

22nd-26th. A very interesting program has been arranged for the meeting. S. Barksdale Penick is president of the Association, and Carson P. Frailey the secretary. The Section Chairmen are: *Scientific*, Paul S. Pittenger;

Biological, S. D. Beard; *Pharmaceutical*, Thurston Merrell; *Crude Drug*, F. A. Cornelius; *Medicinal Chemical*, George W. Merck.

An elaborate series of entertainment features have been planned for the convention.

LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE.

THE PARKER BILL HAS BECOME LAW.

As stated in an editorial of this issue the passage of the Parker Bill means that Government public health activities will be of greater service; also, it is a step in progress of national legislation wherein pharmacists have been given recognition. The Bill is printed on pages 202-204 of the February JOURNAL; a few amendments were made but these have no bearing on pharmacy.

The AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION and other organizations of the drug industries have actively cooperated with the author, the Congressional Committee and the Public Health Service in the promotion of this important measure. This Bill in its general scope and purpose is the same as that of the 70th Congress, which was passed by both Houses of Congress, but vetoed by President Coolidge, for reasons that have been corrected in this law.

At that time, the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION endeavored to have the designation "including pharmacists engaged on comparable duties" changed, so that it would agree with those of others recognized in the Bill. In the measure, as passed, and signed by President Hoover, provision is made, as will be noted by reading the enactment, for pharmacist officers of the Service on the same basis as to appointment, pay, promotion, disability privileges, etc., as for medical officers.

This is the first time in a number of years, that pharmacists have had recognition in national legislation and it is particularly pleasing that there are no inequalities; pharmacists are encouraged thereby that other pending bills will be successfully carried forward.

SALES OF MEDICINE IN LOUISIANA.

Article 442 of the Sanitary Code of Louisiana reads: "Sales of Medicines by Itinerant Vendors Prohibited. (a) No drug, drug preparation, instrument, device, apparatus or

article designed or intended for the relief or cure of any ailment or disease shall be sold or offered for sale by any itinerant vendor.

"(b) No official shall issue a permit or license authorizing the sale of preparations by an itinerant vendor."

That this statute is constitutional seems plain from a decision of the Supreme Court in 1914, sustaining a provision in the Louisiana laws of 1894 forbidding sales by itinerant vendors "of any drug, nostrum, ointment or application of any kind, intended for the treatment of disease or injury," although allowing sales by "all persons except itinerant vendors" of such articles "intended for the cure of diseases."—Clinton Robb Esq.—United Medicine Manufacturers of America.

PORTER BILL—H. R. 11,143.

Creation of a bureau of narcotics in the Treasury Department, to be headed by a commissioner of narcotics, is provided for in the Porter Bill (H. R. 11,143) passed by the House, April 7th.

The Bill was called up by the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, Representative Hawley of Salem, Oregon, who reported it to the House for that Committee. It was sponsored by Representative Porter, of Pittsburgh, Pa. The Bill now goes to the Senate.

A summary of the provisions of the Bill follow:

Section 1 creates a new bureau in the Treasury Department to be known as the Bureau of Narcotics and the office of Commissioner of Narcotics. The commissioner will be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and will receive a salary of \$9000 per annum. The commissioner is required to make an annual report to Congress.

Section 2 authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to appoint one deputy commissioner without regard to the civil service laws and, under the civil service laws, such officers and employees as are necessary to perform the

duties vested in the Bureau. The salaries of the deputy commissioner and of all officers and employees shall be fixed in accordance with the Classification Act of 1923. The number of officers and employees appointed, of course, will be limited by the appropriations made available by Congress. In case of the absence or disability of the Commissioner of Narcotics or if there is a vacancy in the office of commissioner, the deputy commissioner shall act as commissioner. In the case of the absence or disability of the commissioner and deputy commissioner, or if there is a vacancy in the offices of commissioner and deputy commissioner, the Secretary is authorized to designate an officer or employee of the Treasury Department to act as commissioner, in order that there will be at all times an officer having power to perform the functions of the commissioner.

Subdivision (b) of Section 2 authorizes the Commissioner of Narcotics, subject to regulations by the Secretary of the Treasury, to confer or impose upon officers or employees of the Bureau of Narcotics any of the rights, privileges, powers or duties of customs officers.

Under subdivision (a) of Section 3 the Federal Narcotics Control Board established by the narcotic drugs import and export act is abolished, and all of the authority, powers and functions of the board are vested in the Commissioner of Narcotics. The Federal Narcotics Control Board as now established is composed of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Commerce.

Under the act entitled "An act to create a Bureau of Customs and a Bureau of Prohibition in the Department of the Treasury," approved March 3, 1927, the administration of all laws relating to narcotic drugs imposed upon the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, his officers and agents was imposed upon the Secretary of the Treasury. He in turn was authorized to delegate any of such rights, privileges, powers and duties upon the Commissioner of Prohibition. Subdivision (b) of Section 3 authorizes the Secretary to confer or impose any of such rights, privileges, powers and duties upon the Commissioner of Narcotics or any officer or employee of the Bureau of Narcotics.

