EDITORIAL

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NATIONAL LEGISLATION.

During the closing session of the Seventy-Fifth Congress, four bills were enacted that are of direct interest to the profession of Pharmacy not only because of their provisions or exemptions but also because they will in all probability become the patterns for state legislation on these important subjects. Two of these acts were passed earlier in the session and have had presidential approval; it is expected that the others will also be approved. It is not possible to more than briefly refer to these measures at this time and they will be the subjects of extended consideration at the Minneapolis meeting.

The ASSOCIATION has kept in close touch with these bills during their legislative progress and has attempted to see that the interests of the profession had consideration. The members of the Congress who had the measures in charge invited criticisms and suggestions for their improvement.

VENEREAL DISEASE CONTROL.

The LaFollette-Bulwinkle Bill provides for the expenditure of $15,000,000 over a period of three years from July 1, 1938, "For the purpose of assisting states, counties, health districts, and other political subdivisions of the states in establishing and maintaining adequate measures for the prevention, treatment and control of venereal diseases." Of this sum $3,000,000 are to be spent during the first, $5,000,000 during the second and $7,000,000 during the third year, in accordance with plans presented by the health authority of the state and approved by the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service.

The pharmacists of this country have a great responsibility and a real opportunity in this campaign. State and local pharmaceutical associations are urged to promptly contact their state and local health authorities to learn how the pharmacists may coöperate in such an important public health movement. A considerable portion of these large sums will be expended for drugs, medicines and medical supplies, largely under the direction of the state health authorities, and pharmacists should carefully investigate the opportunities open to them.

FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT.

This act, S. 2475 and generally referred to as the Wages and Hours Bill, provides for the establishment of labor standards with respect to minimum wages and maximum hours in industries engaged in interstate commerce or engaged in the production of goods for such commerce. These provisions do not apply to any employee employed in a bona fide professional or local retailing capacity and pharmacists are therefore exempt in so far as these activities are concerned.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION ACT, S. 1077.

This amendment to the Act establishing the Commission, had two general purposes: *First*, to broaden the powers of the Commission over unfair methods of

competition by giving it jurisdiction over unfair or deceptive acts or practices in commerce whether competitive or not; and, *second*, to give the Commission more effective control over false advertisement of foods, drugs, devices and cosmetics. The broad definitions of foods, drugs, devices and cosmetics as employed in the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, S. 5, are employed in S. 1077 and false advertisement of any of them for the purposes of this Act "means an advertisement, other than labeling, which is misleading in a material respect; and in determining whether any advertisement is misleading, there shall be taken into account (among other things) not only representations made or suggested by statement, word, design, device, sound or any combination thereof, but also the extent to which the advertisement fails to reveal facts material in the light of such representations or material with respect to consequences which may result from the use of the commodity to which the advertisement relates."

The Commission is given broad control of false advertisement of foods, drugs, devices and cosmetics other than labeling, which is under the control of the Food and Drug Administration under S. 5, and the administration of S. 1077 and S. 5 should remedy the abuses which have existed in the advertising of these products.

FEDERAL FOOD, DRUG AND COSMETIC ACT, S. 5.

As is well known, this legislation has been under consideration since 1933. In the form enacted, it brings medical devices and cosmetics under its provisions and requires that no new drug shall be introduced or delivered for introduction into interstate commerce unless an application has been filed with the Secretary of Agriculture giving full information to show that the drug is or is not safe for use and unless the secretary has not issued an order within the time specified, refusing to permit the application to become effective. The provisions and penalties of the present act are broadened in many other respects, and it is generally believed that the law represents a decided improvement over that now in effect. Senator Copeland said upon the passage of the bill by the Senate, "We now have a bill which may bring disappointment to some, but I think it marks a very great advance, probably beyond that of any country in the world." Representative Lea who was in charge of the bill in the House, said in commenting on the work of his committee, that "our differences of opinion have in the end worked to give us better legislation."

