

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

M. I. Wilbert speaks for uniformity in federal and state legislation in a paper prepared for the United States Public Health Service. We quote several passages from this interesting report:

"Laws designed to restrict the occurrence of poisons, or of other possibly harmful contaminations in food products, are recognized as being of importance, not alone from the standpoint of their intrinsic merit, but also from the point of view of the present temper of popular sentiment.

"The general uniformity in the phraseology and context of the several state food and drug laws would suggest the possibility of a strict compliance with the recommendations of the commissioners on uniform laws, to the effect that uniformity in food and drug laws can best be secured by amendments to the state laws with a view of bringing them in complete harmony with the requirements of the federal law."

This paper also present a *résumé* of laws relating to sale of poisons in state and interstate commerce, from which we abstract the following paragraphs:

"The diversity at present existing between the laws of the various states regulating the manufacture and sale of poisonous drugs is causing a great deal of embarrassment and in some instances complication and delay in the shipping of articles containing poisons from one state to another. The person or firm desirous of developing an interstate business in poisonous drugs is confronted by forty or more independent state laws, the requirements of which are so diverse that it is practically impossible to comply with them by adopting any one form of label for use in all parts of the country. It has been pointed out very properly that if a manufacturer must prepare and label his products in a specific way to meet the requirements in each state, and if the labels required in one state differ from

those required in an adjoining state, the process of complying with existing laws becomes cumbersome and the cost prohibitive.

Some years ago an attempt was made in connection with state poison laws to define in a general way the nature of the products to be classed as poisons. These general definitions varied very widely in comprehensiveness, and even the less inclusive would to-day be construed to embrace many articles not recognized as generally harmful poisons because of the limited distribution given them at the present time.

"During the year 1915 persons interested in the enactment of laws to restrict the sale and use of poisons reverted to the earlier proposition of particularizing rather than generalizing the definition of a poison, and practically all of the recently-enacted laws are evidently based on the supposition that for all practical purposes it is best to enumerate specifically the articles that are to be included in the schedule of poisons."

STATE PURE DRUG LAWS.

"State Pure Drug Laws Enacted Since the Passage of the National Food and Drugs Act, June 30, 1906, with a Reprint of Said Act as Amended," is the title of a compilation recently published by the Proprietary Association and the National Wholesale Druggists' Association.

The book includes the Harrison Narcotic Act and regulations for its enforcement, and the narcotic laws of the various states; Cuban decrees and Philippine law; Section 117 of the New York City sanitary code; the Canadian proprietary medicine law; the national and state insecticide laws; extract from pharmacy laws of the several states; net weight laws; advertising laws; sample distribution laws; stock medicine laws, and other laws relating to the drug trade, including acts of all legislatures to December 31, 1915.

WAR DEPARTMENT

List of changes of stations covering period ending February 29, 1916, in the cases of Sergeants First Class and Sergeants Hospital Corps.

SERGEANTS FIRST CLASS

Andrew S. Donnan, from Ft. Douglas, to the Hawaiian Department, on the May transport.

George W. McKenzie, from the Army and Navy General Hospital, to Ft. Sam Houston.

George E. Daily, from Ft. Leavenworth, to the Philippines Department, on the April transport.

George A. Roberts, from Ft. Ethan Allen, to the Southern Department, for assignment to station.