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OFFICERS OF THE JAPAN PHARMACISTS' UNION.

At the 13th general meeting of the Japan Pharmacists' Union, held January 18th and 19th, in Tokyo, Dr. Kametaro Kawai was reelected president; the vice-presidents are Kimyiro Ishii and Buro Ogimura. President Kawai considered national health insurance most important and, unless separation of medical and pharmaceutical practice is brought about, pharmacists would be seriously affected, because physicians, without such restrictive provision, would supply medicines and cut deeply into the income of pharmacists.

AMERICAN DRUGGISTS' FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The annual meeting of the American Druggists' Fire Insurance Co. was held February 11th-13th. This was the 30th anniversary of the company; dinner was served at the Cincinnati Club and Dr. James H. Beal was persuaded to deliver an address on Abraham Lincoln.

The following officers were elected: *President*, Charles H. Avery; *Vice-President*, James H. Beal; *Secretary and General Counsel*, Frank H. Freericks; *Assistant Secretary*, W. P. Starkey; *Treasurer*, Walter Rothwell; *Assistant Treasurer*, E. H. Thiesing.

LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE.

THE COPELAND BILL.

An amended form of the Copeland bill (S. 5) was submitted to the Senate committee on commerce by the chairman, Senator Royal S. Copeland, February 13th, and assigned to a sub-committee for public hearings, consisting of Senator Bennett Champ Clark, of Missouri, Chairman; Senator Hattie W. Caraway, of Arkansas; and Senator Charles L. McNary, of Oregon. The sub-committee has not yet set a date for hearings, but has promised that it will give ample notice.

The title of the bill has been changed to read: "An Act to prevent the adulteration, misbranding and false advertising of food, drugs and cosmetics in interstate, foreign and other commerce subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, for the purposes of safeguarding the public health and preventing deceit upon the purchasing public."

The variation clause is changed only by striking out two phrases, one covering names which "simulate" those recognized in an official compendium, and the other reading "If it fails to meet the definition and description set forth therein."

The definition of adulterated drugs and cosmetics now includes: "If it consists in whole or in part of any filthy, putrid or decomposed substance; or if it has been prepared, packed or held under insanitary conditions whereby it may have become contaminated with filth, or whereby it may have been rendered injurious to health; or if its container is composed

of any poisonous or deleterious substance which may render it injurious to health."

The requirement for "explicit" directions for use has been changed to "adequate" directions for use.

Where the original bill made a drug misbranded "if its name is the same as, or simulates, a name recognized in an official compendium and is not packaged and labeled as described therein," the new language reads: "If its name is recognized in an official compendium, or it purports to be a drug the name of which is so recognized. . . ."

COMPULSORY SICKNESS INSURANCE OPPOSED BY AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

According to the Press reports of February 16th, the American Medical Association reiterated its vigorous opposition to compulsory sickness insurance plans being studied by the President's Committee on Economic Security. But it tempered its stand by approving projects for setting up systems of voluntary illness insurance on a community basis.

Decrying what it termed attempts to regiment the profession in proposed legislation and attacking certain sections of the Wagner bill embodying the national administration's social security program, the Association's house of delegates adopted a declaration of policy for its 100,000 member physicians.

The report, carried unanimously at the sec-

and extraordinary session in the organization's history, set forth:

"The house of delegates of the American Medical Association reaffirms its opposition to all forms of compulsory sickness insurance whether administered by the Federal Government, the governments of the individual States or by any individual industry, community or similar body. It reaffirms also its encouragement to local medical organizations to establish plans for the provision of adequate medical service for all of the people, adjusted to present economic conditions, by voluntary budgeting to meet the costs of illness."

The statement pointed out more than 150 plans for medical service were undergoing study and trial in various communities and added:

"Your Bureau of Medical Economics is ready and willing to advise medical societies in the creation and operation of such plans. The plans will serve the people of the community in the prevention of disease, maintenance of health and with curative care in illness. They must meet apparent economic factors and safeguard the medical profession."

"The House of Delegates emphasizes the necessity for separate provision for hospital facilities and physicians' services. Payment for medical service, whether by prepayment plans, instalment purchase or voluntary hospital insurance plans, must hold, as absolutely distinct, remuneration for hospital care on one hand and the individual, personal scientific ministrations of the physician on the other."

The association's trustees were urged to request the Bureau of Medical Economics to "study further plans now existing and developing with special reference to the way in which they meet the needs of their communities, costs of operation, quality of service, effect of such service on the medical profession, the applicability to rural, village, urban and industrial population and to develop for the association's June meeting model plans adapted to the needs of populations of various types."

NRA EXTENSION ASKED BY PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.

President Roosevelt, on February 20th, called on Congress to extend the National Industrial Recovery Act for a period of two years from June 16th.

In a message read to both Houses he declared: "The fundamental purposes and principles of this act are sound. To abandon them is unthinkable. It would spell the return of industrial and labor chaos."

While admitting that there should be amendments to the present law, the President laid down certain specific benefits which, he said, have accrued and which must not be abandoned. He listed among these the abolition of child labor, the establishment of maximum hours of work and of minimum wages, the right of the workers to collective bargaining and the freeing of industry from dishonorable competition.

