

LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE.

SALVAGE DRUGS.

Joe, an erstwhile wholesaler in salvage drugs, was fined \$300.00 in Federal Court (Feb. 28th), the Food and Drug Administration reports. This operator was characterized by Federal agents as one of the most persistent operators in the disreputable drug salvage business. Evidence indicated that the goods were obtained in foreclosure, bankrupt or other "distress" proceedings, and ignoring the prohibition against the interstate shipment of medicines carrying false and fraudulent curative claims, sold them to customers outside the state.

The conviction of this operator is another step in the cleanup of resurrected stocks of antiquated medicinals, according to the Administration. Texas, the defendant's home state, has been most active in rounding up these articles. In his annual report issued recently, W. G. Cambell, Chief of the Food and Drug Administration, said, "In Texas, where state officials took the initiative, a rapid and thorough campaign brought the destruction of 28 tons, comprising literally thousands of illegal items. As a result of combined State and Federal activities, two of the largest houses dealing in salvage stocks have discontinued that line, and numerous small operators have turned to fields not within the scope of food and drug legislation."

SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD APPROVES ARKANSAS UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION LAW.

Approval of the new Arkansas unemployment compensation law, signed by the Governor of the State on February 26th, was announced by the Social Security Board. Parts of report follow.

"With Arkansas, 36 States and the District of Columbia are now participating in the cooperative Federal-State system of unemployment compensation set up by the Social Security Act. One more State, Wyoming, recently enacted an unemployment compensation law. All told, approximately 18,086,000 industrial and commercial workers are now protected by their state laws against want during future unemployment.

Of the 11 states which have not yet enacted unemployment compensation law all but two, Florida and Illinois, now have such legislation under consideration in regular sessions of their state legislatures, and in Florida and Illinois

the subject is being studied with a view to future action.

Approval of a state unemployment compensation law by the Social Security Board means that employers in the state may deduct from the tax on employers of eight or more, levied by the Social Security Act, up to 90 per cent of it, the amounts which they contribute to the state unemployment compensation system, for employment as defined for the purpose of the Federal tax. It means also that the state may receive Federal grants to cover all proper costs of administering its unemployment compensation law, provided the law is certified as establishing efficient methods of administration designed to give workers their full rights under the law. The Social Security Board has already granted more than \$6,170,000.00 to states with approved unemployment compensation laws for administration of their systems.

The new Arkansas law, like the large majority of the other state unemployment compensation laws, sets up a pooled state fund to which all subject employers contribute and from which benefits are paid to all eligible unemployed workers irrespective of their former employers. Employers having one or more persons on their pay rolls for at least one day in any twenty weeks during either 1936 or 1937 will contribute to the state fund at the rate of 1.8 per cent of wages payable during 1937 and 2.7 per cent thereafter. Beginning in 1942 a merit-rating provision goes into effect which enables employers with a small labor turn-over to secure a reduction in their contribution rate.

Employees are not required to pay contributions under the Arkansas law. Approximately 114,000 workers are estimated to be covered by the state system, which will begin paying benefits in January 1939. Eligible workers who lose their jobs will receive compensation amounting to 50 per cent of their full-time weekly wages up to a maximum of \$15.00 per week and a minimum of \$5.00 or three-fourths of their weekly wages, whichever is less. Benefits may last as long as sixteen weeks in a year, depending on the worker's past earnings.

The Arkansas law will be administered by an unemployment compensation division in the newly established State Department of Labor. This department, created by the legislature at the same time it passed the unemployment compensation law, will be headed by a commissioner of labor, appointed by the Governor

In addition to administration of the unemployment compensation law, the commissioner of labor will also be responsible for administration of the state employment service and for all other state labor laws and regulations."

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATION.¹

S. 98 proposes to prohibit the planting, cultivating, harvesting and processing of "any flowering tops or leaves of hemp or loco weed (*cannabis sativa*) or Indian hemp" and to make a violation of the prohibition a felony. S. 118 proposes to prohibit the operation or maintenance of a clinical laboratory except under the immediate supervision and direction of a licensed clinical laboratory technologist or of a person holding a valid and unrevoked physician's and surgeon's certificate. The bill proposes to make it unlawful for any person in a clinical laboratory to make any tests or examinations requiring the application of one or more of the fundamental sciences, such as bacteriology, biochemistry, serology and parasitology, unless he possesses an unrevoked certificate, issued by the state board of health, as a qualified technician in the subject or subjects concerned with the tests or examinations, or possesses an unrevoked certificate as a clinical laboratory technologist, or is the holder of a valid unrevoked physician's

and surgeon's certificate. The state board of health is authorized to license as a clinical laboratory technologist (1) any person who for more than five years has been engaged actively in the work and direction of a clinical laboratory and (2) any other person who is found to be properly qualified, by written, oral and practical examination. The board is to be authorized also to license as a clinic or laboratory technician (1) any person who for three years has actively engaged in performing tests in a clinical laboratory and (2) any other person found by it to be properly qualified, by written, oral and practical examinations. S. 121 to supplement the insurance code, proposes to authorize insurance whereby the insurer will provide medical and hospital services, in case of need, to regulate the conditions under which such insurance may be written, and to require the licensing of persons writing such.

CONNECTICUT.

H. 1447 proposes to prohibit the retail sale of barbital or any hypnotic or somnifacient drug except on the written prescription of a licensed physician, dentist or veterinarian. The term "other hypnotic or somnifacient drug" is to include trional, sulfonal, tetronal, paraldehyde, chloral or chloral hydrate and chlorbutanol.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Manual of Biological Assaying, By JAMES C. MUNCH, B.S., M.S., Ph.D., Professor of Pharmacology and Bioassays, Temple University School of Pharmacy. Published by J. B. Lippincott, Philadelphia, 1937, 180 pages. Price, \$2.00.

Although several books on bioassays have appeared previously, the manual on this subject by Professor Munch is the first of its kind to consider at length the particular causes for success or failure in the biological measurement of drugs according to both official and unofficial methods.

The manual provides for the keeping of data in systematic order through blank or printed forms which are inserted following the description of the method of bioassay.

The final chapter, which considers the evaluation of results by means of mathematics

gives a list of important references to bioassay, and adds greatly to the value of the publication.

The book was prepared to meet the needs of the bioassayist, the student and the teacher, and it is predicted that it will fulfil the expectations of the author in this regard.—G. B. R.

Principles of Pharmacy (Fourth Edition) By HENRY V. ARNY, Ph.M., Ph.D., Dean and Professor of Chemistry in the College of Pharmacy of Columbia University; sometime Dean and Professor of Pharmacy in the School of Pharmacy of Western Reserve University; Member of the Committee of Revision of the United States Pharmacopœia, Eleventh Revision; Member of the Committee of Revision of the National Formulary, Sixth Edition. With the collaboration of Robert P. Fischelis, B.Sc., Ph.M., Ph.D., Secretary and Chief Chemist, Board of Pharmacy, State of New

¹ From *Journal A. M. A.*