

Chief told him that he had never tested glue and did not know anything about the subject. In reply the Boss said: "You know as much about testing glue as anyone in the Bureau." I further protested that glue was not a drug. He retorted: "Glue is certainly a drug around here and it is your job." He had shopped, without success, around the Bureau for someone to do the work and the Drug Chief was a newcomer and the logical victim. He took advantage of the definition, "A drug on the market," in this case meaning the Bureau. Some of my fellow chemists considered it a good joke. I tested the glue and did not find it such a difficult task—nothing compared with some of the knotty drug adulterations I had been called on to unravel in former years.

The glue testing represented collaboration with other branches of the Government, for which Dr. Wiley was an enthusiast. A few months later he again called me into his office, handed me a number of drug samples called "Vitality Pills," submitted by the Postmaster General for examination and report as to whether the claims made therefor were warranted. They were alleged, among other things, to contain animal extract derived from healthy bulls. Here was something novel and weird. We discussed it *pro* and *con* on numerous occasions. An examination, however, showed that these pills were of the same general composition as the commonly so-called listed aphrodisiac pills. We discussed the subject with several outstanding physicians and reached the conclusion that the claims were far-reaching and many wide of the truth and so reported to the Postmaster General. Here another thing happened. The Secretary of Agriculture did not want to sign this kind of a report. It then fell to Dr. Wiley's lot to sign and get the reports into the Solicitor's hands, which was done. The promoter was cited for a hearing, alleging the fraudulent use of the mails. After the hearing a fraud order was issued, debarring the promoter from the use of the mails, which was a signal for a royal legal battle, such as I had never seen before, but have been in many since. The case was vigorously contested, but the Government won, which meant that we would be

required to do more work for the Post Office Department, in the matter of the fraudulent use of the mails. Poisons in the mails came next into the picture.

In 1903 the Drug Chief was appointed a referee on "Medicinal Plants and Drugs," in the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists. Under this appointment the methods for estimating morphine in opium were taken up and reported on for several succeeding years.

Due to the untruthful advertising and adverse publicity given proprietary medicines, either directly or indirectly, as the result of the information brought out in connection with the hearings under the various food and drug bills and otherwise, the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry, of the American Medical Association, was organized in 1905. Dr. Wiley and I were charter members, and took a part in the work for a number of years. The Drug Laboratory made quite a few analyses of a number of proprietaries published by the Council (12), among them the acetanilid mixtures.

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Book Reviews

Organic Syntheses. An Annual Publication of Satisfactory Methods for the Preparation of Organic Chemicals. Volume XX. CHARLES F. H. ALLEN, Editor-in-Chief. v + 113 pages. John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 440 Fourth Ave., New York, N. Y., 1940. Price, \$1.75.

This, the twentieth volume of this series, is similar in arrangement of its contents to that of preceding volumes. It contains directions for the preparation of 39 compounds involving many types of reactions. In addition, there are included for each preparation equations indicating the chemical changes involved, a detailed statement of the procedure to be followed,

notes on points to which particular attention should be directed, a statement, with references, covering other methods of preparation, and illustrations of apparatus. The book is a useful reference work for anyone engaged in the preparation of organic compounds.—A. G. D.

Physical Constants of Hydrocarbons. Volume II. *Cyclanes, Cyclenes, Cyclynes, and Other Alicyclic Hydrocarbons*, by GUSTAV EGLOFF. 605 pages. Reinhold Publishing Corp., 330 West 42nd St., New York, N. Y., 1940. Price \$12.00.

This book is the second volume of a four-volume work giving values for the boiling point, melting point, density and refractive index of pure hydro-