HOUSE ELIMINATES HEALTH INSURANCE PROVISION OF THE WAGNER-LEWIS BILL.

The House Ways and Means Committee has given consideration to the Wagner-Lewis bill during the past month. An important change was made in eliminating relief insurance from the measure.

Apparently at the request of critics of State medicine the committee deleted from the bill authority for the projected Social Insurance Board to study and recommend legislation to afford economic security through health insurance.

Observers recalled health insurance was not included in the report of the President's economic security committee on which the Wagner-Lewis bill was based.

MARIJUANA.

S. 53, Montana, to amend the law prohibiting the production, distribution or possession of marijuana, proposes to make a violation of the act a felony, punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary for from one to five years and/or a fine of from \$500.00 to \$1000.00. A Maryland amendment of the narcotic bill relates to prohibition of marijuana. The statement is made that cigarettes containing the narcotic are sold.

ARKANSAS.

Arkansas introduced H. 105, apparently to supplement the pharmacy practice act, proposing (1) to define drugs as "any drug or compound listed in the United States Pharmacopoeia or National Formulary, or both, which are used for the prevention, mitigation or cure of disease;" (2) "to prohibit the distribution of drugs, as defined, except by registered pharmacists;" (3) "to permit the board of pharmacy to enjoin the operation of any store not complying with the pharmacy laws." H. 110 and S. 67 propose "to repeal the laws regulating the possession and distribution of narcotic drugs and to enact what the drafts-

men of these bills cite as the "uniform narcotic drug act." The bills, however, differ from the model uniform narcotic drug act in some important particulars and contain obvious errors in phraseology. They omit the provisions in the model bill intended to limit the gross quantity of a habit-forming drug a person can buy in exempt preparations within a period of forty-eight hours.

INDIANA.

H. 113 proposes "to authorize the state board of pharmacy to appoint a narcotic inspector to enforce, and to collect information necessary to enforce, the state and federal laws relating to narcotic drugs." S. 83 proposes "to repeal the laws regulating the distribution and possession of narcotic drugs and to enact what apparently is the uniform narcotic drug act." S. 118, to amend the workmen's compensation act; H. 211 proposes to authorize counties, cities and towns "to supply insulin free of charge to citizens who are in need of insulin treatment for diabetes and who are financially unable to purchase the drug."

ARIZONA.

H. 19, Arizona, proposes to enact a new pharmacy practice act. Apparently this bill proposes to prohibit physicians from dispensing drugs and medicines but permits them to administer personally "drugs and medicines carried or kept for emergencies. . . . in order to supply the immediate needs of their own patients."

MISSOURI.

H. 73, Missouri, proposes to forbid the sale or other distribution of acetylsalicylic acid, carbolic acid or iodine, except on the prescription of a licensed physician, dentist or veterinarian.

MONTANA.

S. 35, Montana, to supplement the pharmacy practice act, has passed the house, proposing "to authorize the state board of pharmacy to adopt rules requiring registered pharmacists to keep a record of all poisons sold or disposed of, containing the signatures of the purchasers and such other information as may be required by the board."

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Toxicologie Moderne: A L'Usage des Étudiants en Médecine et en Pharmacie, des Médecins Legistes et des Chimistes Experts. By ROGER DOURIS. 1935. 339 pages, 47 figures. Published by Vigot Frères, Paris.

Should the pharmacist specialize in toxicology? Conversely, why not? His daily training teaches him much regarding the occurrence, properties, reactions, incompatibilities, chemical and pharmaceutical behavior of poisons, and he is required to be familiar with customary antidotes. Blyth defined toxicology in the title to his book: "Poisons: Their Effect and Detection." It should be frankly appreciated that the pharmacist is not trained in pathology. Therefore, he will not be able to make detailed studies of a pathological nature. However, he is very specifically trained in the detection of poisons. Professor Douris has prepared a manual not only for medico-legal chemists and industrial toxicologists, but also for students of pharmacy and medicine.

The book is divided into eight distinct parts. The first four chapters discuss general aspects of poisoning, variations in toxicity according to methods of administration, relationship of age and method of administration to effect, trans-

formation within the organism and tabulate a series of antidotes. The second part contains fourteen chapters dealing with the method of collecting viscera, tests for the metallic poisons, and methods of extraction of organic poisons and alkaloids. A brief chapter discusses methods of physiological identification. This section closes with a discussion of poisonous gases and corrosives. A series of excellent tables indicates the detailed procedures to be followed in separation and identification of inorganic and organic poisons.

The third portion gives specific methods to be used in testing for various organic or inorganic poisons, both chemically and by physiological methods, and lists the toxic and the lethal doses of many of these products. In this chapter ureides, barbituric acid compounds, glucosides, alkaloids, ptomaines and metallic poisons are discussed in some detail.

The fourth section deals with war gases, giving their "nom de guerre," formula, boiling point, physiological action and common adjuvants. So far as possible, the toxicity of these products is also recorded. The fifth chapter deals with poisons to be sought in examining drinking water. The sixth section