

THE PHARMACIST AND THE LAW.

A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR A PHARMACEUTICAL CORPS NOW BEFORE CONGRESS.

In the House of Representatives, July 25, 1917, Mr. Edmonds introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and ordered to be printed:

A BILL

To increase the efficiency of the Medical Department of the United States Army, to provide a Pharmaceutical Corps in that department, and to improve the status and efficiency of the pharmacists of the Army.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That hereafter there shall be attached to the Medical Department of the United States Army a Pharmaceutical Corps, composed of citizens of the United States, to perform the duties defined in this Act and such related duties as may be prescribed, from time to time, by the Surgeon General.

Sec. 2. That the Army Pharmaceutical Corps shall consist of one pharmacist director, with rank of major, who shall be chief of the Pharmaceutical Corps, five deputy pharmacist directors, with the rank of captain, and such number of pharmacists, with the rank of lieutenant, and of pharmacist apprentices, as may be needed for the service.

Sec. 3. That the Army Pharmaceutical Corps shall be charged with the following specific duties: To procure by purchase or manufacture all supplies of medicines, drugs, chemicals, pharmaceutical apparatus, and hospital and surgical dressings necessary for the Medical Department of the Army; to determine the quality and purity of such supplies; to have charge of the medical supply depots of the Army and the storage and safeguarding of such supplies; to provide for the issuance and distribution of such supplies and the dispensing of medicines in the various hospitals, dispensaries, infirmaries, trains, and camps of the Army; to properly care for, regulate the dispensing, and to systematically account for all spirituous liquors and habit-forming drugs purchased for the department; to procure by purchase or manufacture such drugs, chemicals, reagents, tests, and biologic products as are used in the laboratories and

the medical and surgical practice of the department for the purpose of diagnosis, prophylaxis, or treatment; to account for all moneys received from sales of medical supplies, in accordance with the provisions of the Army regulations or disposed of by order of competent authority; to inspect the department's stores and supplies of drugs, medicines, hospital dressings, reagents, tests, and biologic products and determine their deterioration and fitness for use; to cooperate with the other branches of the department in rendering first aid and wound dressing and in the making of diagnostic and chemical tests; to establish and maintain a systematic course of study and training, including the advances made in medicine, pharmacy, and sciences allied thereto, to be pursued by the members of the Army Pharmaceutical Corps who are seeking promotion in the Corps.

Sec. 4. That the pharmacist director shall be a graduate of a reputable school of pharmacy, have had not less than five years of pharmaceutical experience, and have established a creditable record in the profession of pharmacy.

The duties of the pharmacist director shall include the following: To have supervision over the Army Pharmaceutical Corps; to see that discipline is maintained and duties are efficiently performed; to formulate rules and regulations, subject to the approval of the Surgeon General, for coordinating the work of the Pharmaceutical Corps with the duties of the other branches of the Medical Department; to approve all contracts for supplies procured by the Corps; to inspect, either in person or by deputy, all deliveries of supplies and pass upon the purity and quality thereof, and compliance with specifications and the acceptance or rejection; to have the authority to inspect the manufacture of such supplies, and to direct their manufacture in any factory or laboratory that may be taken over by the Government, or that may be established by the Government, for their production; to establish standards for supplies of nonofficial drugs, chemicals and preparations, and, where feasible, prescribe the methods of assay for these; to publish, with the approval of the Surgeon General, formulas for nonofficial preparations, reagents, and tests used in the Army Medical Department, and all formulas so published shall be authoritative in the Army Medical Department; to recommend alternates or

substitutes for proprietary, expensive, rare, or unobtainable drugs or preparations; to prepare specifications and estimates for Army medical supplies; to pass upon requisitions for supplies; to provide regulations for the storage, safeguarding, and preservation of Army medical supplies, and the distribution and issuing of such supplies; to see that accounts of the receipts and disbursements of all supplies are properly kept, with special records of the purchases and disposition of spirituous liquors and habit-forming drugs; to have inspections made of the medical supplies, and recommend appropriate disposition of condemned, deteriorated or unreliable supplies; to preserve the files, correspondence, and official records of the corps; to prepare a syllabus covering a systematic course of professional study to be followed by members of the Pharmaceutical Corps; to cooperate in the professional examinations of applicants for enlistment in the pharmaceutical service, or for promotion within the corps; to recommend transfer of members of the Pharmaceutical Corps and promotion for service or special recognition for distinguished service. He shall outline a course of instruction for pharmacists if an Army pharmacist training school is established.

In the absence of the pharmacist director a deputy pharmacist director shall be named as acting pharmacist director. The various duties specified above as within the province of the pharmacist director, with the approval of the Surgeon General, may be distributed or assigned to the deputy pharmacist directors.

The deputy pharmacist directors shall be pharmacists of unquestioned professional repute who are graduates of reputable schools of pharmacy and have had not less than five years of pharmaceutical experience.

Any American citizen, graduate of a reputable school of pharmacy, of good moral character and between twenty-one years and forty-five years of age, both inclusive, who can pass the usual physical examination required for appointment in the Medical Corps and the professional examinations, which shall include tests of skill in practical pharmacy and of proficiency in the usual subjects of a standard school of pharmacy course, may be appointed as a pharmacist in the Pharmaceutical Corps.

An original appointment as pharmacist under this Act shall entitle the appointee to the rank and commission of second lieutenant. After the expiration of the first five years of

service, with honorable discharge, the pharmacist may reënlist at any time within six months from the date of expiration of such prior service, and he may then apply for examination for promotion, and if his physical examination and the professional examination in subjects of advanced pharmaceutical education are satisfactory, he shall be eligible for promotion to the rank and commission as first lieutenant, Pharmaceutical Corps. After fifteen years of service in the Pharmaceutical Corps a pharmacist with the rank of first lieutenant, Pharmaceutical Corps, may apply for examination for promotion. If he successfully passes the necessary examination in post-graduate pharmaceutical studies, and if in the opinion of the pharmaceutical director such promotion is merited, he shall be promoted to the rank and commission of captain, Pharmaceutical Corps.

