

LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE.

POISONS MAILING BILL IS PASSED BY HOUSE.

The House has passed and sent to the Senate the bill (H. R. 10441) permitting the sending of poisons in the mails. This authority was given in 1909 but was inadvertently removed in 1920 when an amendment was added to the postal laws permitting the mailing of poisons and drugs to physicians and pharmacists. The amendment approved permits the Postmaster-General to prescribe packing requirements and to accept for mailing such generally prohibited articles as are not outwardly or of their own force dangerous or injurious to life, health or property.

MINERAL OIL IN FOOD PROHIBITED.

The Department of Agriculture has announced that Mineral Oil is not digested and assimilated; it has neither food nor condimental value; therefore, has no proper place in food products.

"Its use in foods, either as a substitute for edible oil in such products as mayonnaise, salad dressings or household flavors, or for other purposes lowers the food value of the finished product.

"This is expressly prohibited by the provision of the Federal Food and Drugs Act which define a food as adulterated if any substance has been mixed and packed with the article so as to reduce or lower or injuriously affect its quality or strength, or if any substance has been substituted wholly or in part for the article.

"Products containing mineral oil intended for the cure, mitigation or prevention of disease are drugs within the definition of that term set up by the act, and should be plainly and conspicuously labeled as such. No unwarranted therapeutic claims should appear upon the labels or be made otherwise in connection with the sale of such products."

GERMANY CONSIDERING RESTRICTION OF NARCOTIC MANUFACTURE.

It has been reported that the number of narcotic addicts in Germany is on the increase. It would seem that an accredited reason is manufacture beyond home medicinal needs. A Reichstag Committee passed by a large majority the following resolution:

"The Reich Government is requested to take the necessary measures to restrict the production of narcotic drugs in Germany

to the amount required for the combating of disease in Germany.

"The domestic requirements of Germany in opiates, reckoned on an alkaloid basis, are, according to the Reich's Health Office, 2400 kilograms a year; Germany's annual exports amount to 9520 kilograms. With regard to the movement in favor of restricting German production to domestic requirements, the Office pointed out that only very few countries produced alkaloids and that throughout the world there was a very considerable legitimate demand for medicinal purposes. The only producing countries were Great Britain, Switzerland, France and Japan."

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION RULES ON "CASTILE SOAP" DEFINITION.

On January 2nd, last, the Federal Trade Commission issued an order against James S. Kirk & Company, of Chicago, restraining it from using the word "Castile" and the phrase "Olive Oil Soap" to describe soap, the oil or fatty composition of which is not wholly derived from olives.

Commissioner William E. Humphrey entered a dissenting opinion with the order, in which he said, in part:

"I cannot agree that the facts in this case warrant the issuance of an order. In my judgment there is no evidence to sustain the contention that 'castile soap' in the United States means soap made exclusively of olive oil." He agreed with the trial examiner in the following:

"For 70 years in the United States it has been the ordinary, usual and general custom of all manufacturers of soap to use in the castile soap made and sold by them oils or fats other than olive oil, and there is no evidence whatever that there has been a soap called 'castile' made in the United States for toilet and general household purposes which was made exclusively of olive oil as its fat or oil ingredient. There have been throughout the whole of the period 'castile soaps' made from cocoanut oil exclusively—tallow and cocoanut oil—tallow, cocoanut oil and olive oil—cocoanut oil and olive oil—and various admixtures of these oils or fats." (T. E. Rec. pages 18, 19.)

He said further: "The definitions quoted from the Pharmacopœia and encyclopedias, which define castile soap as indicating a pure olive oil product, refer to it only as a medicine and not as a soap in the general acceptance of the word."