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Fremont was selected as the place for holding the next annual convention.

(To be continued)

## THE PHARMACIST AND THE LAW.

## FANATICISM IN PROHIBITION.

The *New York Commercial* said in a recent editorial that, "it may be difficult for those in large cities to believe, but it is undoubtedly true that the sentiment of the country is in favor of prohibition." Reasons are then given, supported by argument, for the legislation and why the enforcement of prohibition laws presents more and greater difficulties than other legislation. The part of the editorial, however, which prompts this selection, is that which makes use of the reasons assigned by Chief Counsel Van Buren for his resignation. This has somewhat general application to other laws, and reads in part: "Extremists, who seem to have control of Congress, are causing a great deal of unnecessary irritation without accomplishing any corresponding good. They are treating alcohol as if it were a virulent poison, trying to eliminate it from every possible use, legitimate and illegitimate. They have gone so far that Chief Counsel, Van Buren, to the Federal Prohibition Commissioner has resigned his office, notwithstanding the fact that he is a prohibitionist. He declares that the restrictions have gone so far that they are interfering with the practice of medicine, pharmacy, chemistry and even religion. Evidence of this is shown in the bill now before Congress that would prevent physicians prescribing beer for their patients. It may be that some unscrupulous physicians will prescribe beer for patients whose only ailment is unquenchable thirst, and it may be a question also among physicians as to whether beer is any real benefit in case of sickness. That, however, is a question for physicians to decide, and the amount of abuse likely to result from lack of restriction will not be as great in its evil results as the contempt for law which it will arouse in

the minds of a considerable portion of an otherwise law-respecting community.

"Mr. Van Buren, who says he has never taken a drop of liquor in his life, states in his letter of resignation, that the success of prohibition demands that 'respect for law must be maintained at any cost, and this cannot be accomplished by the further curtailment of personal liberties and useless restrictions. Prohibition cannot be established in eighteen months. The same law which prohibits alcohol, the basis of all intoxicating liquors, for beverage purposes, provides in no mistaken language that its legitimate non-beverage use shall be encouraged and promoted. Those advocating more drastic rules loudly proclaim that they do not intend to embarrass or disturb legitimate industries and occupations, but they go ahead just the same and do so.

"Sanity and conservatism need to be taught to the reformers of the uplift type just as much as among those who are advocating a policy of destruction."

## NEW PENNSYLVANIA LAWS.

The following references to Pennsylvania laws are taken from a report of the Committee on Legislation of the Philadelphia Drug Exchange. Mr. Campbell, who introduced and was successful in passing H. R. 664 and 665, is a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association, and has been a legislator for a number of terms. The reason for these measures is to prevent saloons from being dubbed pharmacies or drug stores, and conversion of the latter into saloons. Revocation of license or permit for violation of laws is the means whereby the laws are made effective.

H. R. 684 amends the State Pharmacy Act of 1917, requiring the registration of pharmacists, it provides that where such registration had been obtained by fraudulent means, or where the holder had been convicted for a second violation in connection with the practice of pharmacy or of any law of this Commonwealth or of the United States, such registration may be revoked by the Pennsylvania Board of Pharmacy. The balance of the bill changed the fees for registration and some personal requirements.

H. R. Bill No. 665 is a Supplement to the State Pharmacy Act of 1917, in which the correction was made that the permit of the Board of Pharmacy should not be construed to apply to any store or stores opened for the sale of any proprietary or so-called patent medicines. It also provides for a permit to be issued on payment of a fee of \$2.00 to conduct a pharmacy, and that the Board may suspend or revoke such permit if obtained by false representations in the application, or when a pharmacy is kept open for the transaction of business without a registered pharmacist in charge, or upon conviction for a second or subsequent violation of laws of the Commonwealth or of the United States pertaining to the drug business or sale of intoxicating liquors, or for aiding or abetting in the violation of any such law. The third section of the act provides penalties.

H. R. Bill 449—Senate 707, was an amendment to the Narcotic Act, giving the State Department of Health entire control of the situation in the sale and use of opium or coca, or compounds, derivations or preparations of the same, and finally reached the Governor, and was approved by him on April 20. It affects physicians, dentists, veterinarians, pharmacists and nurses.

H. R. Bill 400—Senate 705—prohibiting advertisements of remedies for venereal diseases and prescribing penalties, passed both houses, and was approved by the Governor April 21.

#### NARCOTIC SALES TO PHYSICIANS COME UNDER MANUFACTURERS' REGULATION.

In an opinion furnished to the American Drug Manufacturers' Association, the Treasury Department officials say that the provisions of article 26 of Narcotic Regulations 35, revised, are applicable to the druggist registered only in

class 3 who makes a limited number of sales of narcotic drugs to physicians as well as to the person who engages in the business of manufacturer or producer (in Class 1) exclusively.

#### ARKANSAS PHARMACY LAW IS AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR MAIN- TENANCE OF RECORDS AND A BUREAU OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION.

