

LAW AND CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS

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FOREWORD

Volume I, Number 1, of this quarterly presented a symposium on "The Protection of the Consumer of Food and Drugs." The organization of that symposium was commenced many months before revision of the 1906 Food and Drugs Act was proposed, but, when a bill to that end was introduced in June, 1933, provision was made for its consideration in the symposium. In June, 1938, after five years of contention in Congress, a new law, based on the original bill but differing from it in many respects, was enacted, and in the same session of Congress, important amendments relating to food, drug and cosmetic advertising were added to the Federal Trade Commission Act. The consequence of this legislation has been to change very materially the situation depicted in the first symposium, although much that is contained therein throws light on the problems which will be encountered under the new laws. It has therefore seemed appropriate to devote this issue to a second symposium on the subject of the protection of the consumer—of cosmetics as well as food and drugs.

Whereas in the first symposium consideration was directed to a number of sources of consumer protection other than federal law, the broadened scope of the new federal legislation and the complexity of its provisions have made it imperative to focus attention upon these statutes at the cost of a more comprehensive approach to the underlying problem. However, two articles transcend this limitation. Mr. Saul Nelson's discussion of the *Representation of the Consumer Interest in the Federal Government* develops a basic problem in the organization of the various consumer-protective agencies which should not be obscured by the intensive consideration of any one. Mr. Ole Salthe's article on *State Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Legislation and its Administration* anticipates the readjustments which change in the federal law should call forth in the states.

A word of explanation should be added as to the scope of the first article in the symposium. It combines a legislative history of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with an examination of the provisions of the Act defining adulteration and misbranding. Those readers having no special interest in the former topic may turn directly to page 22 where the discussion of the substantive provisions of the new law begins.

D. F. C.