The definitions of foods, drugs, devices and cosmetics in this act are similar to those in the Federal Trade Commission Act and are very inclusive. The provisions with respect to the adulteration and misbranding of drugs and devices and the exemptions from the misbranding provisions which cover prescriptions should be carefully studied. The ASSOCIATION has expressed its earnest desire to have food, drug and cosmetic legislation enacted and its conviction that further delay was against the public interest, and has done what it could toward the successful outcome.

The enactment of the four measures referred to above is an important development for the public health professions and for the American people. Pharmacy should lend its support to the successful administration of these acts and to such amendments of them as experience may show to be desirable or necessary for the adequate protection of the public welfare.—E. F. K.

A SECOND U. S. P. SUPPLEMENT.

At the recent meeting of the U. S. P. Board of Trustees, authority was given for the publication of the Second U. S. P. XI Supplement. It is hoped that this can be printed and released on January 1, 1939.

Preparation for the Supplement has been under way for months and Sub-Committee chairmen will be in a position in the near future to submit reports on a number of revised texts. The Sub-Committee on Scope is also considering the admission of a number of additional important new drugs. The members of our Committee are fully familiar with the outstanding advantages of the Interim Revision and Supplement features of the Pharmacopœial program. This gives the opportunity to issue new standards after they have been subjected to extensive checking in many laboratories.

Our former decennial revision method compelled the consideration of between five and six hundred items simultaneously and then at the end of the revision period it became necessary to go to press with the entire lot, irrespective of the status of their revision. Of necessity, with some Sub-Committee chairmen handling from a hundred to a hundred and seventy-five separate monographs, it was impossible to give each article the exacting consideration and extensive review which has been possible under the new plan by which only a dozen or so monographs are under revision at one time. The Supplement is also permitting the prompt recognition by the Pharmacopœia of important new medicines and, as indicated above, this will be a feature of the Second Supplement.

The U. S. P. Board of Trustees modified the original plan for the issuance of *annual supplements* before the "First Supplement" was issued, on the ground that a more flexible plan seemed necessary. They became convinced that in some years circumstances might make it necessary to issue a new Supplement before twelve months had passed, while under other conditions an additional Supplement might not be required for several years. The Board therefore announced, through the medical and pharmaceutical press, that new U. S. P. Supplements would be issued whenever in the judgment of the Committee of Revision and Board of Trustees, conditions made this desirable.

The Pharmacopœia Board or Committee of Revision is responsible only for the preparation of the official standards. Whether or not the Pharmacopœia and its Supplements are purchased by retail pharmacists is, in some states, entirely optional. In other states where the State Law requires the possession of these books, it is a matter for the responsible state officials to enforce.

The U. S. P. finances are in excellent condition and the Board of Trustees has been able to meet the revision expenses of the decade, to greatly increase the research and conference programs, and to still hold its basic reserves intact.

In preparing the Second Supplement, every step will be taken to insure the carrying out of the requirements of the Convention for the preparation of an official text. It is expected that the revised, or new, monographs will be submitted in the form of proof to members of the Committee of Revision and given wide publicity. Following their publication, a public hearing will be granted at which members of the Executive Committee responsible for revised texts will be in attendance. Following the public hearing a conference with the officials of the

Food and Drug Administration and the Public Health Service will be held, after which the members of the Committee of Revision will be given an opportunity to see and vote upon the finally approved text. When the Second U. S. P. XI Supplement has been issued, ample time will be given before it becomes official.

INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMISSION OF PHARMACOPŒIAL EXPERTS.

