measures. While quantities of the Pharmacopœia are designated in that system, drugs and chemicals that enter into the manufacture of the preparations are still bought and sold by the pound.

The money units of the South American republics are very similar to ours; if we are not misinformed, most of them employ the metric system commercially, hence they would undoubtedly prefer that this system of weights and measures be used in our dealings with them. Means of exchange are helpful factors in the promotion of business relations.

The commercial use of the old system of weights and measures frustrates the efforts of schools to establish the metric system or even such endeavor through official recognition.

The National Grocers' Association, at their annual meeting last month in San Francisco, voted in favor of the adoption of the metric system. Voting to do so, and putting this into practice are two entirely different propositions; one is easy, the other is apparently difficult—the remark is based on our experience.

In view of the fact that an International Pharmacopœia seems improbable, a Pan-American Standard might be attempted. It may be taken for granted that the Pan-American Conference will indirectly promote a more extended use of the Spanish Edition of the United States Pharmacopœia in South America.



THE GRADUATES.

DURING the last few weeks, parting words of advice have been spoken to graduates of Pharmacy Schools. The graduate's further task now is not only that of pharmacist but citizen, accompanied by stern responsibilities and charged with the accomplishment of duty—the battle of life against many tempting, ignoble and base circumstances. A good pharmacist is greater than he who taketh a trench; though this may be the result of heroic determination, the

task is of short duration. It is a life-long effort to be a good pharmacist, each day beset by mines and submarines and poisonous gases that attack his character. The graduate pharmacists have great advantages over those who have not had these opportunities; their responsibilities are correspondingly greater, neither can they plead unpreparedness for duties they must assume. They are expected to be leaders in their profession at home and in the ranks of pharmaceutical associations. The graduates of pharmacy, of whatever title or degree, are cordially invited to membership in the American Pharmaceutical Association, so that they may be helpful and profit by such co-operation.

E. G. EBERLE.



Panama-Pacific International Exposition