

## THE PHARMACIST AND THE LAW.

### PHYSICIAN GUILTY OF VIOLATING NARCOTIC ACT IF PRESCRIPTION IS NOT GIVEN IN GOOD FAITH.

In a decision of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth District—Milton A. Nelms, plaintiff in error, v. U. S. A., No. 5127, the courts points out that the Harrison Narcotic Act does not prevent a registered physician from dispensing narcotics to a patient by prescription in the course of professional practice. But it was held that if a physician issues the prescription not in the course of professional practice, with intent that the recipient shall obtain narcotics from a druggist upon such prescription, and the prescription is not given in good faith for the treatment of disease, he takes a principal part in the prohibited sale, no matter whether the quantity is great or small, or whether the druggist has knowledge of the circumstances under which the physician has given the prescription or is advised of any relationship that may have existed between the physician and the recipient of the prescription.

Defendant on plaintiff in error was convicted under three counts of an indictment predicated upon a violation of the Harrison Narcotic Act (Act Dec. 17, 1914, 38 st. 785 as commended by Act Feb. 24, 1919, 40 st. 1130).

The question of the constitutionality of the Narcotic Act is settled by the decisions in *Gin Fuey Moy v. U. S.*, supra; *U. S. v. Doremus*, 249 U. S. 86, and *Hooper v. United States*, 16 F (2) 868.

#### A STATE'S RIGHT.

The U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan handed down a decision on September 26, 1927, holding that an osteopathic physician licensed under the laws of Michigan was entitled to the right of mandamus to compel the collector to issue a permit authorizing the osteopathic physician to dispense narcotics.

### BILL FOR COMPULSORY USE OF METRIC SYSTEM TO BE PROPOSED IN NEXT CONGRESS.

Representative Britten will reintroduce House Bill No. 10 of the 69th Congress "to extend the use of metric weights and measures in medicine," with such modifications as may be necessary to conform to recommendations of the All-American Standards Council.

Representative Britten has recently returned from Europe and is satisfied that sooner or later the metric system is to come into our system of business. He said the law as it stands legalizes the use of the metric system for all transactions. The Britten Bill provides for the use of the metric system for merchandizing with some modifications of the old Bill; it would make compulsory something already legalized on the statute books.

### PREPARED MEDICINE MARKET IN JAMAICA.

Prepared medicines are obtained chiefly from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada. There is a demand in Jamaica for prepared medicines, those of the United States and United Kingdom being favored, as shown in the following figures on importations of medicines and drugs, including quinine in 1925: United States, £35,998; United Kingdom, £21,997; Canada, £4392; all other countries, £3243. These figures were compiled from the Jamaica Blue Book.

There is no law in Jamaica prescribing that proprietary remedies undergo official examination and at present there are no restrictions upon the sale of such remedies. Proprietary medicines are usually imported into the Island for sale, some having the formula of the preparation on the package and some without any formula whatever. Introducing some kinds of proprietary medicines in this district through the medium of free samples has been found to be efficient. (Consul Jose de Olivares, Kingston, Jamaica.)

## BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

*Merchandise Control.* By Albert W. Frey in Collaboration with Paul H. Nystrom, published by Alexander Hamilton Institute, New York.

This book is one of a series of ten textbooks used with other materials in a correspondence course in retail merchandizing offered by the

Alexander Hamilton Institute. This institute has given for years a correspondence course in general business principles which has met with great success and enjoyed high praise from educational authorities. The basis of this course is also a series of textbooks.

The titles of the books in the course in re-