Any citizen of the United States between seventeen years and thirty-five years of age, both inclusive, who can pass the necessary physical and preliminary educational examination prescribed by the Secretary of War may enlist as a pharmacist apprentice. Pharmacist apprentices shall act as assistants to the pharmacists and to the Hospital Corps. After serving for one year in this capacity the pharmacist apprentice may, with the approval of the pharmacist or the surgeon under whom he has served, apply for examination for promotion; and if he passes the examination in preliminary education and the elementary pharmaceutical branches, he shall be promoted to the grade of pharmacist apprentice, first class, with rank as sergeant. After five years of service, with honorable discharge, the pharmacist apprentice may reënlist and may apply for examination and promotion to the grade of pharmacist with commission as second lieutenant; *Provided*, That after two years of service the Secretary of War, upon recommendation of the pharmacist director, may grant to a pharmacist apprentice sufficient leave of absence from the service to permit the apprentice attending a school of pharmacy to fit himself for advanced rank in the Pharmaceutical Corps. Such leave of absence shall be without pay, but shall not be deducted in computing the length of service.

The Secretary of War is authorized to appoint boards of three examiners to conduct the professional examinations herein prescribed; *Provided*, That at least one member of each of the boards so appointed shall be a pharmacist.

That, whereas there are now in the service of the War Department a number of pharmacists and druggists ranking as master hospital sergeants, hospital sergeants, sergeants first class, and sergeants, all such shall be eligible to transfer to the Pharmaceutical Corps created by this Act and to the service, rank, pay, and promotion in rank as provided herein, and that the time already spent as pharmacists in the War Department shall be computed as part of their service in the Pharmaceutical Corps.

That in emergencies the pharmacist director, upon the recommendation of the Surgeon General, and with the approval of the Secretary of War, may appoint as many contract pharmacists as may be necessary, at a compensation not exceeding \$150 each per month, and provided that the age limit and professional examination may be waived in the case of any contract pharmacist whose character, experience, and professional education is deemed by the pharmacist director to be satisfactory. The temporary appointment of a contract pharmacist shall not carry commission or right of retirement in accordance with the Army Regulations.

Sec. 5. That all appointees authorized by this Act shall take rank and precedence in the same manner in all respects as in the case of appointees to the Medical Corps of the Army, and shall not exercise command over persons other than those in the Pharmaceutical Corps and such enlisted men as may be detailed to assist them by competent authority.

That all officers of the Pharmaceutical Corps shall receive the same pay, awards, and allowance as the officers of corresponding rank and

length of service in the Medical Corps of the Army and shall be eligible to retirement in the same manner and under the same conditions.

That the pay of the pharmacist apprentice shall be \$33 per month and that of the pharmacist apprentice first class, with rank of sergeant, shall be \$37 per month, and for each reenlistment in this service they shall receive the usual increase allowed in the Army for honorable discharge and reenlistment.

Sec. 6. That all laws and parts of laws inconsistent with the provisions of this Act be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

H. R. 5531—2.

FIRST ARRESTS MADE UNDER PENNSYLVANIA'S NEW ANTI-NARCOTIC LAW.

The first arrests under the new Pennsylvania anti-narcotic law were made in Philadelphia July 31. The law makes it a misdemeanor to have the proscribed drugs in one's possession, unless the possessor is so authorized under the law.

THE NEW YORK ANTI-NARCOTIC LAW IS SAID TO BE DEFECTIVE.

The Whitney bill requires hospitals, etc., to use order blanks for purchasing narcotics but fails to enumerate them among those entitled to order blanks; there are said to be a number of other flaws in the act and some will require correction. The law was to have become effective July 1, but because of the non-receipt of the necessary order blanks, which are essential to its enforcement, August 1 was named as the day on which the law shall become effective.

UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE.

List of changes of duties and stations of commissioned and other officers of the United States Public Health Service for the seven days ended July 18, 1917.

Phar. E. B. Phelps. Proceed to Chicago and other places in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, on special temporary duty. July 16, 1917.

Phar. C. C. Cannon. Relieved at Stapleton, N. Y. Report at Hygienic Laboratory, Washington, D. C. July 9, 1917.

Phar. Clyde Ritter. Relieved at Hygienic Laboratory. Proceed to Marine Hospital, St. Louis, Mo. July 9, 1917.

Phar. C. H. Parker. Relieved at St. Louis, Mo. Proceed to Cape Charles Quarantine Station. July 9, 1917.

Phar. R. D. Kinsey. Relieved at Cape Charles Quarantine Station. Proceed to Sta-

pleton, N. Y., Marine Hospital. July 9, 1917.

Sanitary Engineer H. W. Streeter. Proceed to Des Moines, Iowa, on special temporary duty. July 16, 1917.

Sanitary Engineer L. C. Frank. Proceed to Chillicothe, Ohio, on special temporary duty. July 16, 1917.

Sanitary Chemist H. B. Corson. Proceed to Chicago, Ill., on special temporary duty. July 17, 1917.

Sanitary Engineer W. D. Wrightson. Relieved at Chicago, Ill. Proceed to Louisville, Ky., on special temporary duty. On completion of this duty, proceed to such places in States south of the Potomac and east of the Mississippi Rivers as may be necessary in connection with malaria studies, with station at New Orleans, La. July 6, 1917.