

the main office. The doctors are employed at all times by the company and the physician and surgeon give all of their time to the defendant corporation.

All the doctors are required to report to a chief surgeon at the head office. The corporation makes a charge for the services rendered by the doctor whenever a case is closed. The doctor himself makes no charge and the doctors at various stations are not permitted to treat any private cases of their own and only do the work of the corporation.

JUDGE HOLDS EIGHTEENTH AMENDMENT INVALID BECAUSE OF ILLEGAL RATIFICATION.

Judge William Clark, of United States District Court of New Jersey, on December 16th handed down a decision in which he held that the Eighteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution is void, because ratified by state legislatures instead of conventions called in the states for such purpose, since amendments which are designed to transfer to the United States powers reserved to the states, or, if there are any such, to the people, must be ratified by conventions and not legislatures, in view of the character of the delegates to, and the deliberations in a constitutional convention, as compared with the character of the personnel of state legislatures in view of the character of the delegates to, and the deliberations in, a constitutional convention, as compared with the character of the personnel of state legislatures and their deliberations, notwithstanding the language of Article V which provides for ratification by legislatures "or by conventions," since such language can be taken as modified by the principles of political science, and since Congress, in submitting a proposed amendment, acts in an administrative capacity and the submission of the proposed amendment to

legislatures instead of conventions constituted an abuse of discretion.—United States *vs.* Sprague, *et al.* (D. C., D. N. J.)

A decision contrary to the conclusion reached by Judge Clark was handed down on Jan. 5th by the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit by a unanimous opinion written by Circuit Judge Manton. Counsel for the defendant in this case announced that an appeal would be sought from the decision to the Supreme Court. The appeal from Judge Clark's decision was taken directly to the Supreme Court, under provisions of the Judicial Code, without the usual intermediate appeal to a Circuit Court of Appeals.

DENATURED ALCOHOL.

Effective January 1, 1931, completely denatured alcohol formula No. 5 is to be compounded as follows:

To every 100 parts by volume of ethyl alcohol of not less than 160° proof, add:

- 1 part by volume of the compound, or one similar thereto, known as aldehyd grade A.
- 1.25 parts by volume of the compound, or one similar thereto, known as alcotate.

Compounding of completely denatured alcohol under formula No. 1 was suspended, effective January 1, 1931.

GERMAN APOTHECARIES' SOCIETY.

The N. Y. German Apothecaries' Society has elected the following officers: *President*, Otto P. M. Canis; *First Vice-President*, Carl Benken-dorfer; *Second Vice-President*, Waldemar Nemser; *Recording Secretary*, Eugene Dutz; *Treasurer*, Paul Wellenberger; *Archivist and Librarian*, Carl F. Schleussner; *Counsellor at Law*, Hieronimus A. Harold; *Society's Chemist*, Friedrich Klein; *Members of Executive Committee* (Trustees), Carl F. Schleussner, Frederick Schaefer, Robert S. Lehman.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Handbuch der Pharmakognosie. By A. TSCHIRCH. Second Edition. Parts I-V have been issued. Price, each part, 8 marks. Bernard Tauchnitz, Leipzig, 1930. The completed work will represent about 30 parts.

It is now more than fifteen years since the first parts of the comprehensive work bearing the above titles were issued and although apparently brought to completion in 1917, owing to conditions caused by the War the

final parts were not made available in this country until 1920. When the first edition was completed favorable comment was made and the author congratulated on the completion of so stupendous a task. It now seems opportune, when the second edition is nearing completion, on which so much time and labor have been bestowed, that it should be brought more generally to notice in order that the work may receive a wider recognition and

appreciation which it merits. Those not acquainted with the work may secure a descriptive circular from the publishers or obtain Part I for inspection.

In the preparation of the second edition the first serves a useful purpose in the revision, enhanced, because of the fact that Dr. Tschirch has secured the collaboration of a corps of scientists, each author an expert in the work with which he deals. The revision may be termed a new edition, because the revision has been done so thoroughly and there is much new material. We note Prof. P. Casparis, well-known for his numerous researches on the chemical constituents of drugs, has undertaken the revision of this section. Prof. Eduard Fischer (Bern) that of the diseases of plants; pharmacist H. Kutter (Flavil) those of animals; Dr. H. Flück (Zurich) contributes an article on micro-photography. Dr. E. Gilg (Berlin), a former collaborator with Engler, assists with his knowledge of botany; Dr. W. Himmelbaur (Vienna) who with Prof. de Graaff (Utrecht) has taken an active interest in the establishment of an international association for promoting the cultivation of medicinal plants, deals with this subject. Dr. J. A. Häfliger (Basel), devotes his attention to the historical section. Dr. L. Winkler (Innsbruck), a specialist in animal drugs, has undertaken the extension and revision of this section. Pharmacist Teofil Tugendhold (Lodz) writes on duties and price schedules. The chapter on drug business and drug packaging is taken care of by Julius Grossmann (Hamburg). A new chapter dealing with pharmacocytology and genetics has been prepared by Dr. P. Schurhoff (Berlin). Dr. Edmund von Lippmann, who contributed to the first edition, is also engaged on this revision; he is well known for his writings on the history of chemistry. Dr. A. von Lingelsheim (Breslau) writes on substitution and adulteration, and Dr. L. Kofler (Innsbruck) on the pharmacology of drugs. A new addition is the chapter on "Homeopathy" in which quite a number of medicinal plants are described.

It is impossible, within the limits of these pages, to undertake a comprehensive review of a work of such magnitude. A general outline will, therefore, have to suffice.

The first volume of the "Handbuch" is devoted to general pharmacognosy and under this title the following subjects are considered: Definitions and aims of pharmacognosy,

culture and collection of medicinal plants, trade routes in ancient and modern times; treatment of drugs at the port of entry, and the extent of their production and export; commercial sorting and packing; pharmacognostical systems and bibliography; instruction in pharmacognosy; examination of drugs for identity and purity and their preservation; description of drugs; the auxiliary sciences, such as botany, zoölogy, chemistry physics, geography and history in their application to the study of pharmacognosy. It may safely be stated that the subject of pharmacognosy in all of its connections has not received so elaborate an exposition as in the "Handbuch." It need not be told that Professor Tschirch is an outstanding authority on the subject, resulting from his long experience; his illustrative and instructive methods are known to all who are interested in the subject of pharmacognosy in its broadest aspects or applications.

Every subject is comprehensively treated and, as far as possible, illustrated. We are quoting another reviewer in the following:

"The section on the cultivation and collection of medicinal plants is, in particular, especially interesting; it is arranged according to countries, illustrated by numerous maps and plates and accompanied by lists of the plants grown in various districts. The question of the profit that may be expected is gone into thoroughly, the general conclusion being that those medicinal plants for which there is a demand, when grown in small quantities, give a higher return than average agricultural produce. In view of the attention now being given to the cultivation of medicinal plants and the difficulty experienced in this country in the past in marketing small parcels, this section is deserving of careful consideration. It gives an admirable survey of the extent and distribution of the industry, and is accompanied by numerous literary references, particularly subsequent to the establishment in Paris of the Comité Interministeriel des Plantes Médicinales et a Essences. If the congresses on this subject that have recently been held result in the establishment of a central station for experiments in the possibility of obtaining by selection, hybridizing, or other means medicinal plants of maximum activity and of controlling them by botanical, chemical or other means, a new era for plant cultivation may be opened."

The illustrations are fine and informative.