EDITORIAL

E. G. EBERLE, EDITOR EMERITUS. 2215 Constitution Ave., WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE EXCISE TAX ON ETHYL ALCOHOL.

A RESOLUTION was adopted at the Minneapolis meeting urging "the Federal and state governments to remove any excise tax from ethyl alcohol used in bona fide medicinal substances with such safeguards and penalties against abuse as may be necessary in order that the cost of those substances to the sick may be more reasonable." At its Chicago meeting the National Association of Retail Druggists adopted a similar resolution and other organizations have since endorsed the proposal.

In response to a request a hearing was held before Undersecretary of the U. S. Treasury, John N. Hanes, in Washington on November 10th, when a forceful presentation was made of the many reasons why the present exorbitant tax on this necessary ingredient of medicinal and other products unsuitable for beverage purposes should be removed. The following representatives took part in the hearing:

S. L. Hilton, AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION; A. C. Taylor, National Association Boards of Pharmacy; W. Paul Briggs, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy; Rowland Jones, National Association of Retail Druggists.

Special emphasis was placed on the necessity for reducing the cost of medicines to the sick and of dealing with alcohol used for medicinal, scientific and industrial purposes on an entirely different basis for taxation from alcohol used for beverage purposes. Numerous questions were asked by the Undersecretary and his associates who seemed to be favorably impressed by the information submitted. It is hoped that when the proposal is later presented to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, no serious objections will be raised by the officials of the Treasury.

In the meantime every one who is interested in the elimination of this tax should contact the Senators and Representatives from their states requesting favorable consideration and particularly the members of the Committee on Ways and Means. —E. F. K.

OFFICERS-ELECT FOR 1939–1940.

THE BOARD of Canvassers of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, composed of Ambrose Hunsberger, *Chairman*, Theodore Campbell, Jr., and James C. Munch, all of Philadelphia, Pa., have announced as the result of the mail ballot for the officers of the ASSOCIATION, the election of the following: *President-Elect*, A. G. DuMez, Baltimore, Md.; *First Vice-President-Elect*, F. O. Taylor, Detroit, Mich.; *Second Vice-President-Elect*, F. J. Cermak, Cleveland, Ohio; *Members-Elect of the Council*, H. C. Christensen, Chicago, Ill.; R. P. Fischelis, Trenton, N. J.; Ernest Little, Newark, N. J.

These officers will be installed at the next annual meeting of the ASSOCIATION, which will be held in Atlanta, Ga., the time to be announced later.

DISTRIBUTIVE EDUCATION—GEORGE-DEEN ACT.

WHEN THE original Federal Legislation was enacted to encourage and support vocational education, the thousands of persons engaged in distributive activities were not included in the program. The George-Deen Act was passed

during the Session of the last Congress to correct this condition and to make funds available to the various states, to be matched by them, for providing training to distributors. The administration of the Act was placed under the office of Education, U. S. Department of the Interior, which has also directed the program for vocational education, with the coöperation of the state boards for vocational education.

The training must not include professional education nor subjects of college grade acceptable toward a degree either undergraduate or graduate, and therefore the program cannot replace or conflict with the standard course in Pharmacy.

It is accepted that pharmacists, either owners, managers or assistants, are eligible to receive special training under this program, which will enable them to serve consumers more effectively and to lower costs in the distribution of drugs, medicines, medical supplies and related items.

It is believed that the employment of a competent pharmacist either on a part or full-time basis, preferably the latter, to arrange for and conduct the course, is essential to its success. The training for pharmacists can be given during the day or evening and at periods and places convenient to them. It might be possible and advisable in some instances for two or more states to combine the training under one director, where the funds are limited.

Arrangements for such training for pharmacists have been worked out very satisfactorily in Wisconsin under the direction of the State Board of Vocational and Adult Education with the coöperation of the State Board of Pharmacy and the State Pharmaceutical Association. Mr. Sylvester H. Dretzka, secretary of the Board, originally worked out the plan and very kindly prepared a bulletin explaining it. The instruction is arranged and given by Mr. Edwin J. Boberg, president of the Board.

Recently, full information about the program was supplied to the secretaries of the state pharmaceutical associations and the boards of pharmacy, and to the schools and colleges of pharmacy, with the suggestion that representatives of the association and board, and of any interested school of pharmacy, study the program and then confer with their state board for vocational education about arrangements for such training as is available.

The program offers a valuable opportunity and should be taken advantage of as fully as possible.—E. F. K.

FOOD, DRUG AND COSMETIC LEGISLATION.

