

LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE.

MEDICAL BILLS IN CONGRESS.

H. R. 1718, introduced by Representative Celler, New York, and relating to the prescribing of medicinal liquors, has been ordered favorably reported by the sub-committee of the House Committee on the Judiciary. This bill is sponsored by the American Medical Association. H. J. Res. 4, introduced by Representative Blanton, Texas, proposes to direct the President of the United States to use the army, navy and marine corps, the militia of the several states and the resources of the Government in suppressing all smuggling into the United States of intoxicating liquors and narcotics.

FORGED PRESCRIPTION LEGISLATION.

Article 27, Section 65, Maryland Annotated Code, reads: "If any person shall falsely make, alter, forge or counterfeit, or cause or procure to be falsely made, altered, forged or counterfeited, or shall willingly aid or assist in falsely making, altering, forging or counterfeiting, or shall utter or pass, knowing it to be falsely made, altered, forged or counterfeited, any order, paper, letter writing, prescription, recipe or other device purporting to have been made by a regular practising physician, for any drugs, medicines, spirituous or fermented liquors, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction in any court in this state shall be sentenced to the jail, the house of correction or penitentiary, for not less than six months nor more than two years in the discretion of the court. If, upon trial of any person charged with, or indicted for such misdemeanor, it shall appear that he paid for, or offered or promised to pay for, the drugs, medicine, spirituous liquor or fermented liquor obtained by means of such falsely made, altered, forged or counterfeited order, paper, letter writing, prescription, recipe or other device purporting to have been made by a regular practising physician, he shall not by reason thereof be acquitted of such misdemeanor."

TRADE COMMISSION RULES THAT EFFECT OF ARMAND POLICY CONSTITUTES RESTRICTIVE AGREEMENTS.

The Federal Trade Commission has issued a cease and desist order, against the Armand

Company, requiring the company to stop its methods of maintaining resale prices. Final argument in the case had been heard nearly eleven months ago.

The announced Armand policy of preventing Armand goods from reaching price-cutters resulted in definite agreements to maintain prices and distribution channels in six specific instances, the commission found, and, as agreements to maintain prices are illegal, the commission ordered the company to cease the practice.

The Armand plan was very carefully worked out in an attempt to stay within the law which permits manufacturers to refuse to sell to price-cutters or others as it chooses, and to make known its policy in this respect, but which forbids agreements to maintain prices or restrain trade. The company apparently made every effort to prevent procedure under its policy from being considered an agreement to abide by the policy, making all transactions wholly voluntary, but the commission cited six instances where it was declared an unwritten agreement resulted.

The order is against "entering into or procuring either directly or indirectly from wholesale or retail dealers contracts, agreements, understandings, promises or assurances" that resale prices will be maintained or that Armand goods will not be sold to price-cutters.

An appeal is planned. The energetic interest of Armand Company offers encouragement.

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS.

The Florida Chain Store Tax was declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court. Judge Brandeis dissented. "In his opinion," the judge stated, "true prosperity comes through the courage, the energy and the resourcefulness of small men." By giving them opportunities for leadership, can confidence in our future be restored and the existing misery be overcome. He knew of nothing in the Federal Constitution which precluded the state from subjecting corporate chains to discriminatory license fees.

A ruling of the Attorney General of Texas declares Section 14 of the State Pharmacy Law unconstitutional, namely, that part of the annual renewal fees of pharmacy certificates which provide that these fees be paid to Texas Pharmaceutical Association, in the manner

named in the law. Fortunately a provision of the law is to the effect that if a part of the law is declared unconstitutional the part not coming under the ruling is in force.

A California bill prohibits secret payments of rebates and discounts; another, requires a complete formula on packages of cosmetics.

A New Hampshire bill amends the Food and Drug Act by adding to the definition of drugs, "any article for cleansing or enhancing the appearance of the person." If this bill becomes a law it might result in only pharmacists being permitted to sell cosmetics.

A California bill makes "one-to-a customer" sales illegal.

Lewis K. Liggett Company filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy March 31st in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL ALCOHOL TRANSFER PROTESTED.

Chairman S. L. Hilton of the Council of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION has addressed President Franklin D. Roosevelt, protesting against the transfer of the Bureau of Industrial Alcohol to the Department of Justice. He pointed out that this particular phase of the question is a revenue and not a police measure and properly belongs to the Internal Revenue Bureau of the Treasury Department; that this Department has the trained personnel to efficiently and economically handle the permissive and revenue features by reason of long experience. The request is made that the transfer be given serious consideration and that it be retained as at present organized under the Treasury Department.

UNIQUE PROFESSIONAL PHARMACY OPENED.

The *Northwestern Druggist* describes the Prescription Pharmacy, a unique drug dispensary, which opened for business in Madison, January 5th. Silver-grey birch fixtures of modern design, with black and silver trim, set the color scheme for the front section of the store. Harmonizing lounge furniture, in early American style, provides a comfortable waiting-room. Colorful show globes and gleaming mortars and pestles bring into this modern setting the atmosphere of the old apothecary shop.

The opening window display presented the story of quinine, featured a cinchona map

drawn by Laura Kremers, as well as several cinchona specimens and cinchona derivatives, and was installed by E. J. Ireland. It will be followed by similar historical and professional displays. Show-cases in the store hold collections of valuable drug bottles, crude drugs, fine glass apparatus and other professional equipment. The prescription room is finished in ivory; an interesting collection of pharmaceutical literature is available at all times to any one for reference or reading.

Samuel R. Chechik, manager of the pharmacy, is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and was awarded his Ph.D. degree in 1931 following seven years of study and research. For the past year he has been affiliated with the University staff as assistant chemist of the pharmaceutical experimental station; several contributions from him have appeared in the JOURNAL A. PH. A.

Mr. Chechik says, "We hope to revive the original conception of pharmacy, modern in every detail."

PERIODICITY OF INFLUENZA.

Since 1920, periodicity, or at least approximate periodicity, has been a striking characteristic of influenza epidemics, a fact to which attention is called in a recent issue of the *Metropolitan Statistical Bulletin*. It is cited that 1920 was an exceptionally bad influenza year; and that in 1923, 1926 and 1929 peaks in the influenza death-rate curve were in evidence.

If this three-year cycle had continued with exactitude, another peak in the mortality rate would have been in evidence for the year 1932. Influenza in epidemic form did not, however, make its appearance in 1932 until early November; and there is no indication that a sufficient number of fatal cases were recorded to account for another peak death rate, especially in view of the very low influenza rate which prevailed during the first ten months of the year. It is entirely possible, nevertheless, that a peak will be registered for 1933, especially if influenza mortality continues to increase at the rate observed during the closing weeks of 1932.

Up to the present time there are no indications that the influenza cases now prevailing are of the virulent type which characterized the major outbreaks of 1918 and 1920.
