
Editorial Notes.

WHEN THE WAR TAX STAMP was levied on patent medicines in the United States many manufacturers advanced prices to meet this tax, and in nearly all such cases the retailer was the loser. Now the abolition of this tax has been accomplished, just see how those fellows will tumble over each other in their haste to reduce prices and relieve the retailer of the unjust burden.

CARELESSNESS IN LABELLING is a crime, and as such has been heavily punished in France. A pharmacist of Monthureux-sur-Saône used a pot with an extract of ipecac label on it as a container for extract of opium and neglected to change the label. On three different occasions he used the opium, in mistake for ipecac, in making a syrup for children. Four dead children was the direct result of his carelessness, while six months' imprisonment and a fine of 11,000 francs was the indirect result imposed on him by the court which tried the case.

THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE recently issued instructions to its representatives abroad to ascertain and report on the working of the Metric System in those countries which had adopted it for purposes of trade and commerce. Over forty reports have been received, and they indicate pretty clearly that the system has operated satisfactorily, facilitating trade with these countries, such as Germany and France, where it is in use. The reports further say that the introduction was accomplished, in most cases, with ease and lack of friction.

ANOTHER DECISION has been given in a United States Court confirming the legality of Associations for the maintaining of prices and otherwise conferring mutual benefit.

The Owl Drug Co., of California, a cutting concern, sued a couple of wholesale houses and the Retail Druggist Association for damage, alleging that "they had formed a company to refuse the proprietary of patent medicines." The ruling of the court is interesting and worth reprinting. We give it *here* :—

"It has been suggested that the defendants have formed a combination to keep up prices and that this is restraint of trade and therefore against public policy and illegal for that reason. I do not think the point well taken. Persons engaged in business have a right to use all lawful means to obtain high prices for the goods they have to sell where the goods are not of a sort deemed to be necessities of life, and to do this either alone or in combination with others. For this purpose they have the right to withhold their patronage from those who do not

act with them in the furtherance of their interests. All trade is to a certain extent selfish in its operations, and an agreement among traders in this class of goods that they will trade only with those who will act with them in the bettering of their business is not illegal in the sense here intended. Such an agreement may not be enforceable in the courts when an action is founded upon it, but the use of such an agreement to induce others to act is not the use of unlawful means of which a third person whose trade suffers from the act can complain, or make the foundation of an act for damages."

NEW YORK DRUGGISTS, through their representatives, recently decided to "fight the cutters" and maintain the schedule of prices recently adopted by the Joint Conference Committee. The Association is issuing a printed price list which will cover everything sold in a drug store, from an ounce of sulphur to a gross of proprietary medicines, and as soon as this list is issued "the fight" will be on. The action of manufacturers and jobbers will be watched with keen interest, as this will be a test of the N. A. R. D. tripartite agreement. The plan of campaign is that if a manufacturer should withdraw from the agreement the members of the association would refuse to sell him goods.

MR. L. WAGNER WRITES to the Bulletin of Pharmacy his experience with carbonated water in stopping the flow of blood. He first used it in a case of nose bleeding, the patient snuffing the water up and the bleeding discontinued almost immediately. Mr. Wagner was not sure as to the cause of cessation, but was disposed to attribute it to the water being ice cold. Shortly after a case of cut hand was brought to him, and he again used the carbonated water, this time not cold, and similar results followed.

It will be an easy matter to demonstrate if Mr. Wagner's discovery is merely an incident or a "valuable find." If the latter, then an effective hemostatic will always be at hand in a drug store ready for application.

THE UNITED STATES now has a Bureau of Standards. Congress has just made an appropriation for the purpose. The functions of the Bureau is to establish standards for Physical, Astronomical, Chemical and other Scientific apparatus; assume the custody of the same; the comparison of the standards used in scientific investigations, engineering, manufacturing, commerce and educational institutions with the standards adopted or recognized by the Government; the construction, when necessary, of standards, their multiples and subdivisions; the testing and calibration of standard measuring apparatus; the solution of problems which arise in connection with