

LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE.

POLICY OF THE NEW BUREAU OF NARCOTICS.*

"It has been the policy of the new Bureau of Narcotics to direct major enforcement effort toward detecting and preventing, *first*, the smuggling of narcotic drugs into the country and, *second*, the interstate distribution of such illicit narcotics as may have escaped detection at ports and borders. This policy contemplates, of course, the active and continuous coöperation of the state authorities in controlling the retail illicit traffic within their borders as well as in the treatment and cure of their own drug addicts.

"It is desired to urge the importance of securing such state coöperation and I wish to assure on behalf of the Bureau that its representatives have been and are ready and willing to lend all possible aid to the state authorities in this connection.

"As an illustration of the measure of efficiency of the new policy, Federal officers seized from illicit traffic during 1930, of morphine alone, 26,492 ounces, or more than seven times as much of this particular drug as was seized under the former enforcement policy during the calendar year 1929.

"It is a fair estimate that the average daily dosage of a drug addict equals six grains of morphine, or an annual dosage per addict of 2190 grains. At this rate, the seizure of morphine alone during the calendar year 1930 removed from the illicit market the annual dosage of 5292 narcotic drug addicts.

MAIN SUPPLY SMUGGLED.

"The principal supply of narcotics for the illicit market in this country is represented by the quantities smuggled or unlawfully introduced into the United States from abroad. These drugs appear to be readily procurable in certain foreign manufacturing countries, and there can be no doubt that there exists abroad at least a substantial over-production, or manufacture of narcotics in excess of the world's medical needs.

"Consequently, a conference has been called at Geneva in May 1931, to consider a plan or a convention for the limitation of manufacture to that sufficient for the world's medical needs. To arrive at a conclusion which will be satis-

factory to all parties and at the same time will represent an effective and lasting restriction of drug manufacture to the purpose stated involves the consideration of many perplexing questions but it is the hope of all who are interested in the solution of the great humanitarian problem of stamping out narcotic drug addiction that such an international agreement will finally be reached, and made effective."

CONFERENCE ON THE LIMITATION OF THE MANUFACTURE OF NARCOTIC DRUGS.

The Conference on the Limitation of the Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs will meet in Geneva, May 27th. It is stated that this conference will not only discuss plans for directly limiting the quantities of opium and coca leaf derivatives to be manufactured but will also consider measures for widening the scope of the existing control of distribution and for rendering that control stricter and more effective, in view of the altered conditions which will have to be made when the quantities manufactured are reduced.

COPIES OF PERMITS TO BE POSTED IN VEHICLES TRANSPORTING INTOXICATING LIQUORS.

Section 1816, Prohibition Regulations No. 2, requires that "wherever liquors are transported other than by rail there shall be posted in or on the vehicle of transportation, or be in the possession of the person in charge thereof, a duly certified copy of the basic permit under which such transportation is authorized." This section is construed by the authorities to require that trucks used by wholesale druggists in the delivery of liquors shall have posted in or on them duly certified copies of basic permits, or that such copies shall be at all times in the possession of the drivers thereof. The regulations further provide that the "absence of such copy shall be prima facie evidence that the liquor is being illegally transported and justification for the detention of such vehicle and liquors."

The necessity for complying with the above requirements is further emphasized by the fact that in the latest draft of the revision of Regulations No. 2, prepared by the Government experts, Section 1816 is reproduced practically without change.

* Parts of an address by Commissioner Harry J. Anslinger.

COLONEL ROBERT U. PATTERSON
APPOINTED SURGEON GENERAL
U. S. ARMY.

President Hoover on May 12th approved the recommendation of Secretary Hurley for the appointment of Colonel Robert U. Patterson of the Medical Corps to be Surgeon General of the Army, with the rank of Major General. He was appointed for four years to succeed Major Gen. Merritte W. Ireland, who will retire May 31st.

Colonel Patterson, a Canadian by birth, was appointed Assistant Surgeon in 1901 from Maryland. He served in the Philippine Islands for nearly three years and earned two citations for gallantry in action.

ENFORCEMENT OF FOOD AND DRUGS
ACT IS AIDED BY LARGER
APPROPRIATION.

"The Federal Food and Drug Administration plans no change in regulatory policy but will follow, in its enforcement of the Food and Drugs Act, procedure already well established," says W. G. Campbell, Director of Regulatory Work, U. S. Department of Agriculture. "The increase of \$181,973 in working funds made available to the Administration for the fiscal year 1932, will be used," says Mr. Campbell, "to augment enforcement facilities and personnel, and to initiate regulatory control in certain fields." "An expanded control program," he says, "will entail change neither in administrative procedure in enforcing the act, nor in what enforcing officials conceive to be the philosophy of that act."

"Recent increases in the number of criminal prosecutions brought by the department against violators of the national pure food law do not indicate modification of the policy of the Administration," Mr. Campbell said. Explaining that the primary purpose of the Administration is not to multiply legal actions through seizure and criminal prosecution, but to protect the public and, incidentally, the honorable manufacturer, by preventing the sale and shipment interstate of adulterated and misbranded foods and drugs. The increase in the number of criminal prosecutions instituted against violators in recent months he attributed to the

fact that enforcement procedure has been speeded up by added working funds granted by Congress. An appropriation increase for the fiscal year 1931, he said, made possible more adequate coverage of the food and drug fields, and the substantial addition to funds which will be available during the fiscal year 1932 will naturally bring about further corrective actions. "Change in the food and drug industries is constant," said Mr. Campbell. "New products and new operators are always appearing, making imperative progressive expansion of Food-and-Drugs-Act-enforcement facilities."

OPIUM TRADE AND WAR IN CHINA.

The city of Ichang, which is at the lower end of the famous gorges of the Yangtse River and roughly 1000 miles from Shanghai and the sea, is to-day one of the greatest opium-handling ports in the world, and officialdom and militarism hereabout look to opium revenues for most of their support.

Chungking, nearly 1400 miles from the sea and the head of steam navigation on the Yangtse for all except large launches, gets first profit from opium grown in the interior of Szechuan—a province larger than France and with a population estimated at from 50,000,000 to 60,000,000. The large city of Wanhsien, half way down-river between Chungking and Ichang, levies its own toll on shipments originating at Chungking and besides obtains a large revenue from poppies grown between Wanhsien and Chungking.

DRUG STORES IN GERMANY.

The total value of German prescription drug store business, according to official German statistics, amounts to \$92,000,000 annually. This figure accounts only for prescription drug stores (Apotheken) which in Germany form a distinct branch of business dealing exclusively in medicines. There were 6446 "apotheken" in Germany in 1927, with an average annual turnover of \$14,160. About \$42,000,000 worth of annual sales represented deliveries to sickness-insurance societies and their members. (Consul General W. L. Lowrie, Frankfort-on-the-Main.)

FIRST AID IN FRANCE.

Several years ago a French pharmacist was requisitioned by the municipal authorities of Grenoble to attend a wounded man. The pharmacist refused to do so, and the case was taken into court, where judgment was rendered against him. Seemingly the case was to try out the legality of giving first aid in pharmacies.