

THE PHARMACIST AND THE LAW.

CAUSTIC POISON RULES.

Regulations for administration of the Federal caustic poisons act by the Food, Drug and Insecticide Administration, have been issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. Druggists should secure copies of these regulations as the law is now in force. The *Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter* in commenting on the regulations states that "the Federal Caustic Poisons Law has not been brought into close relationship with its apparent purpose by the regulations which have been issued as guides in its administration. If anything, the scope of the measure has been extended by the rules still further from the commendable idea of identifying certain everyday materials as poisonous * * * * *

"For the sake of caution alone, in a preventive sense, so to speak, it would be enough, most folks would assume, to have a 'poison' label on fancifully named products containing any of the officially designated poisons. But, there is the necessity of treating poisonings when they do occur through misuse of any such preparation. Such treatment necessitates knowledge of the poison involved. In this direction lies also the matter of antidotes. The law requires that they be stated on the label, and the administrative officials are working now on a basic list. The regulations require that the designated antidotal agents shall be, in so far as practicable, such as are usually available in the household.

"So it goes for the most part in the regulations. They tighten up the requirements of the act. There is but one easing paragraph among them. The label on a parcel embraced by the law does not, as the act implies, have to be a manufacturer's label.

"These regulations raise the moot question of how a guaranty may be given. They say that it shall not appear on the label or package. The law has not yet been found, in connection with a similar requirement as to 'pure drugs' labels, that compels a manufacturer to refrain from telling the truth on a label, even in the matter of his willingness to stand behind his wares."

HANDBOOK FOR PROHIBITION CORPS.

Rules and regulations for the guidance of prohibition enforcement executives and agents have been assembled in one handbook and the entire enforcement corps will be held

strictly accountable under them, it is stated. Instead of a vast number of separate lists of instructions, the prohibition service now has one document to which it may turn in the solution of troublesome questions and for the interpretation of the laws.

Commissioner J. M. Doran in commenting on the issuance of this book said, "We have had too much hit-and-miss business. This handbook or manual should assist agents because they can now know our entire policy without having to cart around an armful of loose instruction sheets, some of which may be easily lost. Only minor changes are made in it from instructions previously issued, and these are intended to clarify the rules under which our men work."

PROHIBITION DISTRICTS ARE TO BE REALIGNED.

The Treasury Department has made the following changes in prohibition district lines, effective February 1st:

The Northern Judicial District of Florida to be detached from District No. 9 and placed with District No. 10 with headquarters at New Orleans.

Indiana to be removed from District No. 13 and placed with District No. 8, with headquarters at Columbus, Ohio.

Iowa to be taken from District No. 15 and placed with District No. 13, with headquarters at Chicago.

Kansas and Oklahoma to be taken from Districts Nos. 16 and 17, respectively, and placed with Nebraska, forming District No. 15 with headquarters at Topeka, Kansas.

South Dakota to be taken from District No. 15 and placed with District No. 14, with headquarters at St. Paul.

Arkansas to be taken from District No. 10 and placed with District No. 16, with headquarters at St. Louis.

SEEK REEXAMINATION OF PROHIBITION AGENTS.

Approximately 85 per cent of all prohibition agents who were examined under Civil Service requirements for reappointment in the prohibition service recently have failed to pass the test unless the Civil Service Commission grants a new examination, the prohibition force will lose many of its best men, the Commissioner of Prohibition, Dr. J. M. Doran, announced.

Dr. Doran said the Bureau of Prohibition, through the Department of the Treasury, had requested the Commission to grant new

examinations for the agents, adding that the first one contained many questions which are "far over the heads of the agent."

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Drugs-Map of the World. BY DR. WOLFGANG HIMMELBAUR AND DR. BERNHARD HOLLINGER. Brochure, 48 pp., with seven maps. Kartographische Anstalt G. Freytag & Berndt in Vienna. M 21.50.

This the latest contribution to pharmacogeography will be welcomed by all students and teachers of our vegetable materia pharmaceutica. To the former it will visualize much of his book knowledge. To the latter it will be a welcome pedagogical tool.

Whereas certain parts of this chapter of pharmacognosy have been worked up thoroughly, others require further exploration. This becomes apparent from a mere glance at the drug map of North America. Most, if not almost all of our medicinal plants would seem to grow east of the Mississippi. True, *Cascara Sagrada* is indicated in the extreme west but near the Mexican border and not near the Canadian border or in Canada.

Even though the English of the text calls for revision of the idiom, the brochure with its maps should find a place in every college or school of pharmacy.

E. K.

Pharmacognosy and Materia Medica. For Students in Pharmacy and Practicing Pharmacists. BY HOMER C. WASHBURN, Ph.C., B.S. (in Phar.) AND WALTER H. BLOME, Ph.C., M.S. With a chapter on Vitamines and one on Insulin by Walter Pitz, M.S. 585 pp, 110 illustrations. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York, 1927. Price \$5.00.

The aim of the authors, is to present the important features and facts concerning plant and animal drugs. They therefore give for each drug: its Latin name, the derivation of this name and how it is pronounced; its English name; its synonyms; botanic source; family; part used; description and physical properties; habitat; a discussion, in which a more detailed description is given of the plant, or animal source, an account of how the drug is obtained, varieties, etc., etc.; constituents; properties, use and dose; and finally official preparations. All of the vegetable and animal drugs listed in the U. S. P. X, and the N. F. V as well as a number of the more important non-official drugs which

find frequent use in present-day practice are thus taken up; the letters U. S. P. designating those of the Pharmacopœia, and N. F. those of the National Formulary.

Microscopic characteristics of drugs are not given, the authors being convinced that this work is less essential, and at best should be given in the course in microscopical botany. The book thus conceived, makes a most favorable showing, and criticisms are few. First, the authors will do well to follow the U. S. P., and N. F. in printing the source and family as there given, italicizing generic and specific names and the family, and not in italicizing authorities. This, too, is the general custom. To see the name and authority both printed in the same kind of type is confusing. A little more attention should be given to the biological assays. They should not only be mentioned when a drug is thus assayed, but should be described. The authors are rather derelict in this respect, mentioning the fact that drug is assayed biologically only in the case of *Digitalis* and *Oleum Morrhuæ*. And finally it would seem best to state whose scheme of classification is being followed in the study of the drugs, or why the particular scheme used is followed since most authors now follow Engler-Gilg in their "Syllabus der Pflanzenfamilien." Two appendices are added which are quite worth while and further enhance the value of the work. Appendix I, a Glossary of Medical Terms, and Appendix II, a Glossary of Botanical and Zoological Terms.

CHARLES C. PLITT.

The Elements of Vegetable Histology. BY C. W. BALLARD. 2nd Edition. 289 pages, 93 illustrations. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. New York, 1926. Price \$3.25.

This is a rather unusual book, unusual in the number of its defects. It is poorly conceived, and contains quite a number of conflicting or otherwise questionable statements, and some also that are certainly incorrect.

The book, first of all, is poorly conceived; no beginner would start with Chapter I, as there outlined and apply the methods outlined for infiltration, fixation and embedding of the material to be studied. All of this is