

## LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE.

## NARCOTIC EXEMPTIONS FOR EXPORT OFFERED IN BILL.

A bill to give narcotic preparations, exempt under the Harrison Act, a similar status in export trade is before the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives. It was introduced by Representative John F. Miller, of Washington, co-author of the Miller-Jones Act, which regulates the import and export of narcotic drugs.

The committee has referred the bill (H. R. 12,690) to the Federal Narcotics Control Board. L. G. Nutt, Secretary of the Board, says that the measure has been considered at one meeting of that body, and will be further considered before a report is made to the House Committee.

Export permits, required under the Miller-Jones Act, would not be necessary, under the proposed amendment, for the exportation of preparations to which the Harrison Act does not apply, when exported for medicinal use and not for the purpose of evading the purpose and provisions of the Miller-Jones Act. The amendment has been introduced largely as a result of efforts on the part of the American Drug Manufacturers' Association. Carson P. Frailey, Secretary of the association, has asked for an early hearing before the Committee of Ways and Means.

## REDUCTION IN NARCOTIC TAXES.

President Coolidge has signed the Revenue Bill which includes a provision reducing from \$6.00 to \$3.00 the annual tax on retail dealers in narcotics. Importers, manufacturers, producers or compounders of narcotics are taxed \$24.00 a year, wholesale dealers \$12.00, physicians, dentists and veterinarians \$1.00 per year.

## PUBLIC HEALTH BILL, VETOED.

President Coolidge has vetoed the Parker Bill for reorganizing the Public Health Service. The principal reason given was that the bill contained an appointment procedure which violated the constitution, with the additional objection that the bill intended to militarize a civilian service. The President suggested changes which, if made, would meet with his approval, and discussions of this will be had prior to the convening of Congress.

## INVESTIGATION OF CHAIN STORES.

With the progress of the Capper-Kelly bill and provision for the investigation of chain store methods the public is becoming more interested in the subject and, after all, in the final analysis the public will decide whether it is best to have the large combinations or not. There is no doubt that partly what seemingly is advantageous will prove to be otherwise when some of the methods of the chain stores are carefully studied. Grant Clark, druggist of Genesee, Idaho, has recently inserted a full page message in his home paper on the subject, in which he discusses some of the disadvantages of the chain store.

Martin J. Noll, H. C. Tindall, F. H. Fricke and W. A. Ackenhausen made a trip by plane to Washington in the interest of the Capper-Kelly bill, prior to the close of Congress.

## SLACK-FILLED PACKAGES.

Mr. Haugen of Iowa has presented an amendment to the Food and Drugs Act entitled: "An Act for preventing the manufacture, sale, or transportation of adulterated or misbranded or poisonous or deleterious foods, drugs, medicines and liquors, and for regulating traffic therein, and for other purposes," approved June 30, 1926, as amended. The bill would amend the Food and Drugs Act by adding a new paragraph to Section 8, which deals with misbranding, the effect of which would be to bring within the statute containers for foods which are made, formed, or shaped so as to mislead purchasers as to the quantity, quality or kind of their contents. A new paragraph would also make such containers illegal if, notwithstanding the fact that contents are plainly marked in terms of weight, measure or count, the container itself is slack-filled, *i. e.*, filled in such a manner as to deceive purchasers. In the enforcement of this section of the statute reasonable tolerance would be allowed to care for shrinkage or expansion of contents from natural or other causes beyond reasonable control. No penalties would be enforced for six months after the bill becomes law. (*H. Rept.* No. 590.)

## INTERPRETATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICY IN REGULATING THE LABELING OF DRUGS.

Circular 21, relating to Labeling of Drugs, etc., may be obtained from the Department

of Agriculture. In it will be found interpretation of the Government's policy in regulating the labeling of Drugs. Every phase of the law is briefly discussed, relating to the scope of the Act, definition of drug, declaration of drugs in preparations, of alcohol, and duty of the manufacturer in his statements and advertising. The following information is taken from the circular:

*Requests for Information Regarding Specific Preparations.*—The Bureau is authorized to give information concerning the quality and composition of preparations upon the market only in the form of notices of judgment published after court action, as authorized by Section 4, page 23, *Circular 21*. Requests for information concerning specific products can be compiled with only in those instances where notices of judgment are available.

*Requests for Analysis.*—The examination of samples of medicinal preparations is limited to those of an official character collected by authorized agents of the Department. Requests for analysis cannot be compiled with, since no authority or appropriation exists for such work.

*Statement of Weight, Measure or Count.*—The Act does not require that the label of drugs shall bear a statement of the weight, measure, or numerical count of the contents of the package, but any statement of this nature should be correct and complete.

*Toilet Preparations.*—The Act deals with foods and drugs, the term "drug" being defined in Section 6, page 24, *Circular 21*. A toilet preparation that is not intended or represented, directly or indirectly, to be useful for the cure, mitigation, or prevention of disease is not subject to the law, but the manu-

facturer should exercise care that it does not contain any ingredient that might be injurious to health.

*Narcotic Act and Prohibition Act.*—Narcotics and alcohol are subject to the provisions of the Harrison Narcotic Act and the prohibition act, as well as to the provisions of the food and drug act. Information regarding these two laws may be obtained from the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Washington, D. C.

*Postal Laws.*—The postal laws and regulations contain provisions as to drug products coming within their scope. Information on this subject can be obtained by addressing the Postmaster General, Washington, D. C.

*Patents and Trade Marks.*—The Department of Agriculture can give no advice on patents or trade marks. Information on this subject may be obtained by addressing the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C. As far as the Federal Food and Drugs Act is concerned, no patent, trade mark, or copyright is necessary for the manufacture or sale of drug products.

*Copyright.*—Information regarding copyright privileges may be obtained by addressing the Copyright Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

*Patents, Trade Marks and Copyrights Confer No Exemption.*—The issue of a trade mark, copyright, or patent for a preparation does not exempt it from the provisions of the Federal Food and Drugs Act.

*State Laws.*—State laws may contain additional requirements for the manufacture or sale of medicinal preparations. Information concerning state laws may be obtained from the offices given in the attached list.

## BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

*Die aetherischen Oele* von E. Gildemeister und Fr. Hoffmann, Dritte Auflage von E. Gildemeister. Bearbeitet im Auftrage der Schimmel & Co. Aktiengesellschaft, Miltitz bei Leipzig. Erster Band, pp. XVI, 864, mit zwei Karten und zahlreichen Abbildungen. Verlag der Schimmel & Co. Aktiengesellschaft, Miltitz bei Leipzig. (Fuer den Buchhandel: L. Staackmann, Leipzig), 1928. Price R. M. 28; in half leather binding, R. M. 32.

Under the caption "Pharmaceutical Bibliography, a Suggestion and an Illustration," the writer, a year ago, pointed out how co-

operative effort might be spent advantageously.<sup>1</sup> The subject "Volatile Oils" was chosen because it afforded an excellent illustration. This has been made possible through the efforts of Schimmel & Co. to cover the entire field in all of its aspects. Two years ago the firm celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its "Bericht." In 1923 the firm published "Einfache und Fraktionerte Destillation in

<sup>1</sup> THIS JOURNAL, 16, 327. For the complete paper see *N. Y. Apt.-Ztg.*, pp. 17, 36, 45 and 48.