

serves to be. For some time past chloroform makers have recognized its value as a starting point for their article and to replace alcohol. It has many advantages over even the strongest methylated spirit as a solvent and is readily removed from extracts, resins, etc., by distillation. Its production has also in consequence largely increased, and the Government employ it as a solvent of the nitro-cellulose used in coedite and similar explosives. The price has also been reduced since the extension of its use, and a very pure article having a specific gravity of 0.802 is now readily obtainable. Most of the supply comes from France and Germany. It would be interesting to hear from some of the wholesale druggists and manufacturing chemists what their experience is with regard to this solvent, but only occasionally does the information leak out, as they prefer to keep this sort of knowledge to themselves. Quite lately it has been recommended for the extraction of chrysobarin from Goa powder, but the new Pharmacopœia almost makes it imperative to use chloroform, which is more than double as expensive. For the extraction of alkaloids and their subsequent purification it does not appear to be so useful as amylic alcohol, especially with quinine, strychnine, etc.

### Prescriptions.

#### REGULATIONS AS TO THE OWNERSHIP, RENEWALS AND THE GENERAL DISPOSITION OF PRESCRIPTIONS IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

Through the courtesy of the State Department at Washington, we have been favored with a special "Consular's Report," which has been issued in response to a request to the American Pharmaceutical Association for information in reference to the drug trade in foreign countries.

The report is one of great interest to the trade everywhere, and our readers, we are sure, will be interested in the following portion of it, which deals with the disposition of prescriptions outside of Canada and United States.

#### AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

As to the final disposition of physicians' certificates the law is silent, but it is the common practice of pharmacists to return prescriptions to the persons who presented them. It is, however, the duty of every person conducting a phar-

macy to keep a prescription book and to enter therein literally every prescription which is filled in his establishment, with the name of the physician who gave it, the name and address of the patient, the name of the person who filled it, and the date on which it was filled. He must also place the "stamp" of his pharmacy on every such prescription, which is a notice to whomever it may concern that it has been filled.

Some prescriptions may be renewed or "repeated," while others may not. As a rule, pharmacists are not permitted to fill a stamped or cancelled prescription if it contains any strong ingredient, the name of which is specially marked in the Pharmacopœia Austriaca. As an additional safeguard it is made the duty of physicians to add to such prescriptions the Latin phrase "Ne repetatur" (it must not be renewed). A pharmacist who fills a stamped prescription of this kind subjects himself to severe penalties, and he has no right to give copies under any circumstances.

#### BELGIUM.

The law requires that physicians' prescriptions must be kept on file for ten years. It may here be mentioned that druggists require physicians' prescriptions much more generally than their colleagues in America. Many of the so-called simple medicines, if at all compounded, can be obtained here only on a prescription. Many druggists require the purchaser of poisons to sign a printed blank form stating the use to be made of the same and giving his name and address.

Druggists are permitted to renew physicians' prescriptions from time to time, and must give copies thereof upon the request of the original client. In many instances the latter is required to sign a printed blank request for the renewal of his prescription. The law of 1878 relative to the responsibility and liability of prescription druggists is at present being revised.

#### DENMARK.

Physicians' prescriptions are not kept on file, but are returned to the customers. For certain medicaments the physicians state on the prescriptions how many times they can be renewed, and each renewal is properly stamped on the prescription by the apothecary.

A prescription cannot be used more than five times, even with the consent of the physician.

#### FRANCE.

As a pharmacist is held strictly accountable for any accidents which may occur from a careless compounding of a doctor's prescription, it has been decided in the courts of law that the prescription is the property of the pharmacist. Unless it contains very poisonous or dangerous medicines, however, it is customary for the pharmacist to deliver it to the person purchasing the medicine. A true copy of all prescriptions is made by the pharmacist in a register kept expressly for the purpose, the copy is given a serial number, and the number is written upon the prescription before it is returned to the person presenting it. The register is required by law to be kept at least twenty years.

A pharmacist can give copies of a prescription to persons originally presenting the same, or upon his or her written request. But under no circumstances can a copy be furnished without the knowledge and consent of the person for whom the prescription was originally filled.

It is illegal for an apothecary to change a doctor's prescription in any way. In case of a manifest error, which would make the administration of the medicine dangerous, the apothecary must refer the prescription to the doctor for rectification.

#### GERMANY.

Physicians' prescriptions are copied into the register of the pharmacy when such prescription is first presented, and this register becomes thenceforward the official record. When the medicine so ordered is paid for the prescription is usually returned to its owner; if the medicine is charged on account the prescription is retained until the account is paid, but it is always subject to be reclaimed by the person for whom it was originally made, and must be returned when demanded and the previous account paid. In the province of Hesse prescriptions left with, or that have been once filled by, a pharmacist must be kept on file or record fifteen years. In Prussia no time limit is legally fixed, as the register forms the official record, but in practice all prescriptions not reclaimed by their owners are retained not less than ten years.

An apothecary may give to the owner for whom a prescription has been made and filled, or to anyone else, a copy of any prescription registered in his books, there being in this respect no legal restric-