

THE PHARMACIST AND THE LAW.

STEPS TAKEN TO PREVENT COUNTERFEITING OF WITHDRAWAL PERMITS AND PHYSICIAN'S PRESCRIPTION BLANKS.

A new physician's prescription blank, to assist in the enforcement of the prohibition laws, has been designed by Commissioner Haynes of the Treasury Department. The new forms are printed on specially sensitized, watermarked paper, from an engraved plate bearing a special watermarked seal with the word "Prohibition" in large letters. For still further protection, an ingenious machine manufactured to resemble a check protector will be used on each withdrawal permit from a warehouse. The new form of prescription blanks to be issued to physicians makes it incumbent on the physician to indicate the name and address of the druggist who is to fill the prescription. While these changes will cause a halt in the counterfeiting of withdrawal permits on distilleries for liquor and likewise on physicians' prescription blanks for intoxicants, yet an agitation has been started to make it a penitentiary offense to manufacture counterfeit or forged permits, physicians' prescription blanks or letterheads, envelopes or any other stationery used in connection with the enforcement of the prohibition law.

The circular in which these forms are authorized are described in Pro-Circular No. 91, obtainable from the Revenue Department.

FOUR DIFFERENT ALCOHOLS RECOGNIZED BY THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

The four different alcohols recognized by the Revenue Department are: 1. Pure non-beverage alcohol, which is ethyl alcohol without the addition of any foreign substance. 2. Medicated alcohol, which is ethyl alcohol to which any one of the seven alternative chemical agents prescribed in Section 61 of Regulations 60, has been added, and which is permitted to be sold in pints or less at retail. 3. Modified alcohol, which is tax paid ethyl alcohol used in the manufacture of preparations rendered unfit for beverage purposes by the addition of tartar emetic, quinine, cinchonidine sulphate, resorcin, salicylic acid or some other approved modifying agent. 4. Specially denatured alcohol, which is tax free ethyl alcohol rendered unfit for beverage purposes by the addition of some authorized denaturing agent or combination of agents.

GOVERNMENT FISCAL YEAR ENDS JUNE 30.

Attention is directed to the fact that the Government's fiscal year ends on June 30, 1922. All persons, firms or corporations liable for special taxes requiring registration, must re-register on or before July 1, next.

Of particular interest to druggists are the following taxes:

1. Wholesale and Retail Liquor Dealers' Tax Stamps.
2. Narcotic Taxes—manufacturers, wholesale dealers, retail dealers, physicians and hospitals, general stores handling exempt narcotic preparations.
3. Persons liable for beverage and sirup taxes under Revenue Act of 1921 must re-register.

NARCOTIC LEGISLATION.

The growing interest in narcotic legislation, cultivation of the poppy for opium, traffic, etc., is evidenced by the contributions on these subjects in magazines. In the *Atlantic Monthly* for June, there are two articles: "America and the Opium Trade, by Ellen N. La Motte, and "India and the Opium Trade," by Girja Shankar Bajpai.

MILLER-JONES AMENDMENT TO THE FEDERAL NARCOTIC LAW SIGNED BY PRESIDENT HARDING.

The new law establishes a Federal Narcotics Board to be composed of the heads of the State, Treasury, and Commerce Departments, which is empowered to authorize the importation of such quantities of crude opium and coca leaves as may be found necessary for medical and other legitimate purposes. Any alien convicted of violating the act is to be deported, while for others a fine of \$5,000 or ten years imprisonment is provided.

NEW YORK BOARD OF TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION, DRUG AND CHEMICAL SECTION OPPOSED TO NEW NARCOTIC LAW.

The Drug and Chemical Section of the New York Board of Trade and Transportation bases its objections to the law on the grounds that the regulations of May 1, 1920, adopted under the act of January 17, 1914, were effectively controlling exports.

It will not be possible to bring into any American possessions, the Philippines, Hawaii and the Canal Zone, from the United States,

any manufactured narcotics. The crude opium and coca leaves which may be brought into those possessions will not be of any benefit, says the letter, as there are no facilities there for manufacturing.

There is already a tendency on the part of foreign druggists, according to the section, to place their orders for narcotics where they may purchase them without the trouble and expense incident to procuring the evidence

required by the U. S. Government regulations. If the foreign customer is compelled to buy from European houses his supplies of medicines containing narcotics, the inevitable result will be the entire loss of American general export drug trade.

The section points out that it has never opposed reasonable Federal control of narcotics, and has always supported the government's efforts to that end.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Soap-Making Manual. A practical handbook on the raw materials, their manipulation, analysis and control in the modern soap plant. By E. G. Thomssen, Ph.D. Illus. $6 \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, 243 pages. Price \$4.00. New York, D. Van Nostrand Company.

This book contains a comprehensive account of soap manufacture. In the first and second chapters are outlined the origin and selection of raw materials used in the manufacture, and also details of the construction and equipment of a plant. The succeeding chapters deal with the manufacturing processes. The author treats of the various soaps ranging from the cheap laundry soaps to the expensive variety of toilet products. Descriptions of the manufacture of scouring powders, chip soaps and the three varieties of shaving soaps are very well given. The subject of liquid soaps is taken up in an understandable way, giving each detail regarding the clarification of same.

A good description is contained of the medication of soaps and their value in relation to the various uses. A chapter is devoted to the analytical methods used for testing the raw materials as well as the finished products, and the last chapter gives in detail the standard methods of sampling the raw material used, with illustrations of the machinery and plant layouts. The tables contained in the appendix add greatly to its practical value.

The work in a word, is a very complete detailed account of soap manufacture. The information it contains makes it valuable not only to the manufacturer but equally so to the analytical chemist. The clarity of thought shows the thorough knowledge which the author possesses concerning the subject. The table of contents indicates the scope of the book: I. Raw materials used in soap-making, including definitions of soaps, oils, fats, saponification; methods of bleaching and

treatment of oils and fats; rancidity and its prevention, chemical constants, oil hardening, alkalis, etc.; II. Construction and equipment of a soap plant; III. Classification of methods of soapmaking; IV. Classifications of soaps, *i. e.*, laundry, cold made, toilet, medicinal, transparent, shaving, liquid, textile, etc.; V. Glycerin recovery; VI. Analytical methods, and VII. Standard methods for the sampling and analysis of commercial fats and oils.

K. J. EHMANN.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Proceedings of the National Wholesale Druggists' Association. Forty-seventh annual meeting held at Atlantic City, September 26 to 29, 1921.

The usual addresses and reports in these proceedings contain much useful information relating to the problems of the wholesale druggist and the wide scope of his field of operations are reflected in the many discussions on the reports submitted, these ranging from salesmanship and credits and collections to employers' liability and workmen's compensation, merchandising methods of retail druggists, proprietary goods, quality of medical products, etc. It will readily be seen that the reports have value to the retailer because of the close relation of these two divisions of the drug trade. An interesting account of the entertainment features is also given, and lists of committees, members, etc. The volume is a cloth bound book of 650 pages.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The Chemistry of the Garden.—By Herbert H. Cousins, M.A., F.C.S. Revised edition. Pp. xx + 147. Price 2s. net. London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 1920.

Chemistry: Lehrbuch der Chemie. Vol. I. Stoffe. Max Trautz. 534 pp. Price, 22s. 6d. Vereinigung Wissenschaftlicher, Berlin and Leipzig.