

THE PHARMACIST AND THE LAW.

INCONSISTENCIES IN HARRISON ACT REGULATIONS.

The following examples of inconsistencies in Harrison Act Regulations are taken from the report of Charles M. Woodruff, Chairman of the Committee on Legislation of American Drug Manufacturers' Association:

"If a dentist desires to buy as few as fifteen or twenty cocaine tablets for dental operations in the original sealed package as carefully put up by the manufacturer, and his local druggist has not registered as a wholesaler, he must send away for them and pay often more than the value of the tablets in transportation charges, for they are not mailable. Here both the local druggist and the dentist are victims of two unjust laws.

"But is this situation in the interest of the public? Let us see. The dentist may not buy fifteen or twenty tablets in the manufacturer's original stamped package from the local druggist—his natural source of supply for such quantity—but he may buy from the same source one thousand or ten thousand if the druggist will but deliver them in another container than the original stamped one.

"It is a crime for a retail druggist to sell the smallest conceivable original stamped package, but there is no limit to the quantity he may sell from the original stamped package. It is inconceivable that Congress ever intended the results that have followed its definition of the terms 'wholesale dealer' and 'retail dealer' coupled with some of the rulings that have been made thereunder.

"Another instance is the ruling that the volume of the content of the package is the basis of the stamp tax rather than the actual narcotic content. Under this ruling we are compelled to pay a stamp tax upon syrup, water, milk, sugar as well as upon harmless drugs which may be in the combination. The more dangerous the form in which the narcotic drug is presented the less the tax. Undiluted, an ounce of morphine is taxed but one cent. Diluted it may be taxed several dollars. The greater the dilution and the less harmful the preparation the greater the tax. Do the President and Congress know that under this law, if one sells an ounce of morphine he pays a tax of only one cent; and if the buyer takes that ounce of morphine and adds water enough to make a solution, each ounce of which contains $\frac{1}{100}$ grain of mor-

phine, one must pay a tax of \$437.50? Is this a tax on morphine or a tax on water? But this is the effect of the second paragraph of Article 66 of the regulations coupled with Article 142 holding in substance that a solution is not a preparation exempted under Section 6.

"The trouble with these inconsistent and unjust laws and regulations is that, while honestly made with the best intentions, they are wrong in principle, and any law wrong in principle is sure to work injustice and oppression.

"Another cause of just complaint is the burdensome record keeping and report features of the regulations that require a needless force of clerks in the department, and in the offices of collectors of internal revenue, as well as in the various laboratories, warehouses and stores of the trade throughout the country. This is an economic waste of man and woman power that in view of the lamentable shortage of labor of all kinds seems almost criminal. The horde of clerks now engaged in useless non-productive detail at Washington, in every government office throughout the land, as well as in the factories and shops of those affected should be released in the interest of the greater and more economical production that the prosperity of the country and reasonable cost of living demand. May we not fittingly close this arraignment by quoting from the indictments against the English king found in our Declaration of Independence?"

"He has erected a multitude of new offices and has sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.,,

WHO ADVOCATE COMPULSORY HEALTH INSURANCE?

[From report of Committee on Social Insurance, A. D. M. A.]

"We should say, after a pretty careful study of the movement compassing several years, that the advocates of compulsory health insurance divide themselves very naturally into the following classes:

"1. The original group of academic doctrinaires and sociologists. These men for the most part are university teachers, and they sincerely believe themselves to be right. Unfortunately, as Samuel Gompers says of them,

they are not open to conviction. They are zealous fanatics.

"2. The governors and legislatures of certain States tinctured with socialism, especially the western group of States now carried away by the misbranded Non-Partisan movement.

"3. The modern bolshevists who are out for anything that promises to foment class hatred, promote chaos, curb production, destroy prosperity and kill private initiative.

"4. The men in every State who have the nose of a hunting dog for political jobs, and who see the vision of a great organization feeding at the public treasury.

"Thus we find compulsory health insurance with a peculiar assortment of friends. It is at once to be observed that, not the lion and the lamb, but the zealot and the crook, lie down together. Not politics only, but socialistic 'reforms' as well, make strange bedmates.

"In the early days of the movement it was thought that the medical profession was in favor of it. For a time the medical profession, indeed, was in favor of it. But now we find physicians arrayed strongly among the opposition, and we observe them to be well organized in one or two States where the issue has reached the stage of practical danger."

FINES AND FORFEITURES COLLECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO PAY COST OF DRY-LAW ENFORCE- MENT.

April 14, Senator Morris Sheppard, of Texas, "dry" leader in the Senate, introduced testimony by Wayne B. Wheeler, counsel for the Anti-Saloon League, to refute statements by Senator Francis Warren, of Wyoming, and others, that prohibition enforcement would cost \$50,000,000 or more a year.

Mr. Wheeler, in a letter, wrote, that as \$3,100,000 had been appropriated by Congress, *there is every reason to believe that fines and forfeitures collected by the government will more than pay the cost of the law enforcements.*

PROPOSED PHARMACY LEGISLATION IN IOWA.

Quoting the *Official Register* of the Iowa Pharmaceutical Association, "the Iowa Code Revision Committee has published two proposed bills affecting pharmacy in Iowa. These two bills, known as Code Commissioners' Bill 63 and 64, cover the subject of 'Public Health and Food and Drug Department' and our present pharmacy laws are included under these subjects.

