

THE PHARMACIST AND THE LAW.

MULTIPLICITY OF LAWS.

"If a murderer uses mutton bone let us at once abolish sheep," seems to be the essence of thought with many individuals.

Arthur Train, Assistant District Attorney in New York City and Special Deputy Attorney-General of New York State, declaring in the current issue of the *Pictorial Review* that "Of making fool laws there is no end," says:

"During a recent five-year period there were passed over 62,000 laws, State and Federal, to interpret which required 65,000 decisions of courts of last resort, filling 630 volumes; our legislative harvest is upward of 15,000 statutes per annum. To-day the greatest obstacle to legal reform is the obsession of the American people for making laws, which in the one hundred and thirty-two years that have elapsed since the adoption of the Federal Constitution have exceeded in number and bulk the total of all the laws enacted for the government of mankind from the time of Adam to the inauguration of Washington.

"The more laws there are the harder it is to enforce them, and when what might be called 'the legal saturation point' is reached—where owing to their very multiplicity they cannot be enforced—they become either laughing-stocks or instruments of blackmail.

"Every unenforced or unenforceable statute breeds a general distrust toward all other statutes, a distrust of the soundness of our institutions, the efficiency of our government, and of the integrity or ability of our public officials. A hypocritical law openly flouted debases the whole tone of a community. Hypocrisy in legislation is the most dangerous form of hypocrisy, because it is national and State hypocrisy. Anything, in fact, that brings the law under suspicion or into disrepute strikes at the root of our democracy."

Ignorance of the law does not excuse but multiplication of statutes excuses overlooking

a few, at least is somewhat confusing. Governors admonish legislators against too much legislation, and then, with comparatively few exceptions, sign the new laws evolved by those they have addressed.

A LAW-ABIDING PEOPLE.

Federal Prohibition Commissioner Haynes expresses his gratification over the support given all over the country to the enforcement of prohibition, noting particularly that "many large newspapers regarded as 'wet,' in strong editorials, are supporting the law and frowning upon those who seek to encourage, by collusion, illegal purchases of liquor."

The Government will have the support of the people, but there is a degree of resentment to proposed acts of legislation which declare a large number of business men violators of law until they prove themselves innocent. This is or was attempted in providing for a penal alcohol tax. It is hoped that the Senate Finance Committee will see the injustice of the proposed amendment, and that they will get rid of the thought that the sick must invariably be taxed in a revenue measure.

A protest of the American Chemical Society to Senator Penrose reads:

"If the existing law were enforced, and to quote the title of the National Prohibition Act, its purpose 'To prohibit intoxicating beverages, and to regulate the manufacture, production, use and sale of high-proof spirits for other than beverage purposes, and to insure an ample supply of alcohol and promote its use in scientific research and in the development of fuel, dye and other lawful industries,' were to be carried out, the existing tax on alcohol would produce a revenue far in excess of the present returns, industry would be encouraged and there would be no need whatever of penalizing business and the poor, unfortunate and sick who will be the first to suffer under the provisions of the proposed amendment."

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Jahresbericht der Pharmazie, herausgegeben von Deutschen Apothekerverein. Bearbeitet von Dr. Heinr. Beckurts, Geh. Medizinalrat and O. Professor an der Technischen Hochschule in Braunschweig unter Mitwirkung von Apotheker F. Dietze in Bad Harzburg. 54 Jahrgang 1919. gr. Octavo. 459 pp. \$4.00;

gebund. \$5.00. Göttingen Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 1921.

Eighty years ago, in 1841, the first Year Book of Pharmacy was published under the title "Jahresbericht über die Fortschritte der Pharmazie und Pharmakologie." The editors were two pharmacists and teachers, Apotheker