

will be passed upon by Prof. R. N. Denniston of the Department of Botany.

One of the chief events to date has been the safe arrival of two imported plants of Japanese peppermint, which were obtained through the courtesy of Mr. Watermeyer, President of Fritzsche Bros., Inc., and of Mr. G. R. Wattles, Jr., Colon, Mich. They have been entrusted to the care of Mr. Bacon and are doing well in a greenhouse belonging to the Department of Plant Pathology, which has generously donated space for our winter work indoors. Next spring their numerous off-shoots will be transferred to the Gardens of the Station under the care of Prof. W. O. Richtmann and will thus become a part of the large amount of valuable material which is being grown for this research. The acquisition of these plants is doubly interesting since it was a result of an investigation by Dr. Kremers two summers ago of a spurious Japanese peppermint oil that the possibilities of the present research were discovered.

On October 6 the research workers of the Station held their first weekly conference. Dr. Kremers gave a résumé of the inception of the Biogenesis of Oil of Peppermint problem and of the published results. (*Jour. Biol. Chem.*, 50, 31, 1922, and 52, 439, 1922.) Besides pointing out the necessity of the proposed work in experimental breeding, he mentioned

the following important lines for development in the chemical studies:

1. Verification of all previous work.
2. Elimination of non-hereditary variations in the oils by complete analyses over a period of years.
3. Detection of compounds indicated as being intermediates in the elaboration of the oils.
4. Determination of the composition of oils at various stages of growth.
5. Study of *in vitro* transformations involving important biochemical reactions, especially
  - a. Condensations.
  - b. Hydration and dehydration.
  - c. Autooxidation and reduction.

In the discussion that follows the report, Prof. Richtmann pointed out the unsatisfactory state of the botanical synonymy of the mints. If Tschirch's *Mentha citrata* Ehrh. and *M. aquatica* L. are really synonymous, it is rather difficult to see how *M. citrata*, a southern species, could be a parent of the northern peppermint. Prof. E. Kremers pointed out that the study of oils at different stages of development has led to contradictory results as regards the successive changes in the elaboration of the oils.

## THE PHARMACIST AND THE LAW.

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT REGULATIONS.

Important changes in the rules and regulations for the enforcement of the Federal Food and Drugs Act. *Circular 21*, eighth revision, was issued August 7, and all pharmacists should have a copy. The National Wholesale Druggists' Association, in its *Bulletin* of September 23, comments on some of the changes and part of them are here reprinted:

A new procedure has been announced in these regulations and is found in Regulation 3, Paragraph (f) which reads as follows:

Establishments in which foods or drugs are prepared in whole or in part for sale in the Territories or District of Columbia or for transportation in interstate or foreign commerce may be inspected by any authorized agent of the Department of Agriculture.

Regulation 8 sets forth the standards for drugs and the manner of labeling them. A feature that is new in this connection is that

where articles are not U. S. P. or N. F. they must so state. There is a question that arises here as to the desirability of ever stating what an article is not, especially when deviations from the standard are specifically set forth. It is probable that this section will be clarified by a subsequent ruling.

Regulation 20 requires that "imitations" bear on the label the word "imitation." "Compounds" and "blends" shall also state such, in the case of foods together with a list of the principal or essential ingredients.

Regulation 6 covers the form of guaranty that should be given by manufacturers on invoices. It is specifically stated that legends such as "Guaranteed under Pure Food and Drugs Act of 1906" shall not appear on any labels.

Careful consideration should be given to Regulation 14 concerning labels. The term "label" includes all matter appearing on the package as well as all circulars and pamphlets accompanying such package.

### PROHIBITION BOND DEMANDS PROTESTED BY DRUG INDUSTRIES.

A press item of October 26 states that Official Washington is being flooded with protests against the recent internal revenue regulations relating to bonds for alcohol permittees under the prohibition law. President Harding himself is understood to have received a long letter on the subject from Samuel L. Hilton, former president of the American Pharmaceutical Association, and officers of the Treasury Department are being swamped.

Attorneys for the various drug and related associations have instructed their members to file written protests against the requirements when they submit their bonds, and particularly against the 25 percent forfeiture provision, for fear that failure to enter such formal protests might be construed as an agreement to or acceptance of the regulation which, it is rumored, prohibition officials doubted their right to issue.

Treasury Decision 3410 has been issued amending T. D. 3398.

### MISLEADING STATEMENTS AND UNNECESSARY LAWS.

Whenever false impressions are made upon the public by bulletins of the Government these should, as far as possible, be corrected, just as individuals or corporations are obliged to correct misleading statements. Actions of importance not sustained by the Government weaken its cause. Standing together of organizations when the cause is just will strengthen them in the minds of the people. It is, therefore, a source of gratification that the Prohibition Commissioner has denied the purpose to curtail legitimate use of alcohol. How far the Department will go in an effort to correct impressions made on the public remains to be seen. What is needed by the Department is an advisory body composed of experienced men, representative of the interests affected by regulations it is proposed to issue. Some of the regulations issued are complex and impractical, and some are not known of or understood by those concerned until too late.

New South Wales has a program in hand to repeal laws which have worked badly. If we can have a rest from new legislation, and give Congress and Legislatures a vacation, normalcy may come as a result.

### SECOND NARCOTIC CONFERENCE.

The second narcotic conference, under the auspices of the special committee of the A. M. A., was held in New York City November 8. Organizations of all the drug industries were invited to send representatives, and most of them were represented. Some changes were made in the draft for a model narcotic state law, presented by the Special Committee appointed at the first conference.

The model, as amended, is printed in this issue of the JOURNAL, pp. 1067-1071.

### ALCOHOL DENATURANT FOR ARNICA TINCTURE RECALLED.

Special denatured alcohol, formula No. 47, may no longer be withdrawn for use in the manufacture of tincture of arnica, N. F. It may, however, continue to be withdrawn and used for the manufacture of liniments for external purposes pursuant to approved formulas.

### DRUGS "AS IS" AND PURITY STANDARDS.

Recently a quantity of drugs and medicinal supplies were sold from surplus army stocks. Some army surplus sales catalogs or announcements contain this statement:

"All property listed in this catalogue at said auction will be sold 'as is' and 'where is,' without warranty or guarantee as to quality, character, condition, size, weight or kind, or that the same is in condition or fit to be used for the purpose for which it was originally intended [etc.]."

Secretary Homer W. Smith, of the American Drug Manufacturers' Association, has written the Medical Department of the Army in part as follows:

"The laws of the nation and many state laws provide standards for medicinals, and not only as a matter of law but as a matter of principle it does not seem to me to be right or fair to the consuming public for any branch of the government, or any one, for that matter, to offer medicinals for internal administration 'as is' when it is so easily possible to make sure that they do or do not conform to the accepted standards."

The Bureau of Weights and Measures of Philadelphia reports that since it began work in 1914 it has confiscated and destroyed approximately 25 tons of false weights and measures.