

THE PHARMACIST AND THE LAW.

THE ALCOHOL SITUATION.

As revised, the Treasury Decisions permit the purchase of alcohol without referring applications to local collectors; the new system resembles that in use in the procurement of narcotic drugs under the Harrison Act. Dealers may present the bonds of surety companies or individual sureties or deposit Liberty Bonds.

Secretary J. H. Barlow, of the Philadelphia Association of Retail Druggists, suggests the following form of application for permit: The N. A. R. D. Journal states "that while there has been no formal ruling made or instructions issued to collectors this may be safely relied upon until further notice," and continuing says "that the advantage gained is the privilege of making one sworn statement to cover all non-official and private formula preparations, instead of a separate statement for each preparation. The sworn statement may also include the declaration that the alcohol is in part to be medicated and used and sold for external application."

Now comes another difficulty, if it should be necessary to enumerate all non-officials, which would include a large number of tinctures, "specific tinctures," fluid extracts, etc. It seems that the Revenue Department has recognized the possible difficulties and, if a literal interpretation is followed, the Government will soon realize them in their own orders. It is clearly evident that a practical pharmacist is badly needed in the Revenue Department. The form of application suggested by Secretary Barlow follows:

To.....19...
 Collector.....District of.....

The undersigned, having filed appropriate bond, hereby makes application to (use, sell, use and sell) distilled spirits for other than beverage purposes, (a) as a manufacturer of tinctures, extracts, or other preparations designated in the U. S. P. and National Formulary; (b) in the compounding of prescriptions; (c) as a manufacturer according to private formulas, not official in the U. S. P. and National Formulary.

(NOTE.—Here a statement must be made giving the name of each non-official private formula preparation, together with the statement that it contains no more alcohol than is necessary for the purposes of solution or pre-

servation and the percentage of alcoholic content. A general statement should then follow to the effect that each of the aforesaid preparations contains in each fluidounce a dose as a whole or in compatible combination of one or more agents of recognized therapeutic value, that each preparation contains no agents, either chemically or physiologically incompatible with the active medicinal agents upon which the medicinal claims are based, and that each preparation is not a beverage and is not to be sold or used as a beverage. The foregoing general statement as to non-official private formula preparations must be made under oath, and the application for permit containing it must be made in duplicate, so as to enable the local collector to furnish the data disclosed to the chemist of the internal revenue bureau in Washington. Although the department declined to pass upon the question, and there is doubt as to just what unofficial private formula preparations must be listed in the application for permit, it might be well to be safe to include non-official private formula preparations which are cosmetics and flavoring extracts, as well as bona fide medicinal preparations. While T. D. 2576 applies only to alcoholic medicinal compounds, so far as the foregoing sworn statement in the application for permit is concerned, the department is inclined to hold that it is necessary for it to have the data suggested in relation to cosmetics and flavoring extracts to enable it to determine whether or not they are, or may be used as, alcoholic beverages.)

It would seem that the permit should be made to apply to the use of non-beverage alcohol, and stipulate that the alcohol will not be used for any other purposes than as solvent or preservative, and specifically not for use or in preparations likely to be regarded as a beverage under T. D. 2544.

SALE OF ALCOHOL BY PHARMACISTS.

Regulations issued by the Internal Revenue Department in November permit pharmacists to sell small quantities of non-beverage alcohol without a physician's prescription to persons who do not hold a permit. The text follows:

Hereafter, pharmacists who hold permits and have given bond will be permitted to sell non-beverage alcohol without a physician's prescription to persons who do not hold permits and who have not given bonds, in quanti-

ties not exceeding one pint, but not in advance of orders, provided they first medicate the same in accordance with any one of the formulas recited below:

1. Carbolic acid 1 part, alcohol 99 parts.
2. Formaldehyde 1 part, alcohol 250 parts.
3. Bichloride of mercury 1 part, alcohol 2,000 parts.
4. Bichloride of mercury 0.8 gramme, hydrochloric acid 60 Cc., alcohol 640 Cc., water 300 Cc.
5. Bichloride of mercury 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ grains, hydrochloric acid 2 drachms, alcohol 4 ounces.
6. Formaldehyde 2 parts, glycerin 2 parts, alcohol 96 parts.
7. Carbolic acid 1 drachm, tannic acid 1 drachm, alcohol 1 pint, water 1 pint.
8. Alum $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce, formaldehyde 2 drachms, camphor 1 ounce, alcohol and water each 1 pint.
9. Lysol 1 part, alcohol 99 parts.
10. Liquor cresolis comp. 10 Cc., alcohol 1,000 Cc. The container of such alcohol will bear a "poison" label.

Any abuse of these privileges will result in recall of the pharmacist's permit and its cancellation.

Permits will not be issued to retail liquor dealers, except pharmacists, and such other retail dealers as do not sell beverage spirits.

It will be understood that a pharmacist is in no sense a denaturer of alcohol, nor are the agents prescribed above regarded as satisfactory for the denaturation of alcohol in bulk quantities. Persons permitted to denature alcohol in bulk quantities are proprietors of distilleries having denatured bonded warehouses on their distillery premises, proprietors of central denaturing bonded warehouses, and proprietors of industrial distilleries. All persons purchasing non-beverage alcohol for use in manufacturing processes must obtain permit.

USE OF ALCOHOL, IN FLAVORS.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has issued the following synopsis of decisions relating to syrups, extracts, alcohol used in manufacturing flavors and beverages sold at fountains:

Soft drinks—(1) Section 313, paragraph (a), does not impose a tax upon syrups or extracts intended for use by the maker for further manufacturing purposes.

