

THE PHARMACIST AND THE LAW.

HOUSE BILL PROVIDES FOR A BUREAU OF MEDICAL RESEARCH.

Establishment of a bureau of medical research is provided in a bill by Representative Woodruff, of Michigan. The bureau would be under the Interior Department, would have a director at \$15,000 annual salary, an assistant director at \$10,000, and a visiting committee of five members prominent in medical or scientific societies and not in government employ. Provision is made for a \$1,000,000 building for the bureau and for appropriation of \$550,000 for 1927. The Bureau would be charged to investigate the physical, chemical and biological processes underlying the functioning of organs of the human body, and to determine the properties of materials that would be of advantage to medical science.

TITLE OF CHEMIST-PHARMACIST IN ARGENTINE.

It is customary for many pharmacists in Spanish countries to assume the title "Quimico-Farmacéutico" (chemist-pharmacist), in analogy with the Italian form of "Chimico-Farmacista." Recently Dr. J. Maguin, President of the Argentine Chemical Society, launched a prosecution against Don F. W. Huspaur, a pharmacist of Buenos Aires, for the illegal use of an academic degree, *i. e.*, the adoption of the title "chemist." The opinion of the Faculty of Medicine and of the National Department of Health was sought, and both bodies stated that chemistry forms the basis of the pharmacist's studies; further, law No. 4687, by stipulating that chemical and pharmaceutical works must be managed by a chemist or pharmacist holding a diploma, expressly empowers the latter to undertake the functions of a chemist. Finally, evidence was adduced to prove that it was an old-established custom for pharmacists in Buenos Aires and other parts of Argentine to adopt the title of "quimico-farmacéutico," the same as is the case with the use of the designation "physician and surgeon." The Court accepted these views justifying the use of the title "chemist" by pharmacists, and dismissed the charge against Don Huspaur on the grounds that it was devoid of any foundation. This verdict has been received with great satisfaction by Argentine pharmacists, who regarded the instigation of the prosecution as a direct attack on their professional honour and dignity, emanating as it did from the director of the

Chemical Institute in the National Department of Health.—*The Chemist & Druggist.*

HEARINGS ON BRITTEN METRIC STANDARDS BILL.

Hearings on Britten Metric Standards Bill are being held this month; provisions of the bill are explained on p. 71, January JOURNAL, A. P. H. A.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATION.

Secretary A. L. I. Winne of Virginia Pharmaceutical Association has issued a letter of information to Virginia pharmacists relative to State legislation. Hearing was to be held January 27, on the "Cosmetic Tax" introduced by Representative Wright. The tax amounts to 10 per cent, with the possibility that the burden of it will fall on the druggist.

Representative Norris has introduced a bill imposing a flat tax of from \$10-\$15 on the soda fountain and 10 per cent on soda sales. Secretary Winne states that these measures impose an unjust burden. Relative to the Jones Bill which requires a distinctive label for acids, alkalis, caustics, etc., he states that it is a health protective measure and probably will not be opposed.

ALCOHOL TAX IN CONGRESS.

At the time of this writing the result as to the tax on alcohol has not been determined. On January 19 the Senate Finance Committee by a vote of 9 to 8 struck out the provision of the House Bill reducing the alcohol tax from \$2.20 to \$1.65, January 1, 1927, and to \$1.10 per proof gallon, January 1, 1928. The effect of the Senate Bill will be to retain the present tax of \$2.20 per proof gallon.

February 11. The Senate Committee receded from its position and accepted the House rate of \$1.10.

U. S. P. AND N. F. RECOGNIZED.

Federal prohibition administrators are advised by L. C. Andrews, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, regarding the permit status of the U. S. P. and N. F. preparations:

In view of the changes in U. S. P. X, effective January 1, and also in the fifth edition of the National Formulary, which will be issued some time during 1926, all preparations which are official in either U. S. P. IX or X, and N. F. IV or N. F. V, should be recognized for permit purposes until such time as permits are renewed for 1927.

PURE WHISKY ONLY TO BE
DISPENSED.

In a general order by Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, L. C. Andrews, to prohibition administrators the belief is expressed that it is possible to clean up pretty thoroughly on the diversion of whisky through its present form of distribution for medicinal use by revoking the permits of all those druggists who are party to its misuse.

He mentioned a plan proposed by Administrator Baird of the Pittsburgh district "to lift simultaneously from every drug store in a given city one pint of its medicinal whisky, then test this whisky for purity and, where he finds the druggist handling split whisky or other than absolutely pure bottled-in-bond whisky, to revoke his permit." Mr. Baird would then publish the names of those druggists handling the genuine whisky "so the public may know where it may be procured for medicinal purposes." When this is done simultaneously throughout the city "it is as fair for one as for another," Mr. Andrews said, "and it occurs to me that in the interest of public health as well as law enforcement, this may well be done. In the larger cities it would have to be done one section at a time for want of men enough to handle it. In all cases the bottle could be returned to the druggist after it had been tested.—Through *Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter*.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION FOR
DRUGGIST.

The United States Civil Service Commission announces an open competitive examination for Druggist in the Sixth Civil Service District, which comprises the states of Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. A vacancy in the position of Pharmacist, U. S. Veterans' Bureau, Cleveland, Ohio, \$1800 a year, and vacancies in positions requiring similar qualifications, at this or higher or lower salary, as they may occur in the Sixth Civil Service District, will be filled from this examination, unless it is found to be in the interest of the service to fill any vacancy by reinstatement, transfer, or promotion.

Receipts of applications will close March 3; the places for examination follow:

Ohio.—Ashtabula, Athens, Canton, Chillicothe, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, East Liverpool, Ironton, Lima, Mansfield, Marietta, Portsmouth, Sandusky, Toledo, Youngstown, Zanesville.

Indiana.—Angola, Bloomington, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Hammond, Indianapolis, Jeffersonville, LaFayette, Marion, Muncie, Richmond, South Bend, Terre Haute, Valparaiso, Vincennes.

Kentucky.—Ashland, Bowling Green, Covington, Henderson, Hopkinsville, Lexington, London, Louisville, Middlesboro, Owensboro, Paducah, Somerset, U. S. Veterans' Hospital No. 79, Outwood.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Physiological and Clinical Chemistry. By William A. Pearson, Ph.C., M.D., Professor of Chemistry, Physiological Chemistry and Toxicology in Hahnemann Medical College of Philadelphia; and Joseph S. Hepburn, B.S., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chemistry in Hahnemann Medical College of Philadelphia. Lea & Febiger (1925), 306 pages. Price \$4.00.

This book is intended primarily as a laboratory guide for medical students in physiological and clinical chemistry. It presupposes a knowledge of general chemistry and qualitative analysis, as well as some acquaintance with organic chemistry.

The book is divided into two sections. The first part deals with organic chemistry and the composition of the various body tissues and food stuffs. The second part covers the chemical examination of various secretions of the

body for diagnostic purposes, such as those of the salivary glands, stomach, kidney, etc., and the various chemical examinations of the blood which are used in clinical medicine; there are special chapters on the examination of milk and water.

The general plan of the first portion of the book is to give a brief statement of the facts concerning composition and properties of the various compounds treated, followed by directions for experiments which the student is supposed to apply as illustrative of the facts quoted. While the book is small and considerable space is occupied in the description of these experiments, a remarkable amount of general information is condensed into the text.

The second part is not intended as a handbook of medical diagnosis. It does not give, for example, all the tests for glucose in the