THE ASSOCIATION, in a resolution adopted at the Minneapolis meeting, expressed its deep gratification that the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and the Federal Trade Commission Act regulating the advertising of drugs, devices and cosmetics, were enacted during the recent session of the Congress, and pledged its support toward the effective enforcement of these Acts.

After a general discussion of the subject in the House of Delegates, a special committee of the House was appointed "to prepare, as speedily as possible, a form of law relating to Drug products and Cosmetics and the advertising of the same, suitable for enactment in the several states, in order to bring the laws of such states into harmony" with Federal legislation. The Committee was authorized to cooperate with the National Drug Trade Conference, the National Association of Retail Druggists and other national organizations in its work and to make its final report to the Council of the A. PH. A.

The Committee, consisting of R. P. Fischelis, *Chairman*, R. L. Swain, C. Leonard O'Connell and A. L. I. Winne, promptly undertook a careful study of various proposals for coördinating Federal and state legislation in this field.

Late in September, the National Drug Trade Conference appointed a Committee for the same general purpose with one member from each of the nine member organizations. A meeting of this Committee was called in Washington on October 17th and because of the importance of this subject, this meeting was followed by the annual meeting of the Executive Committee of the Conference on October 18th, one month earlier than usual. Dr. Fischelis was named to represent the A. PH. A. on the Conference Committee which considered the draft of a uniform act on October 17th and reported to the Executive Committee the next day. The Executive Committee called the Annual Meeting of the National Drug Trade Conference for November 15th and decided that state food and drug legislation should be the principal subject for consideration. The A. PH. A. Committee was requested to submit a draft of a suitable uniform act to the Conference.

The members of the A. PH. A. Committee met in Washington on November 5th and after a general discussion, decided upon the form of its draft and authorized Chairman Fischelis to put it into final shape and present it to the annual meeting of the Conference on November 15th.

This was done and as the result of its consideration by the Conference, section by section, a number of changes were adopted and the final draft approved. The final draft was then approved by the Council of the A. PH. A. and copies of it were forwarded to the secretaries of the state associations on December first with suggestions for the incorporation of its provision, which cover drugs, devices and cosmetics, and their advertising, into the existing state laws.

At its annual meeting in Chicago in October, the Association of Food, Drug and Dairy Officials of the United States appointed a committee to prepare a model state act covering foods, drugs, devices and cosmetics, and their advertising. This committee has incorporated into its model many of the provisions of the final draft referred to above and, in addition, provisions covering foods. This model act has been forwarded to state officials and is now available for their study and use.

Through these efforts the states are supplied with the provisions which if adopted will bring their laws into uniformity with the Federal acts and the acts of other states, a result to be earnestly desired.

Since the legislatures of forty-five states will be in session during the first six months of the coming year, forty-three of them in January, it was necessary to furnish the model provisions promptly and it is very fortunate that they could go to the state pharmaceutical associations with the approval of the nine national associations which means that state legislation incorporating these provisions will have the united support of the profession and industry. It is hoped that the state associations will exert every effort to see that these provisions are enacted into law substantially in the form submitted and as promptly as is possible.

It should be pointed out that in the final draft, prescriptions written by licensed physicians, dentists and veterinarians are completely exempted from the misbranding provisions and from the provisions relating to new drugs. This arrangement will relieve the pharmacists of considerable difficulty in discharging their professional duties. It is important, however, for pharmacists to carefully study the

Federal Act and the regulations issued thereunder, and any new act adopted by their state because their responsibilities are very much extended under these measures.

Copies of the proposed regulations under the Federal Act, as issued on October 15th, by the Secretary of Agriculture, were promptly forwarded to the secretaries of the state associations. The hearings on these regulations held in Washington on November 17th, were well attended and many suggestions for their amendment were submitted. It is now expected that the regulations in their final form will be issued early in 1939.—E. F. K.

THE SECTIONAL PUBLICATION OF BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS.

Beginning with the first number of Volume 13 (1939), the management of Biological Abstracts will issue this abstract journal in separate parts as well as in the form of a single comprehensive publication.

An opportunity will thus be afforded workers in specialized fields of pure and applied biology to subscribe to the group of subjects in which they are most interested at a reduction in cost from the price of the complete journal.

It is planned to break up the contents of the complete journal, without repaging, into several subject groups which would be made available under appropriate covers to individuals not desiring the complete service. The complete index covering all groups will be issued to all subscribers.

According to this plan, five reprint parts are to be published in 1939, as follows:

1. *Abstracts of General Biology* to include General Biology, Biography and History, Bibliography, Evolution, Cytology, Genetics, Biometry and Ecology; price $4.00.

2. *Abstracts of Experimental Animal Biology* to include Animal Physiology, Nutrition, Pharmacology, Pathology, Anatomy, Embryology and Animal Production; $9.00.