(2) Is the use of flavoring extracts containing some alcohol in syrups which are to be

used in the manufacture of soda water, etc., prohibited?

There is no provision against using flavoring extracts which contain some alcohol to flavor syrups that are to be used in manufacturing soft drinks.

(3) Are carbonated beverages which are mixed and sold at fountains subject to the tax imposed under sub-division (b), Section 313, of the act of October 3, 1917? (a) There is no exemption in favor of products mixed and sold at fountains; (b) the manufacturer of soft drinks who purchases his carbonic acid gas must pay 5 cents per pound upon the amount of gas he buys (Sec. 315); (c) the manufacturer of soft drinks who makes his own gas must pay 1 percent per gallon upon all soft drinks sold (Sec. 313 (b)); (d) the manufacturer of syrups or extracts must pay from 5 cents to 20 cents per gallon upon all sales of syrups or extracts which are intended for use in the manufacture of soft drinks (Sec. 313 (a)).

(4) Extracts to be used for household purposes are not taxable.

(5) Where concentrates or extracts are sold to be further manufactured into flavoring extracts or syrups, the person completing the manufacture is subject to the tax. Where concentrates or extracts are sold to the bottler or the manufacturer of the soft drinks, the manufacturer of the concentrates or extracts is subject to the tax.

ENJOINED FROM FIXING PRICES.

In the United States Circuit Court Judge Dyer issued a perpetual injunction restraining the Paris Medicine Company from fixing the price to the wholesaler, retailer and consumer of a nationally advertised medicine. The injunction was asked for by the district attorney at St. Louis.

The Government charged that the company operates in defiance of the Sherman act. The Government alleged that it gives a bonus to dealers who adhere to its prices, but tries to prevent druggists who refuse to charge the prices it fixes from selling its product.

POSTAGE RATES.

Drop letters only remain at present rates; parcel post packages require one cent revenue stamp for each 25-cent charge; post cards, unless printed, require a 2-cent stamp. Letters for delivery in the following named countries are subject to the rate of three cents an ounce instead of two cents:

Bahamas (including Fortune Island and Inagua), Canada, Cuba, Barbadoes, British Guiana, British Honduras, Dominican Republic, Dutch West Indies (including Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, St. Eustatius and the Dutch part of St. Martin), England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Leeward Islands, Mexico, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Panama, and Shanghai City (China).

The postage rate on letters for foreign countries other than those named above re-

mains as at present—five cents for the first ounce or fraction thereof, and three cents for each additional ounce or fraction thereof.

Postal cards and post cards (private mailing cards) for all foreign countries, will be subject to two cents postage unless they fulfill the conditions for "prints," in which case they will be mailable for one cent each. Cards which bear no more writing or typewriting than is authorized upon printed matter will be subject to the one-cent rate as "prints."

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

A Systematic Course of Qualitative Chemical Analysis of Inorganic and Organic Substances, with explanatory notes, by Henry W. Schimpf, Ph. G. M. D., Professor of Analytical Chemistry in the Brooklyn College of Pharmacy. Third Edition, revised. New York, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1917. 187 pages, Price \$1.50.

The new edition of this book, which has proved its worth by two previous editions, both of which were successful, is about the same as the previous editions in scope and arrangement. It has been amplified and extended, however, in a number of directions, having a number of new separation schemes or charts.

The arrangement of the work is along the following lines: A preliminary chapter is devoted to general principles and definitions. Then follows the qualitative separation of the metals, which are divided into five groups. A particularly valuable feature of this part of the book is the supplementing of the synopsis by a chart and the subsequent detailed discussion of the reason for each step taken, illustrated in many cases with complete equations showing the reactions.

Another interesting and valuable feature is the chart for the comparative observation of the reactions of all bases with NaOH, NH₄OH and Na₂CO₃, respectively.

Following the separation of the bases comes the plan for identification and separation of the acids, which is very comprehensive, and possesses many of the good points mentioned in connection with the preceding portion of the work.

Part III is devoted to the qualitative analysis of organic substances. There is not much opportunity for systematic work in this connection, as no scheme is possible which proceeds upon the plan of systematic elimination,

except in separate groups. However, the subject has been very cleverly handled and an interesting and instructive plan has been followed, which has much to commend it from the practical standpoint.

One of the novel and commendable features is a scheme for the systematic identification of the scaled iron compounds. There is also given a scheme for the detection of poisons and one for urinalysis, the latter being very complete and accompanied by practical advice in the matter of reporting.

The book concludes with a list of formulas for the various reagents referred to in the analytical schemes. Taken as a whole the book is commendable, either looked upon as a text book or a laboratory reference book.

C. H. L.

Medical Bacteriology.—By John A. Roddy, M.D., Associate in Hygiene and Bacteriology Jefferson Medical College; Chief Assistant, Department of Clinical Medicine, Jefferson Hospital; Professor of Hygiene and Bacteriology, Philadelphia College of Pharmacy; Sometime Serologist to the Philadelphia General Hospital; First Lieutenant, Medical Section O. R. C., U. S. A. Published by P. Blakiston's Son & Company, 1012 Walnut Street, Philadelphia. Price \$2.50.

Kircher, a member of the Society of Jesus, in 1846 reported the presence of "minute living worms" in putrid meat. He attributed the putrefaction to their activity and suggested that disease might be due to similar organisms. Taking this as the starting point, the author in his first chapter tells us in terse and well chosen language how the science of bacteriology has gradually developed.

The second chapter deals with the classification of bacteria, and in five pages a clear description of the morphology of microbic life