

Looking at the past, it might be concluded that pharmacognosy was a study of crude drugs of plant and animal origin. I would like, however, to suggest that in the past, though crude drugs were studied in pharmacy schools, it was not because they were crude drugs but because they were the simple drugs of that time. An interpretation of this sort welcomes the advances made in chemistry in isolating definite chemical compounds from crude animal and plant drugs.

I propose a definition for pharmacognosy based on the needs of students of pharmacy. I feel that there has always been, and is now, a definite need for a subject which will acquaint and familiarize the pharmacy student with the simple drugs used in medical practice. It then becomes a fundamental subject which besides other things fortifies the man behind the prescription counter against possible error in handling simple drugs.

The interpretation I propose is—"pharmacognosy is the history of simple drugs derived from contemporary plants and animals."

CAPPER-KELLY FAIR TRADE BILL.

Senate bill 497 and H. R. 3677 define the intent of anti-trust laws as to certain agreements. Indications are for enactment of this legislation which provides "that nothing in the Clayton Act shall be deemed to prevent a grocer, producer or dealer selling goods identified by a special brand name or trade-mark of which he is the owner from specifying by agreement with distributors the re-sale price of such identified merchandise, which prices stipulated in any such agreement shall be uniform to all distributors in like circumstances, differing only as to the quantity of such merchandise sold, the point of delivery and the manner of settlement."

The Supreme Court of the United States recently handed down an opinion in which it is held that a coöperative enterprise otherwise free from objection, which carries with it no monopolistic menace is not to be condemned as an undue restraint merely because it may affect a change in market conditions where the change would be in mitigation of recognized evils and would not impair but rather foster fair competitive prices. The opinion stresses that there must not be unreasonable restraint of trade or an attempt to monopolize.

There seems to be a growing approval of removing trade restrictions and at the same time establishing uniformity in prices.

Along with a special "150th Anniversary Supplement" (1783-1933), the *Glasgow Herald* has issued a reproduction of the first issue on January 27, 1783, of its precursor, the *Glasgow Advertiser*. Among its eleven advertisements there are two of pharmaceutical interest. One of them is by the widow of a gardener to the College, who offers medicinal herbs of all kinds and distilled waters of cinnamon, peppermint, pennyroyal, mint and hyssop, with an N. B. that she has already begun to sell herb ale as formerly during the season, and J. Gillies, bookseller, above the Cross, announces that he is sole agent for Essence of Peppermint, by His Majesty's Royal Letters Patent, prepared by J. Juniper, Nottingham, an "elegant preparation" for the "immediate" relief of "gouty and cholicky pains in the stomach and bowels, low headache and all disorders arising from wind." It is said to "recommend itself to all families and travellers by land and sea," and the public are warned against "base counterfeits." We learn from other sources that at this period nearly all proprietary medicines were sold in Glasgow by booksellers and stationers. From—*Pharmaceutical Journal & Pharmacist*.