At the recent session of the Health Organization of the League of Nations, a Commission was appointed to carry on the work of the Brussels' Conference for the establishment of standards for potent medicines. The Committee consists of:

Chairman, Dr. C. H. Hampshire, London; Professor H. Baggesgaard, Copenhagen; Professor V. E. Zunz, Brussels; Professor M. Tiffeneau, Paris; Professor R. Eder, Zurich; Professor L. van Itallie, Leyden; Professor E. Fullerton Cook, Philadelphia; a member of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The Brussels' Conference was the outgrowth of earlier efforts to establish an International Pharmacopœia. In 1902 a group of pharmacists from Brussels, in the name of the Belgian Government, issued invitations to practically all nations of the world to participate in a conference for the purpose of establishing uniformity in the definition and strength of the more potent medicines in use throughout the world.

At that time, the Pharmacopœia of the United States was officially represented by Dr. H. C. Wood, Sr., then one of the leading pharmacologists of the world, and by Dr. Frederick B. Power. The Chairman of the Committee of Revision, Professor Joseph P. Remington, was at that time greatly interested in this international movement and in a contribution to the conference urged the practical policy of establishing standards meeting the approval of the conference and offering these to the Pharmacopœial Commissions throughout the world for voluntary adoption.

The importance of this at the time can scarcely be appreciated. In the U. S. Pharmacopœia the Syrup of Ferrous Iodide was 10 per cent; Tincture of Capsicum, 5 per cent; Tincture of Aconite, approximately 35 per cent; Tincture of Veratrum 40 per cent, Tincture of Belladonna, 15 per cent. This conference established 10 per cent as the strength for all potent Tinctures and 20 per cent for Tinctures of non-potent drugs like Cinchona and Gentian, with 5 per cent for Syrup of Ferrous Iodide. The Eighth Revision of the U. S. Pharmacopœia, published in 1905, was the first National Pharmacopœia to adopt the standards of this International Protocol (P. I.) as recommended by the 1902 Brussels' Conference.

A Second Conference was called for 1914, but was postponed because of the World War. The Second Conference was finally assembled at Brussels in 1925, with representatives from more than forty nations participating. Additional uniformity in standards and preparations was recommended at that time and the Conference adjourned after passing recommendations that its work be taken over by the Health Organization of the League of Nations.

The establishment of a Pharmacopœial Secretaryship, at the League, has been the basis for discussion for many years but the actual establishment of the program has only now been completed. The chairman of the Committee, Dr. Hamp-

shire, is the secretary of the British Pharmacopœial Commission, which has recently published the First Supplement to the British Pharmacopœia.

This International Commission plans to compile a list of the more important medicines used throughout the world and invite the respective National Pharmacopœial Commissions in various countries to prepare model monographs, which when finally approved will be presented to the Pharmacopœial Commissions of the world with the hope that they may assist in bringing about greater uniformity in titles, definitions, descriptions, tests for identity and purity and methods of assay.

It is hoped that the International Commission may also be able to compile the Pharmacopœial literature of the world for the use of all Pharmacopœial Commissions, thus avoiding the duplication of literature reviews by each nation. It will, of course, be necessary in each nation to appoint associate members from their Pharmacopœial Committees to assist in the actual preparation of monographs.

MEETING OF TECHNICAL COMMISSION OF PHARMACOPŒIAL EXPERTS, HEALTH ORGANIZATION, LEAGUE OF NATIONS.*

The Technical Commission of Pharmacopœial Experts, appointed by the Council of the League of Nations at its meeting in January last, met at Geneva in May 1938.

The Commission's task was to prepare a program of studies, select suitable drugs for examination and determine a uniform method of analysis, assay and preparation of the drugs selected.

The necessity for such work arises from the difficulties encountered by pharmacists in dispensing prescriptions for travelers from foreign countries and in the replenishment of medicine chests of ships at ports of call. Unification would, in addition, be of great advantage to manufacturers and would facilitate commerce in drugs between nations. Further, it would assist in the comparability of the results of medical treatment in different countries.

The Commission prepared a list of the more important drugs which it proposed to study and codify. Draft schemes for the preparation of monographs on the drugs were agreed upon, and a number of general principles were settled.