3. *Abstracts of Microbiology, Immunology and Parasitology* to include Immunology, Bacteriology, Viruses, Parasitology, Protozoölogy and Helminthology; $5.00.

4. *Abstracts of Plant Sciences* to include Phytopathology, Plant Physiology, Plant Anatomy, Paleobotany, Systematic Botany, Agronomy, Horticulture, Forestry, Pharmacognosy and Pharmaceutical Botany; $6.00.

5. *Abstracts of Animal Sciences* to include Paleozoölogy, Parasitology, Protozoölogy, Helminthology, Systematic Zoölogy and Economic Entomology; $6.00.

The complete abstracts will be available to individuals and institutions alike at a uniform price of $25.00.

The new editorial staff headed by Dr. John E. Flynn has succeeded since the resumption of publication in issuing the several numbers promptly, and they have published reasonably recent abstracts. They assure prompt coverage during the coming year, their aim being to print abstracts of articles not more than two months old and to supply the index to Vol. 13 (1939), during the spring of 1940. It is to be hoped that their efforts to keep Biological Abstracts up to date will be encouraged by a substantial influx of subscriptions by members of the AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

HEBER W. YOUNGKEN.

U. S. P. ANTI-ANEMIA PREPARATIONS ADVISORY BOARD.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE U. S. P. ANTI-ANEMIA PREPARATIONS ADVISORY BOARD.

(See JOUR. A. PH. A., Vol. XXVII, No. 3, March 1938, Page 174 and No. 8., August 1938, Page 629.)

The Anti-Anemia Board has given recognition to the following additional Anti-Anemia preparations and the assigned unitage is indicated.

ELI LILLY AND COMPANY, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Liquor Hepatis Purificatus. Parenteral Solution of Liver.

0.066 cc. equals 1 unit (injectable).

METROPOLITAN LABORATORIES, New York City.

Liquor Hepatis Purificatus. Parenteral Solution of Liver.

0.2 cc. equals one unit (injectable).

PREMO PHARMACEUTICAL LABORATORIES, INC., New York City.

Extractum Hepatis. Dry Liver Extract.

50 capsules (25 Gm.) equal 1 unit (oral).

WILLIAM H. RORER, INC., Philadelphia, Pa.

Liquor Hepatis Purificatus. Parenteral Solution of Liver.

0.1 cc. equals 1 unit (injectable).

SUTLIFF AND CASE CO., INC., Peoria, Illinois.

Extractum Hepatis. Dry Liver Extract.

50 capsules (25 Gm.) equal 1 unit (oral).

THE UPJOHN COMPANY, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Liquor Hepatis. Liquid Extract of Liver.

60 cc. equals 1 unit (oral).

The Advisory Board will, as occasion arises, issue supplementary announcements either as a revaluation of the above products based upon new clinical data or to make a report upon new products which are submitted.

U. S. P. ANTI-ANEMIA PREPARATIONS ADVISORY BOARD.

November 15, 1938.

INTERIM REVISION ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 2.

A REVISION OF U. S. P. XI STANDARDS OR TESTS UNDER ALOE, EPHEDRINA, STRAMONIUM, EXTRACTUM STRAMONII AND TINCTURA STRAMONII

FOR THE

PHARMACOPŒIA OF THE UNITED STATES.

ELEVENTH DECENNIAL REVISION.

Issued by the authority of the U. S. P. XI Committee of Revision and Board of Trustees to become effective immediately.

While the Second U. S. P. XI Supplement will be issued early in 1939, and will authorize a number of additional revisions in official monographs it has been found desirable to take immediate action in the case of the several substances listed above. This is due either to the holding up of shipments at the port or because of difficulties in obtaining adequate stocks from abroad, due to disturbed conditions. An outline of the authorized revisions will be found below.

ALOE.

Under the monograph for Aloe, of the U. S. P. XI, the following revisions are authorized. The standards for ash and moisture are revised, the second paragraph, lines 21 to 23, from the top of page 47 are to read as follows:

"Aloe yields not more than 4 per cent of total ash, *not more than 2 per cent of acid-insoluble ash, not more than 12 per cent of moisture,* and not less than 50 per cent of water-soluble extractive, pages 471–475."

Tests for identity. The second paragraph, lines 4 to 12 from the bottom of page 47, is revised to read as follows:

"Intimately mix in a flask or bottle about 1 Gm. of finely powdered Aloe with 25 cc. of cold distilled water, shake the mixture occasionally during two hours, transfer it to a filter and wash the filter and residue with sufficient cold distilled water to make the filtrate measure 100 cc. The color of the filtrate, viewed in the bulb of a 100-cc. volumetric flask, is light yellowish brown with Socotrine Aloe, and reddish brown with Curaçao Aloe. The filtrate darkens on standing."

