

discussed general business conditions and the effect of the European war on various drug markets and prices. He spoke of the place of women in pharmacy and made suggestions as to changes in the pharmacy law.

Officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows: President, J. A. Pool, of Redfield; vice-presidents, W. P. Loesch, of Bruce, and Otto Ross, of Conde; secretary, E. C. Bent, of Dell Rapids; and treasurer, A. A. Woodward, of Aberdeen. F. W. Halbkat, of Webster, F. W. Bobb, of Mitchell, and D. X. F. Dexter, of Canton, will be recommended to the governor to fill a vacancy on the board of pharmacy.

The women's auxiliary chose Mrs. Hansen as president for the year.

Next year the meeting will be held at Watertown.

#### WYOMING.

The second annual meeting of Wyoming Pharmaceutical Association was held at Caspar. In the absence of President F. G. Huffman, Vice-president A. E. Roedel presided, and R. G. Cook acted as secretary.

Following a prolonged discussion the president was authorized to appoint a committee to draft a resolution recommending an amendment to the present law covering the sale of drugs and toilet articles by peddlers.

Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, Andrew E. Roedel, of Cheyenne; vice-presidents, Wilson S. Kimball, of Caspar, and C. B. Gunnell, of Evans-ton; secretary and treasurer, Ray J. Cook, of Caspar.

The meeting next year will be held August 5th and 6th, at Saratoga.

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## THE PHARMACIST AND THE LAW

### ENGLAND PLACES BAN ON COCAINE AND OPIUM.

The British Government has brought into force very drastic regulations governing the importation and sale of cocaine and opium. This has been induced by an extensive surreptitious traffic in cocaine to soldiers who are stated to have acquired the habit of taking the drug from members of the Canadian expeditionary forces. With such a large number of men under arms the authorities have felt it incumbent on them to take the most stringent measures of repression. The importations of cocaine and opium are now prohibited by proclamation.

The opium habit is much practised in this country and the provision of opium in the proclamation is said to have been included as an aid to the authorities in stopping the extensive smuggling of opium to China and America. Regulations also issued deal with the distribution of cocaine and make it an offense to be in possession of the drug unless under stated conditions. The gift of the drug equally with the sale now becomes an offense.

### FLUIDOUNCE STATEMENT UNDER HARRISON LAW AMENDED AT INSTANCE OF N. W. D. A.

The Treasury Department, at the request of the National Wholesale Druggists' Association, has so amended Treasury Decision 2292, of January 31, 1916, as to remove existing uncertainty with respect to the method to be employed in stating quantities of liquid preparations ordered on official forms authorized by the Harrison Narcotic Law. The difficulty has been that under the law dealers in ordering pints, quarts and gallons of goods were obliged to state the total number of fluidounces in the quantity ordered—if ordering three pints the dealer would be forced to add the equivalent, 320 fluidounces. The amended sections bearing upon this regulation are as follows, and were effective on and after August 17:

In entering items calling for narcotic preparations on the order forms issued by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, in accordance with the provisions of section 2 of the act of December 17, 1914, the quantity of narcotic drug to the fluidounce, where put up in packages of fifteen ounces or less, shall be indicated in ounces, and where put up in

packages containing sixteen ounces or more, may be entered in pints, quarts or gallons, provided the number of each and not the aggregate quantity of these units in a higher unit is entered on these order forms.

Where these order forms call for preparations or remedies in solid, powder, or other than liquid form, the quantity in ounces should be entered thereon, or if in tablet, pill, ampule or suppository form, the units or totals thereof need only be stated. The name of the particular narcotic drug in such preparations or remedies, tablets, pills, ampules or suppositories should be entered on these forms.

#### SEEKING TO AMEND THE PENNSYLVANIA ANTI-NARCOTIC LAW.

It is contemplated to amend the law applying to narcotics in Pennsylvania by making unauthorized possession of narcotic drugs a crime, whether proof of illicit sales is obtained or not. Also to provide a State institution to which habitues will be sent and there receive medical attention.

#### BILL TO LEGALIZE MAILING OF POISONS.

The National Association of Manufacturers of Medicinal Products, through its legislative committee, has introduced in Congress a bill to amend section 217 of the United States Criminal Code to permit the mailing of poisons. Charles M. Woodruff, secretary of the Association, explains the bill as follows:

"This bill introduced at the instance of the National Association of Manufacturers of Medicinal Products is comprehensive in that it relieves science, art and industry generally, as well as pharmacy and medicine from a deplorable condition respecting the mails which has existed for three or four years back.

"It should be borne in mind that the amendment to criminal section 217 affects only poisons and articles and compositions containing poison, which are not outwardly or of their own force dangerous or injurious to life, health or property.

"Under the present law, as it is phrased, such items, however useful or necessary they may be to art, industry and science, are unavailable. It is true the present law provides that the Postmaster General may admit them to the mails when prepared and packed for mailing according to regulations which Con-

gress doubtless intended he should establish. Such regulation, however, does not exist. More than this it is doubtful whether the power granted to the Postmaster General is not an unconstitutional delegation of legislative power since section 217 creates an offense and then gives an administrative officer power to practically amend the penal law by admitting the prohibited articles to the mails under certain conditions.