The list of drugs was divided among the members of the Commission for the purpose of study in collaboration with experts in their own countries.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, UNITED STATES PHARMACOPŒIAL CONVENTION.

The Annual Meeting held at Pittsburgh, Pa., May 16th and 17th developed many facts of interest and importance to the Medical and Pharmaceutical professions. Reports submitted by the officers, the chairman of the Revision Committee and the auditor showed marked progress and a satisfactory financial situation.

Of the original issue of 50,000 copies of U. S. P. XI, more than 45,000 have been distributed and a second printing is now under way. Approximately 6000 copies of the first Supplement have been sold to date and the Board authorized the chair-

* Since the above article was written the following report has been received.

man of the Revision Committee to proceed with the preparation of a second Supplement to be made available about Jan. 1, 1939. The Spanish Edition of U. S. P. XI was most favorably received and has gained wide recognition throughout Central and South America.

Experiments now being conducted to determine the potency of Vitamin A by the Spectrophotographic method are progressing satisfactorily. This method may be introduced into the U. S. P. Cod Liver Oil text as a partial indication of value. With carefully selected material supplied by the Board, a group of heart specialists in this and other countries will conduct certain studies on clinical activity and deterioration of Digitalis which will be paralleled by biological assays by various methods. The entire investigation will cover a period of three years. The influence of the Anti-Anemia Board in clarifying the liver preparations situation is deemed well nigh incalculable and the work of this Board is progressing most satisfactorily.

The meeting of the Board of Trustees closed with the reëlection of the following officers: James H. Beal, *Chairman;* Samuel C. Henry, *Secretary.*

ASSEMBLY OF LABORATORY DIRECTORS AND SEROLOGISTS.

In Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, October 21–22, 1938, will be held a convention of Serologists and Directors of Laboratories, under the auspices of the Committee on Evaluation of Serodiagnostic Tests for Syphilis, with Surgeon General Thomas Parran as chairman.

The aims and purposes of the assembly will be to consider means and methods to improve and to make more generally available the serologic tests, which are so important in syphilis control work. Tentative arrangements call for the presentation of the program in four sections.

The first section will consider the need for adherence to conventional technique in the routine performance of reliable serodiagnostic tests. This subject will be considered in papers by Doctors Harry Eagle, William A. Hinton, Reuben Kahn, Benjamin Kline and John H. Kolmer, with special reference to the tests which each of these workers has described.

Need for training of laboratory personnel will be the subject of the second section. The qualifications and training for both laboratory directors and technicians will be presented in separate papers.

The third section will discuss the prosecution of the studies to evaluate the performance of serologic tests within the states. The efficiency of branch state laboratories and of municipal, hospital and private laboratories cannot be studied on a national basis. The subject is much too large. Should this be made a function of the state or large municipal department of health? Actual experience with such studies in the states of Maryland and New Jersey and in the city of Cleveland will be described.

The fourth section will consider the desirability of licensing or approving for the performance of serodiagnositc tests for syphilis, laboratories within the states by the respective state departments of health. This discussion will be conducted from the standpoint of the private laboratory director by Doctor Frederick H. Lamb of Davenport, Iowa. The health officer's side will be presented by Doctor A. Wadsworth, State Department of Health, Albany, New York.

A separate committee will draft recommendations for each of the four sections for presentation to the assembly. The respective chairmen of these four section meetings will be Doctors Walter M. Simpson, Dayton, Ohio; Arthur H. Sanford, Rochester, Minnesota; F. E. Senear, Chicago, Illinois; and H. H. Hazen, Washington, D. C. General discussion will follow the presentation of each set of recommendations.

An additional feature of the meeting will be an actual demonstration of the performance of the Eagle, Hinton, Kahn, Kline and Kolmer tests by the originators of these procedures.

It is to be hoped that the attendance at this assembly will be large. Out of the meeting should come a crystallization of opinion with regard to the important problems which will be considered. Those interested in obtaining further information should write to the Surgeon General, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington, D. C.