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EDITORIAL

THE SALE OF "DOPE" DRUGS IN THE UNITED STATES.

In the United States there is much effort being made to curtail the sale of habit-forming drugs. In some States such sale is now made difficult, and the recent Act for the entire country will do much good. From a leading journal we quote the following:

"The Bureau of Internal Revenue is engaged this week in the making of rules and regulations having for their object the suppression of the use of habit-forming drugs throughout the country. During the past decade the consumption of "dope" has greatly increased in the United States, and it is calculated that from two to four millions of people are victims of the appetite, while every year 100,000 more sufferers are added to the number. Some of the State Legislatures have dealt with the subject, but their efforts have not been successful.

"In Massachusetts, for example, there is a law which sets forth that no habit-forming drug shall be sold except upon the prescription of a regular practitioner, and that no physician shall give a prescription to and person who is known to him to be a habitual user. This is a good law so far as it goes, but the confirmed "dope fiend" can evade it by the simple process of buying or ordering his drugs from another State, in which no such law exists. The opponents of the drug habit have long struggled to secure national legislation to cover the situation, and to render it difficult, if not impossible, for any person to secure the objectionable and dangerous drugs for personal use.

"The campaign in favor of restriction bore fruit during the session of Congress which has just closed, and as a consequence a stringent anti-drug law is now on the statute book, and is at this moment in operation. Under this statute, opium, heroin, codeine, cocaine, morphine, and all other like preparations are withdrawn from sale except under certain restrictive conditions. These conditions, if carefully observed, are calculated to minimize the evil, if not to wipe it out altogether. Every person or company dealing in the objectionable drugs, whether by wholesale or at retail, must take out a license from the Bur-