"The amendment is believed to effect what Congress originally intended. Under it it will not be unlawful to mail poisons and articles and compositions containing poison not outwardly and of their own force dangerous, etc., if they are securely packed.

"The amendment goes further than this. It recognizes and confirms the power of the Postmaster General to prescribed rules and regulations for the preparation and packing of such articles for the mails; but it does not make the right to mail depend upon his exercise of that power.

"If the Postmaster General makes such rules and regulations then poisons and articles and compositions containing poison not outwardly and of their own force dangerous, etc., must be prepared and packed according thereto. This is in line with the decisions of the Supreme Court which have held that it is not unconstitutional for Congress to give executives the power to make administrative regulations, and when so doing to provide a penalty for the violation of such administrative regulations."

#### RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION TO SHOW ATTITUDE ON U. S. PATENT LAWS.

WHEREAS, The pharmacists of the United States, owing to the European war, have been deprived of many of the chemical products used in medicine, and

WHEREAS, The American public is obliged to pay extravagantly high and unjustly extortionate prices for the synthetic drugs and medicines they are obliged to buy from foreign holders of patents on medicinal products, and

WHEREAS, The United States patent laws in granting product-patents, instead of process-patents to foreign manufacturers are hindering instead of "promoting science and useful arts" for which they are instituted, and

WHEREAS, The synthetic drug industry is primarily and basically dependent upon the dye-making industry, and as the dyestuff industry cannot be successfully carried on without ample tariff protection and the liberation of the infant American organic chemical industry from the bondage of American patent laws, which favor priority and deter invention and progress and which accord American protection to foreigners which their native countries deny them, and

WHEREAS, The present United States patent laws favor the creation of monopolies in this country by the citizens of Germany, France, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Japan and the Argentine Republic, which is denied the citizens of those countries by their own laws, and

WHEREAS, A patent on products creates a monopoly, not only on the product itself, but on all subsequent improvements in process for the making of the same, thereby destroying the stimulus for improvements and discovery through research, and

WHEREAS, The State of Pennsylvania, rich of minerals of both inorganic and organic nature, depends in a very great measure for its industrial development upon a properly ordered and organized chemical industry—Be it therefore

RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania State Pharmaceutical Association go on record in requesting the Congressmen and Senators from Pennsylvania to strongly support the pending Tariff Bill, affording protection to American industries, and

BE IT RESOLVED, That a Bill be prepared for introduction in Congress through a Pennsylvania Congressman asking a change in the United States patent laws discontinuing the patenting of products but recognizing only applications for patents on processes, and, finally,

BE IT RESOLVED, That these resolutions be printed in the Proceedings and that a copy of these be forwarded to the President of the United States, the members of the President's Cabinet, the officials of the United States Patent Office, the Senators and Congressmen from Pennsylvania, the officers of the United States Chamber of Commerce, and every State business men's and labor organization in Pennsylvania, and also to the journals of the American Pharmaceutical Association, the American Medical Association, the American Chemical Society, the Saturday Evening Post, the Collier's Weekly, and to the Hon. Congressmen Paige and Hill from Connecticut.

## WAR DEPARTMENT

List of changes of stations during August, 1916, in the cases of Sergeants First Class and Sergeants, Medical Department.

### SERGEANTS FIRST CLASS.

Charles F. Kimball, from Ft. Greble, to the Walter Reed General Hospital.

Robert R. Linden from Walter Reed General Hospital, to Remount Depot, Ft. Reno.

Charles F. Eble from Ft. Leavenworth, to Hospital Train Southern Department.

Robert L. Edwards, from duty with the Organized Militia, State of N. C., to duty in the Southern Department.

Halbert M. Beasley, from duty with the Organized Militia State of Mass., to duty in the Southern Department.

Walter E. Fender, from duty with the Organized Militia, State of Ill., to duty in the Southern Department.

Edward M. Pennypacker from Ft. Wadsworth to the Southern Department.

Maurice Kelly from Ft. Monroe, to the Southern Department.

Daniel C. Donovan from Ft. Niagara, to the Southern Department.

Lonzo R. Bice, from Ft. Ontario, to the Southern Department.

Carl G. Bopp from West Point to the Southern Department.

Oscar Kaufer, from the Army & Navy Gen'l Hospital to the Southern Department.

Ethel H. James, from the Walter Reed General Hospital, to the Southern Department.

Leslie H. Stein, from Ft. Bayard, to the Southern Department.

Albert G. Fisher, from Washington Barracks to the Southern Department.

Gabriel Cushman, from Ft. Winfield Scott, to the Southern Department.

George H. Paul, from Ft. Columbia, to the Southern Department.

Burton Hardenbrook, from Ft. Missoula to the Southern Department.