

This is evidently the view of the Government, for when the Minister of Health, Mr. E. Powell, announced in the House of Commons on April 4 that the Government accepted the Committee's recommendations and was taking steps to put the scheme into effect, he added, with a reference to this 'note of dissent', that the Government had in hand a review of the law relating to drugs generally with the view of legislation, but that the preparation of legislation on this large and complex subject was bound to take time. The Government did not consider that action on the safety of drugs should insist on this legislation or that a voluntary scheme on the lines recommended would be ineffective. It had received assurances that the co-operation of the pharmaceutical industry and of the medical profession would be forthcoming, and the details of the scheme would be worked out in full consultation with industry, with the view of speed and efficiency of operation.

## PHARMACEUTICAL JURISPRUDENCE

### Manual of Pharmaceutical Law

Third Edition. By William Pettit. Pp. ix+284. (New York: The Macmillan Company; a Division of the Crowell-Collier Publishing Company; London: The Macmillan Company, New York, 1962.) 40s.

A FIRST glance at the *Manual of Pharmaceutical Law* emphasizes the different treatment of pharmaceutical law in the United Kingdom and the United States; one wishes not only that the teaching of the subject were more on American lines but also that a similar text-book written for the British pharmacist and student were available. Forensic pharmacy in the United Kingdom is a memory marathon of dry facts with little background of understanding, whereas in the United States the subject is expanded into jurisprudence with an explanation of much of the law affecting the pharmacist in his daily life, and giving a groundwork of legal knowledge outside the immediate professional field. Excellent background information is given in the *Manual*, and the law affecting pharmacy is treated on a wide scale; in addition to the usual subjects of poison and drug law such topics as contract, tort, trade marks and commercial law are dealt with although in some cases a bit sketchily. Many of the chapters, especially those dealing with Common Law, are useful for the British pharmacist.

Chapters 1 and 2 are essentially American in style and information, especially the references to sources of law, the courts, pharmacy boards and licensing, so, although of interest, they must be read in Britain and elsewhere with discretion. The definitions of limitation, crimes and property on pp. 6-8, however, are worthy of study. Of limited interest to English readers the portions on conflict between Federal and State law are applicable to many Commonwealth countries.

On p. 12, the conclusions reached from the Californian Assistant Pharmacy Case illustrate an often forgotten principle applicable in all Common Law jurisdictions that legal rights and privileges are granted to a profession not for the protection of the individual who is a member of that profession but for the protection of the public. British pharmacists will be interested in the sensible decision given in the United States in the case of Commonwealth versus Dimas compared with that in the English case of Denerley versus Spink, both cases being founded on almost identical facts, that a qualified pharmacist trading from premises where no pharmacist is in charge may not use restricted titles. In England, as a result of the way the Pharmacy and Poisons Act 1933 is drafted, the High Court has ruled that a pharmacist may use the

title 'chemist' even when trading from unregistered premises with no pharmacist in charge. The vexed and contentious question of substitution is well dealt with on p. 48 *et seq.*

Chapter 3, dealing with narcotics, includes not only the Federal and State law based on the international conventions but also a historical review of narcotics legislation and details of the international conventions giving rise to the present-day laws. So often the English pharmacist can give the controls under the Dangerous Drugs Act (Why cannot the English legal draftsmen use the more precise term 'narcotic'?) but has no knowledge of the reasons behind the rules.

Chapter 4 dealing with the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Acts is only useful historically. The publication time is unfortunate in that the Federal Drug Act and Regulations have recently been considerably amended, so it would be unwise for any practitioner to rely on a manual dealing with Food, Drug and Cosmetic Acts with a publication date prior to 1964. The chapter dealing with U.S. Federal and State Poison Law is of interest and compares with the English Pharmacy and Poisons Act of 1868 and 1908.

From p. 125 on, the *Manual* covers the general law which affects the pharmacist practising his profession, no matter in what sphere, and covers a number of legal subjects only recently introduced into the pharmaceutical syllabus in the pharmaceutical chemist course in the United Kingdom. It is this part of the *Manual* which emphasizes the lack of a suitable book in the United Kingdom dealing not only with the classical subjects for the Forensic Pharmacy Examination but also those parts of the general commercial law of the country of which the practising pharmacists should be aware.

The portions dealing with the Common Law are excellent and apply to England and Wales as much as they do the United States. The vexed and frequently misunderstood question of the difference between 'offers' and 'offers to treat' is dealt with fully and clearly. Professional negligence is adequately covered and the pharmacist informed on the standards that are expected from him. Whereas only one leading case on negligence in pharmacy in England (George versus Skivington) comes readily to mind, negligence claims play a considerable part in litigation in the United States.

Some of the subjects are dismissed too briefly, for example, trade marks and company law; but this is presumably unavoidable in a manual covering so wide a field. On balance these two would have been better omitted as they are subjects which merit a complete manual, and the few details given in this book tend to be confusing.

The book is well printed, but the index is not all that the British reader would wish, the appendixes are of little interest in the United Kingdom and the more thorough student would appreciate a table of cases. It is not a book that all British pharmacists must have, but it is one that could be read by all with interest and profit; especially by members of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, who might well consider revision of the present forensic pharmacy syllabus.

C. C. STEVENS

## LABORATORY MANUAL IN SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

### Social Psychology Through Experiment

Edited, with Introductions, by George Humphrey and Michael Argyle. Pp. vii+208. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd., 1962.) 21s. net.

THIS book represents an interesting pioneer effort to provide a laboratory manual in social psychology directed mainly at students taking courses in general psychology.