

LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE.

NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS PHARMACY LAW.

Further argument on the constitutionality of the New York Pharmacy Law was held before Justice Lewis on October 2nd wherein the previous ruling was upheld. Among the points in the decision are, that since January first, 1928, the practice of licensing pharmacists in New York was abolished entirely.

In the discussion of the law by Attorney Joseph J. Hammer, he states "Once it is realized that the druggist cannot perform the functions of a pharmacist, no greater reason exists for permitting him to own a pharmacy than for permitting the ordinary layman. In the words of the court an important consideration is that the injury to the public be proven and the surest and safest way of preventing that injury is expressed that the proprietor of a pharmacy should know his business. It might just as well be argued that the licensed druggist be permitted to practice dentistry by employing dentists and in the event the dentist violates any of the practices of his profession, the license of the druggist be revoked. It is of the essence of the practice of any profession that the complete and full responsibility be placed upon the professional himself. The only way this can be insured in the operation of pharmacies is by the method adopted by the legislature, namely, that the pharmacy be owned by a pharmacist."

CONGRESSMEN TO STUDY CANADIAN SALES TAX.

A congressional delegation of about 100 representatives have accepted the W. R. Hearst invitation for a 6-day tour in Canada to study the operation of sales tax legislation now in force in the Dominion. The information thus obtained will be at the disposal of Congress when it arrives at consideration of sales tax legislation expected to be proposed at the forthcoming session.

PROPOSED NETHERLANDS REGULATIONS GOVERNING MEDICINAL TRADE.

All medicinals offered for sale in the Netherlands, with the exceptions the Government may make, will be required to show their full and correct formulas on the packing if the new bill before the Dutch Parliament becomes law. The Government will be permitted also to

prohibit printing on the wrappers or labels claims which give the impression that the medicinal or pharmaceutical preparation can cure, relieve or prevent contagious diseases (which will be listed later) or other maladies or disabilities if the Government is of the opinion the product is detrimental to health. (Commercial Attache Jesse F. Van Wickel, The Hague.)

LABEL DESCRIBING VITAMIN CONTENT.

Dr. H. C. Sherwood of Columbia University in an address before the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, pointed out the need for regulations requiring all foods which purport to be sources of vitamins to bear the label specifying the exact amount of vitamins which the article contains.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE OPIUM QUESTION.

At the Bangkok Conference the American Consul John K. Caldwell, stated relative to smoking opium that the United States, while prepared to lend a practical aid to measures directed toward suppression of the distinctive vice, the Government of the United States is not prepared to follow a line similar and concurrent with that followed by other governments so long as these other governments elect to retain the monopoly system and are not willing to attempt prohibition.

RUTHRAUFF PATENTS FOR DENTIFRICES IN COURT.

In an opinion by the district court in Delaware (D) certain patent claims for dentifrices are found void by the court on the ground that novelty and utility are lacking. In concluding his decision the Judge stated that there is no patentable invention involved in the patents in suit and that they are therefore invalid, hence the bill of complaint was dismissed.

NORTH CAROLINA CHAIN STORE TAX UPHOLD.

The Supreme Court in a decision handed down October 26th upheld the North Carolina Chain Store Tax which imposes an annual assessment of \$50.00 on each store when more than one is operated by a single individual or country.

SEPARATION OF MEDICINES AND PHARMACY IN JAPAN.

The Japan Pharmacy Act provides that no one excepting pharmacists shall be permitted to prepare medicine; this has brought about considerable discussion. Physicians state that loss from such prohibition would seriously affect their income and have recently begun a campaign against the provision.

ANALYSIS OF MEDICINALS IN SWITZERLAND.

The Pharmaceutical Institute at Berne is increasing its field of activity by undertaking the analyses and control of all medicinal preparations to be sold in Switzerland and to supply reports to those affected. The service of this institution will be available to medical practitioners, hospitals, research stations, pharmacists, benefit societies and manufacturers.

CANADA BARS ASPIRIN.

Goods marked with, or in containers which are marked with, the word or trade-mark, "Aspirin," or any palpable imitation thereof are prohibited importation into Canada, according to information sent to the Department of Commerce by the assistant commercial attaché at Ottawa. Acetylsalicylic acid may be imported, provided it is not marked "Aspirin" or any palpable imitation thereof.

SOUTH CAROLINA DRUG STORES.

South Carolina, according to the United States Census Bureau, has 217 drug stores without soda fountains; 319 with soda fountains. The sales of the drug stores without fountains for 1929 amounted to \$4,036,730, \$2.32 per capita. The stores with fountains, \$7,849,138, \$4.51 per capita.

SESSIONS OF LEGISLATURES.

Congress meets early in December; Illinois Legislature met November 5th, Pennsylvania November 9th; Wisconsin will soon meet in called session. The following legislatures will convene in regular session in 1932: Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Virginia, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey and South Carolina.

THE MISSISSIPPI CHAIN STORE TAX.

The Mississippi sales and chain store tax law was made ineffective by an injunction pending litigation regarding its constitutionality, the Supreme Court decided in upholding an injunction against the law granted by the Federal court for the southern district of Mississippi.

The Mississippi law provides a tax of one-fourth of one per cent on retail sales of all dealers in the state and an additional one-fourth of one per cent on sales of chains operating five or more stores.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

The Colorimetric and Potentiometric Determination of p_H. By I. M. KOLTHOFF, PH.D., Professor of Analytical Chemistry in the University of Minnesota. John Wiley & Sons Inc., New York City, 1931. XI + 167 pages, 35 figs., 15 x 23 cm. Price \$2.25.

This book is a treatise from the pen of a capable and prolific author. In it the fundamentals of acid-base equilibria of solutions, and indicators are discussed as Part I of the volume. The second portion of the book deals with the theory of electrode potentials, the technique of potentiometric measurements, the measurement of hydrogen-ion concentration and potentiometric titrations. The last section of the manual treats of conductometric titrations, to which is appended a practical course embracing the contents of the three divisions of the book.

Although the larger well-known treatises on the subject of hydrogen-ion concentration are

well suited for reference purposes, they are not particularly well adapted for use as textbooks for students. Herein this volume fills a very useful requirement. It is a working volume for the student and practical worker in the field. The book serves adequately as guide to lectures and laboratory exercises for a course in this branch of physical chemistry as it is applied to any of the biological sciences. The necessity for such an applied course becomes more cogent each year as a knowledge of the principles of acid-base equilibria places in his hands a most potent tool of investigation. Possibly more applications of the work to specialized fields would increase the interest of the applied student in the text.

The author's style is direct and precise. The student is not inundated by the mathematics. The volume seems to be admirably suited for courses of instruction for advanced students in pharmacy.—JOHN C. KRANTZ, JR.