"The particular bill of interest to us is the

one which provides for the administering of the laws as the original pharmacy laws now on our statutes are incorporated in their original form under the head of 'Food and Drug Department.' The only changes proposed to these laws are such as will make them more clearly understood by the addition of definitive paragraphs. While some of these paragraphs may need some revision or amending, our principal concern now is with the proposed method of administration and this article will cover only that subject."

GENERAL BOARD TO REPLACE PRESENT COM- MISSIONS.

"All commissions and boards having to do with the administering of laws pertaining to the public health (including the State Board of Pharmacy) are abolished if this bill is enacted. In their places it is proposed to establish one state board to be known as the State Board of Health. This board is to consist of three members, one to be a physician, one a sanitary engineer and one an experienced business man, all to be appointed by the governor and to put in their entire time. The duties of the board are to have general supervision of the public health; make investigations, surveys and inspections; publish and enforce rules and regulations in conformity with the Food and Drug laws; and have supervision of such regulations and laws."

CUBA REQUIRES FORMULA DISCLOS- URES OF PREPARATIONS SOLD ON ISLAND.

The Bureau of Insular Affairs states that formula disclosure is not required by Porto Rico on proprietary medicines if the Volstead Act is complied with. Restrictions do apply in Cuba, however, according to information from the Cuban Legation and the Proprietary Association. The latter has sent its counsel, Harry B. Thompson, to Cuba to look into the matter and make efforts to secure an exemption for bona fide remedies of American make.

FIGHT ANTI-DUMPING BILL.

Declaring that the anti-dumping bill recently passed by the House would prevent American consumers from reducing living costs by buying cheaper European wares, Senators Thomas, of Colorado, and Nugent, of Idaho, filed a minority report April 22, urging defeat of the measure. They charged that the moving force behind the bill was the selfish interests of American manufacturers, who desired to hold a monopoly of the domestic market.

Denying that wholesale dumping of foreign goods was probable, the report declared if so it would "prove more of a blessing than a curse.

"Indeed most people would welcome such a blessed relief from the exactions of the home market," the report said.

BOOK NOTICES AND REVIEWS.

Handbook der Pharmakognosie (Handbook of Pharmacognosy). By A. Tschirch. In two 4° volumes of pp. 1072 and 1625, respectively, with numerous illustrations in the text and several full-page plates and maps. Published by Chr. Herm. Tauchnitz, Leipsic.

It is now somewhat more than ten years since the first parts of the comprehensive work bearing the above title were issued, and although apparently brought to completion in 1917, owing to conditions caused by the war the final parts have only recently been made available in this country. With consideration of this unfortunate interruption of publication or distribution, it is particularly gratifying to know that so stupendous a task has ultimately been successfully accomplished, and it now seems opportune that a work on which so much time and labor have been bestowed should be brought more generally to notice, in order that it may receive the wider recognition and appreciation which it merits.

It would be quite impossible within the limits of time at the disposition of the writer, or the available space of the JOURNAL, to undertake a comprehensive review of a work of such magnitude, and all that can now be attempted is to present an outline of the general character of the work and some of its principal or distinctive features.

The first volume of the "Handbuch," which comprises 1072 pages, is devoted to general pharmacognosy, and under this title the following subjects are considered: Definition and aims of pharmacognosy; drugs and the history of those employed in medicine; the cultivation and collection of medicinal plants; trade routes in ancient and modern times; treatment of drugs at the port of entry, and the extent of their production and export; commercial sorts and methods of packing; pharmacognostical systems and bibliography; instruction in pharmacognosy; examination of drugs for identity and purity and their preservation; description of drugs; the auxiliary sciences, such as botany, zoölogy, chemistry, physics, geography and history in their application to the study of pharmacognosy.

The second volume of the work relates to what is termed special pharmacognosy, and

comprises 1625 pages. In this part detailed descriptions of a very large number of drugs are presented, and in the classification of the latter the author has departed from the usual custom, inasmuch as they are grouped according to what is considered to be their more prominent or important constituent rather than botanical relationships. In other words the plan of classification is based upon the chemical characters of the respective drugs. In accordance with this plan the subject-matter is considered under the following principal chapters with numerous subdivisions: I. Drugs containing carbohydrates; II. Drugs containing albuminoids. III. Drugs containing organic acids. IV. Drugs containing fats and waxes. V. Drugs containing odorous substances, such as the volatile oils or related individual compounds. VI. Drugs containing glucosides, including glucosidal resins. In connection with each subject the author has given very extensive citations of the literature and a comprehensive description of the drug, together with its morphological or anatomical characters and chemical constituents. A special interest is imparted to the work by its richness and excellence of illustration, not only in the text but also by means of many full-page plates and maps.

It may safely be stated that the subject of pharmacognosy has never before received so elaborate an exposition as in the work to which Professor Tschirch has devoted so many years of untiring labor. His long experience in the teaching of this branch of science has rendered him particularly well qualified to undertake the task which has now been so successfully completed, and the "Handbuch" will certainly long continue to be a repository of most valuable and interesting information for all who are interested in the subject of pharmacognosy in its broadest aspects or applications.

F. B. POWER.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Industrial Chemistry, a manual for the student and the manufacturer, edited by Allen Rogers. 1208 pp. and index. D. Van Nostrand Co. \$7.50 net.

The new volume contains 1208 pages, exclusive of the index, as against 980 pages in