In the second paragraph, line 6 from the top of page 48, omit the word "deep," the sentence to read *"a permanent rose color is produced in the lower layer."*

Test for purity. This test, lines 8 to 10 from the top of page 48, is revised to read as follows:

"Add 1 Gm. of finely powdered Aloe to 50 cc. of alcohol in a flask and gently heat the mixture, avoiding loss by evaporation. Withdraw the heat and shake the mixture at intervals during one hour. Pour the liquid through a small tared filter, or a suitable tared filtering crucible, and rinse the flask and filter with alcohol until the washings are colorless. Dry the filter and the residue to constant weight at 100° C. and weigh. The weight of the anhydrous residue does not exceed 10 per cent of the weight of the Aloe taken for the test. (alcohol-insoluble substances)."

EPHEDRINA.

Official recognition is given to synthetically produced Ephedrine of the optically active variety. This is believed to be identical in all respects with the natural alkaloid. The definition for Ephedrine on page 144, of the U. S. P. XI is changed to read as follows: "An alkaloid obtained from *Ephedra equisetina* Bunge, *Ephedra sinica* Stapf and other species of *Ephedra* (Fam. *Gnetaceæ*), *or produced synthetically.*

STRAMONIUM.

Under Stramonium, page 360, of the U. S. P. XI, change the alkaloidal requirement from "not less than 0.30 per cent" to *"not less than 0.25 per cent."*

EXTRACTUM STRAMONII.

Under Extract of Stramonium, page 160 of the U. S. P. XI, change the alkaloidal requirement from "not less than 1.10 Gm. and not more than 1.30 Gm." to *"not less than 0.90 Gm. and not more than 1.10 Gm."* from each 100 Gm.

TINCTURA STRAMONII.

Under Tincture of Stramonium, page 407 of the U. S. P. XI, change the alkaloidal requirement from "not less than 0.027 Gm. and not more than 0.033 Gm." to *"not less than 0.022 Gm. and not more than 0.028 Gm."* from each 100 cc.

E. FULLERTON COOK,
Chairman of the Committee of Revision
of the U. S. Pharmacopœia.

Released December 1, 1938.

AN IMPORTANT LABOR DECISION.

As the result of a suit of Thomas Guy Shafer, Oakland, Calif., *vs.* Registered Pharmacists Union, Local No. 1172, S. L. Laub, President and Ralph Marks, Business Agent, which was tried on November 15, 1938, before Judge John D. Murphy in the Superior Court of California in and for the County of Alameda, the defendants "and each of their agents, attorneys, employees, members and all persons acting for them, or any of them, in aid or assistance of them, and each of them, or any of them, be and they are hereby permanently enjoined from doing or attempting to do, directly or indirectly, by any manner or method, any of the following described acts:

"(*a*) Picketing plantiff's places of business operating under the firm name and style of Guy's Drug Stores and located in the City of Oakland, County of Alameda, State of California, at the following addresses (seven were given), or causing plaintiff's said places of business to be picketed.

"(*b*) Inducing or attempting to induce customers, or prospective customers of plaintiff from trading with plaintiff or at plaintiff's places of business;

"(*c*) Representing that plaintiff, or plaintiff's places of business, are unfair to organized labor;

"(*d*) Displaying any banner, sign or device in front of plaintiff's places of business in such a manner as to display the word "unfair" or some other word or words of similar import;

"(*e*) Calling out in front of, or in the immediate vicinity of plaintiff's places of business any word or words indicating that plaintiff's places of business or plaintiff's business, is unfair to to organized labor;

"(*f*) Inducing or attempting to induce trucksters, teamsters or other delivery men not to make delivery of goods, wares or merchandise to plaintiff or at plaintiff's places of business.

"(*g*) Boycotting plaintiff's places of business or causing said places of business to be boycotted."

The plaintiff recovered his costs and disbursements incurred in this action.

DISTRICT NO. 2 MEETING IN RICHMOND.

For the first time since Virginia has been a part of District No. 2, N. A. B. P. and A. A. C. P., a meeting of the district group will be held in that state. Early in March, at one of the Richmond hotels, the meeting will convene, and will be attended by delegates from the Boards of Pharmacy and the various Colleges of Pharmacy in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, West Virginia and Virginia. Dean Lester Hayman of the University of West Virginia School of Pharmacy is chairman of the College group, and president Charles L. Guthrie of the Virginia Board of Pharmacy is chairman of the Boards group. A. L. I. Winne is Local Secretary.