Under subdivision (c) of Section 3 the office of deputy commissioner in charge of narcotics of the Bureau of Prohibition is abolished and

the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to transfer to the Bureau of Narcotics such personnel, except the Commissioner of Prohibition, the assistant commissioner and the deputy commissioner in charge of prohibition, and such records and office equipment, as may be necessary for the exercise by the Bureau of Narcotics of the functions vested in it.

Subdivision (d) of Section 3 authorizes the transfer of unexpended balances of appropriation from the Bureau of Prohibition to the Bureau of Narcotics. Subdivision (e) provides for the continuing in effect of orders, rules and regulations with respect to laws relating to narcotic drugs issued by the Commissioner of Prohibition or the Federal Narcotics Control Board. Subdivision (f) provides for the transfer of pending proceedings, investigations and other matters in the Bureau of Prohibition and the Federal Narcotics Control Board to the Bureau of Narcotics.

The effect of subdivision (a) of Section 4 is to change the name of the narcotics division in the office of the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service to the division of mental hygiene and to provide that the medical officer in charge of such division shall have the rank and receive the pay and allowances of an Assistant Surgeon General.

Subdivision (b) authorizes the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service to make studies and investigations of the abusive use of all narcotic drugs and of the quantities of certain narcotic drugs which are necessary to supply the normal and emergency medical and scientific requirements of the United States and of the causes, prevalence and means for the prevention and treatment of mental and nervous diseases. He is required to report to the Secretary of the Treasury on or before the first day of September in each year results of his investigations. Such results are to be made available to the commissioner of narcotics to be used by him in determining the amounts of crude opium and coca leaves to be imported under the narcotic drugs import and export act.

Subdivision (c) authorizes the appointment by the Secretary of the Treasury of such professional, technical and clerical assistants as may be necessary to aid the Surgeon General in making such studies and investigations.

Section 5 provides for an appeal from the Commissioner of Narcotics to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Section 6 amends the definition of "narcotic drug" for the purposes of the narcotic drugs import and export act in order to permit the importation into this country of decocainized coca leaves. The reasons for this provision are stated elsewhere in this report.

In order to aid the Secretary of State in discharging international obligations of the United States concerning the traffic in narcotic drugs, the Secretary of the Treasury, under Section 7 of the Bill, is authorized to cooperate with the Secretary of State.

In compliance with Paragraph 2a of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by Section 6 of the Bill are shown as follows: Existing laws proposed to be omitted is inclosed in

brackets; new matter is printed in italics; existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman.

(a) The term "narcotic drug" means [opium, coca leaves, cocaine], *opium or coca leaves, or any compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, or preparation [of opium, coca leaves or cocaine] thereof, except that such term shall not include (1) coca leaves which do not contain cocaine, ecgonine, or any salt, derivative or preparation from which cocaine or ecgonine may be synthesized or made; (2) any salt, derivative or preparation of coca leaves which does not contain cocaine, ecgonine or any ingredient or ingredients from which cocaine or ecgonine may be synthesized or made.*

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Applied Pharmacology. By A. J. CLARK, Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacology in the University of Edinburgh; Third Edition, Philadelphia, P. Blakiston's Son & Co., Inc., 1929, 529 pages.

The textbook before us commands the special attention of every one acquainted with pharmacology because it is written by the successor of A. Cushny, formerly professor of pharmacology at the University of Edinburgh and the author of what has been for many years the most widely used text on pharmacology in England and America. It is interesting to compare the treatment of the same science by Cushny and his successor.

Even a superficial examination of the compact, well-printed book of some five hundred pages reveals that the writer has attempted to give a succinct and, at the same time, up-to-date presentation of his specialty. A closer examination of the reading matter, however, discloses what is to be expected in case of every textbook in any department of science, that while "Applied Pharmacology" may be extremely up-to-date in some respects, it is regrettably inadequate in others and particularly when treating of matters with which the author has not had first-hand experimental acquaintance.

The method of classification in the present textbook is almost entirely a physiological one and follows the lines laid down by the well-known German work of Meyer and Gottlieb rather than those indicated by Cushny. The physiological subdivision of the various topics obviously presents many advantages, especially

from the practical standpoint of therapeutics. On the other hand, it has its disadvantages because, under the circumstances, the treatment of some of the most important drugs must be scattered through the book. Thus, for instance, we find opium and morphine discussed piecemeal in at least four different chapters. Morphine is described in Chapter IX together with aliphatic narcotics. It is classed with delirifacient and habit-producing drugs in Chapter X. The opium alkaloids crop up again in the discussion of the pharmacology of the alimentary canal, Chapter XIII, and, once more, another cardinal indication for the therapeutic use of morphine and the related alkaloids requires treatment in Chapter XVIII, which deals with the pharmacology of respiration.

Clark's pharmacology embodies in its text, to the great gratification of the reviewer, several chapters on subjects of paramount importance, which have hitherto received but scant consideration in most of the recent textbooks of pharmacology. Perhaps the most important of these is Chapter XXVII which devotes sixteen pages to the pharmacological action of radiations. This subject, which we may term "photopharmacology," is, in our opinion, destined to play a greater and greater rôle in the development of pharmacological science. Here we have a brief but excellent description of the electro-magnetic radiations, ultraviolet light, radium radiations and X-rays, action of various radiations on living tissues, malignant growths, etc., and a general discussion of the therapeutic