

EDITORIAL NOTES

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TEN YEARS OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Ten years of enforcement of the Food and Drugs Act of June 30, 1906, are reviewed in the current annual report of the Bureau of Chemistry, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The general effect of the Food and Drugs Act may best be estimated, says the report, by considering its effect upon food and drug control by the States; upon development of the food and drug industries and by the principal abuses that have been corrected. But to illustrate the scope of the work through figures and facts the report points out that more than 6,000 prosecutions have been terminated in the courts in the first decade of the Act; that manufacturers have been cited at hearings more than 40,000 times, that many thousands of factory inspections have been made, and that more than 750,000 shipments of domestic or imported food and drugs have been examined.

One consequence of the enactment of the Food and Drugs Act was to encourage similar legislation in many of the States, the purpose of which is to control local traffic in food and drugs which, since no interstate commerce is involved, are not subject to the Federal law. The Federal law supplements the State law in this respect and now most of the States have similar laws. In the beginning the confusion and apparent conflict between local and Federal laws and administration of laws not only made it difficult for the two sets of officials to cooperate, but often made it necessary for manufacturers to make special preparations for shipment to certain States at extra cost, the extra cost being passed on to the ultimate consumer. This evil has been remedied to a considerable extent by the organization of two agencies which in a large measure have removed some of the difficulties arising from the conflict of Federal and State jurisdiction. These agencies are: (1) The Joint Committee on Definitions and Standards, and (2) The Office of Coöperative State and Federal Food and Drug Control.

Frequently, the report says, the Bureau is appealed to by the industries to compel the cessation of unfair practices and to encourage the standardization of the products, when the industry is incapable by itself of bringing about these results. The Act is described as one of the influences which have helped to draw competitors together into associations like the guilds of the middle ages, although the modern associations lack the special privileges which the ancient guilds often enjoyed.

Some of the associations, understanding the value of constructive work, now devote considerable money to experimental research into technical problems. Thus is made available to the small manufacturer scientific assistance ordinarily beyond his reach. Since the Bureau of Chemistry always has regarded it as its duty not merely to report violations of the law but also to prevent accidental violations, through constructive work in tending to improve methods of manufacture, it coöperates actively with such associations of manufacturers. Such coöperation, by the various Government agencies, says the report, is bound to exert the profoundest influence on the country's industrial and social development.

The best evidence, according to the report, that many of the abuses formerly occurring in the food industry have ceased is found in the fact that the violations of the Food and Drugs Act observed to-day are hardly comparable, in degree, with those in the first few years following the enactment of the law.

MILITARY ORGANIZATION.

A company, now, is composed of 250 men, commanded by a captain.

A battalion consists of four companies, commanded by a major.

A regiment consists of three battalions, a machine gun company and a headquarters company band, commanded by a colonel.

A brigade is composed of three regiments, commanded by a brigadier-general.

A division consists of three brigades of infantry, one brigade of artillery, one regiment

of cavalry, a battalion of engineers, an air squadron, a battalion of signal troops, and a motor train and wagons.

With a division there are nearly 10,000 animals, and an army of attendants, besides 600 motor trucks and their drivers, a dozen airplanes, four dozen ambulances and three dozen automobiles, 75 big guns, and about 300 other carriages.

NEW YEAR'S DAY.

The Robertson-Bradshaw Company has issued a New Year message worth repeating and so we publish it.

New Year's Day means another chance.

Thank God there's always another chance.

Whoever said that Opportunity knocks once, meaning once only, at every man's door, was fooling you. Don't believe it. For opportunity comes around to your door every morning, regularly as the milkman.

We don't have to live our lives all at one stretch; if so, WHO would endure a week? But our lives are allotted to us in day by day parcels. And between every two days of life we are dipped in death.

Every morning is a resurrection. And New Year's day is "the Great Gittin' Up Mornin'." The Past is sloughed off. Its mistakes we bury. Its successes will not do for next year. Into the dump with all of 'um!

DESTINY on New Year's Morning is dealing us a New Hand. Sit up, gentlemen! Smile, and try again! The game goes on. Better luck this year! Come! We'll try again.

And may God bless us all!

Dr. J. H. Beal has received the endorsement of the National Association of Retail Druggists for place on the Advisory Commission to the National Council of Defense. At a meeting of the chairmen of six organizations represented in the National Drug Trade Conference a like endorsement was unanimously given. It is not unbecoming to say that no one would be more acceptable to the drug trade of the country, and it is to be hoped that he will consent to accept. In this connection it should be said that few, if any, have and do give as much of their time for the benefit of pharmacy as Doctor Beal.

Cyrus P. Walbridge, president of the J. S. Merrill Drug Company of St. Louis, recently suffered a stroke of paralysis, from which he is recovering. Mr. Walbridge was vice-president of the St. Louis World's Fair and prominent

in political and civic affairs. While a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association, he has been more actively interested in the National Wholesale Druggists' Association, of which he was president in 1898.

Prof. C. T. P. Fennel, dean of the Cincinnati College of Pharmacy, has been appointed professor of *Materia Medica* in the University of Cincinnati.

Kenneth B. Hay, son of deceased member Charles La Mar Hay, DuBois, Pa., a second-year student of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and who enlisted in the Pennsylvania Hospital Unit No. 10, died in France on Thanksgiving Day.

Pharmacist's Mate Elzer Harwell, whose home is at Scotts Hill, Tenn., and one of the officers and crew of the U. S. Destroyer "Fanning" was given honorable mention not only by the commander but also by the British commander-in-chief, in the destruction of a German submarine November 24. The special act of bravery for which he was commended was for jumping overboard and saving a drowning German.

Mallinckrodt Chemical Works celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of its business, December 19, by giving a banquet at the Mercantile Club, Saint Louis. It was one of the most notable events occurring in the local drug and chemical trade circles for a number of years. About 150 guests were present, including the representatives of the various branches, heads of departments, etc.

Mr. L. G. Blakeslee presided as toast-master and interesting and appropriate remarks were made by Messrs. Edward Mallinckrodt, Sr., President of the company; Edward Mallinckrodt, Jr.; O. L. Biebinger, Secretary; H. T. Jarrett, Manager of the New York house; L. G. Ryan, Manager of the Canadian house; J. H. A. Fink, Export Department, New York City; H. W. Huning, who has been with the house since its organization; also by Messrs. Dronberger, Appleton and other representatives.

One of the most important features of the evening was the presentation to Mr. Edward Mallinckrodt, Sr., on the part of the employees, of a beautiful bronze tablet or medallion prepared from one of his recent photographs. The presentation was made by Mr. Blakeslee with very appropriate and impressive words, and Mr. Mallinckrodt's response was largely in the way of a review of the leading events in the history of the company.