

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-

tail merchandizing will give a general idea of the nature of the course: Volume 1, The science of business; Volume 2, Store management and business organization; Volume 3, Financing; Volume 4, Merchandise control; Volume 5, Buying; Volume 6, Selling; Volume 7, Advertising; Volume 8, Credits, collections and correspondence; Volume 9, Accounting; Volume 10, Business law.

Volume 4, *Merchandise Control*, is the book under review. The theme of the book is the desirability of scientific purchase and stock control records.

If, in manufacturing plants, scientific purchasing and stock control can and have reduced inventories, decreased the risks of loss from depreciation and obsolescence, speeded turnover and increased profits, is it not reasonable to expect similar gains from the introduction of these methods into retail businesses?

The book describes, explains and analyses the successful experiences of various retail stores in the use of these methods. Practically all of the illustrations are from the successful experience of department stores. The book is, therefore, of special interest to those concerned in the management of department stores and other large stores in which department store management methods can be applied.

Frequent apologies are made throughout the book for its nearly exclusive consideration of only one kind of retail stores. It is explained that the methods which have been developed by intensive study and specialized research of department store executives can be applied with equal success to smaller businesses. For instance, while a large store might have ten girls keeping its perpetual inventory records up-to-date, a small store might need only one girl to do the same work. The principle would be the same; its application simply would be upon a smaller scale.

This is true within certain limits. The drug stores, are extremely few and far between, for instance, which are large enough to justify the employment of even one girl to take charge of stock and perpetual inventory records. What is a hard working man who is all alone in a small store to do? It would be perfectly possible of course, for him to devote a part of his time to maintaining perpetual inventory records. Then, however, the question becomes, is the value of the information obtained equal to the cost and effort required to get it? Many times it is not. There is a

point beyond which the plans and methods used in large businesses cannot be reduced to fit the very small business. Even in such an elemental thing as departmentalizing of sales and purchases, there are thousands upon thousands of drug stores in the United States in which the effort and cost required to obtain such facts would not be justified by the possibility of profits to be gained.

The retail drug store is in a peculiar position. Selling mostly convenience goods, its growth as a retail store is very definitely circumscribed after a certain point is reached because people will not go far out of their way to buy convenience goods. Many druggists have surmounted this obstacle by starting additional stores. Unfortunately for them the book contains but one short chapter on chain store methods and that chapter is devoted to lines with problems remote from those of the drug trade.

The book does contain some individual ideas and suggestions which are worth the consideration of retail druggists and therefore parts of the book should prove interesting and profitable reading to them. However, the most direct and immediate applications of the ideas and principles discussed in the book are in the department store field because that is the field with which the book deals to the exclusion of almost every other retail line.

P. C. O.

Manual of Chemistry (with plates), W. Simon and Daniel Base. 13th ed., 1927. Enlarged and thoroughly revised by John C. Krantz, Professor of Pharmacy, University of Maryland. pp. xiv + 695. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia. Price, \$5.00.

This well-known work while presenting its subject matter, essentially in the same order as in previous editions and including additional topics assumes the aspect of a reference volume rather than a textbook. Professor Simon's work was originally designed for beginners in Chemistry as well as students of Pharmacy, Medicine and Dentistry and has after all these years served its purpose of usefulness to high degree. The reviser has devoted himself to a work which originally and on through the subsequent revisions by Professor Base, has been overburdened with non-essentials, particularly from the standpoint of its anticipated scope. The volume in its new edition covers almost every conceivable topic incident to general chemistry, having been brought up-to-date with