R. R. Townsend, member of the Arkansas Senate, and also of the State Association and American Pharmaceutical Association, was successful in having the Arkansas Pharmacy Law amended in establishing cooperative service. Section 4 reads:

"It shall be the duty of the State Board of Pharmacy to issue bulletins from time to time, informing pharmacists of important United States Public Health regulations; service and regulatory announcements of the Bureau of Chemistry in the United States Department of Agriculture, and decisions of the United States Treasury Department relating to the possession, use, and sale of non-beverage U. S. P. Alcohol, and the Harrison-Wright Anti-Narcotic Act. The said Board shall be fully advised respecting the eligibility and qualifications of all persons whom they admit to the examination and to whom they grant registration, and for this purpose, shall secure the services of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy and the Arkansas Association of Pharmacists, and shall pay for such service as the Board may determine but not to exceed One Dollar (\$1.00) of each renewal fee annually paid. The fee for renewal certificate shall be Two Dollars (\$2.00) payable annually to the Board of Pharmacy, as they may determine on or before April 1 of each year. The said Board of Pharmacy shall demand and receive a uniform fee of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) in full satisfaction for all services in issuing temporary permits (which admit to the examination at expiration), registration by reciprocity with other State Boards, or accredited Colleges of Pharmacy."

#### BRUCINE FOR DENATURING ALCOHOL USED IN PERFUMES, ETC.

The industrial alcohol division of the Internal Revenue Bureau has issued a formula, known as denaturing formula No. 40, allowing tax-free alcohol to be employed in the manufacture of perfumery and high grade toilet articles. Acetone and brucine sulphate are

the denaturants used, according to the following formula:

To every 100 gallons of pure ethyl alcohol add 3 ounces, avoirdupois, brucine sulphate, one-half gallon acetone, U. S. P.

The brucine sulphate  $[(C_{23}H_{28}N_2O_4)_2 \cdot H_2SO_4 \cdot 7H_2O - (\text{Henry}) \text{ dimethoxystrychnine}]$  used

must comply with specifications given in detail in the official communication with regard to physical properties, identification with barium chloride and nitric acid—stannous chloride test and freedom from strychnine.

### BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

*The Elements of Vegetable Histology.* By C. W. Ballard, Associate Professor of Materia Medica and Director of the Microscopical Laboratory, College of Pharmacy, Columbia University; Microanalyst, Department of Health, City of New York. 246 pp. Price \$3.00. Published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 432. Fourth Avenue, New York.

Coming out at this time when more value is being placed on the microscopic examination of foods and drugs, this very excellent book should be heartily welcomed by teachers and those desiring a good foundation in Vegetable Histology.

As stated by the author, the book is intended for the beginner, and as such it places in the hands of the student material on which he may build a real foundation of the subject. Well begun is half done.

The three chapters on the preparation, mounting and staining of specimens are very clear, concise and have much valuable information condensed into twenty-seven pages.

To be a successful microanalyst, one must know well his all-important instrument, the compound microscope. The author has recognized this fact and so has given one chapter to the description of it as well as giving the reader the benefit of his years of practical use of the instrument. It is interesting to note in this chapter the statement that, "contrary to popular opinion, microscopical work is not injurious to the eyes."

The chapters on "The Chemical Reactions of Plant Tissues" and "Cell Contents" give, in a very precise manner, the fundamentals necessary to understand these two subdivisions of the subject. It seems quite helpful to have a brief statement of the function of the tissue accompany the detailed description of it. The tissues are grouped and described in a masterly manner in chapters according to their function such as "Covering Tissues," "Supporting Tissues," "Absorption Tissues," "Conducting Tissues" and "Tissues for Syn-

thesis, Assimilation and Storage."

The structure of each organ of the plant is described fully, comparing such parts as leaf with the floral parts, stem with root and seed with fruit. In all, the statements are brief but comprehensive and full of meaning.

The chapter on "Microscope Accessories" describes such valuable pieces as the micrometer and polarizer. In three pages the polarizing apparatus is described in such a concise way that the student should be able to use this attachment quite successfully.

In the Appendix all formulas necessary in an elementary course of this kind are given and also a good list of reference books for the student who wishes to enlarge his studies. C. J. Z.

#### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

*Proceedings of the Twenty-first Annual Meeting of the American Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties*, held in Washington, D. C. May 5-6, 1920. These proceedings contain, a list of past and present officers, committees, and a number of valuable papers; also the Constitution and By-Laws of the organization. The book has 200 pages.

*The Digest of Comments on the Pharmacopoeia of the United States of America and on the National Formulary* for the calendar year ending December 31, 1917. Hygienic Laboratory Bulletin 125.

This bulletin is the thirteenth number of the series of Digest of Comments and contains references to all the important literature on the items contained in the U. S. P. and N. F. published during the year 1917.

Comment has been made on prior editions of this valuable digest of comments on the Official Standards, and this issue shows the same care heretofore given. While its usefulness is appreciated most by the revisers of the U. S. P. and N. F., it has value as a reference book in the laboratory and library. The work on this volume, as also on a number of previous numbers, was done by and under the direction of A. G. DuMez.