

classes of apparatus which have hitherto been largely matters of individual opinions.

This meeting will be the first annual meeting of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, organized last spring in Philadelphia for the purpose of bringing together all those who are particularly interested in the combined application of chemistry and engineering to technical problems. The organizers of the institute, after considerable investigation as to the need of such a society, have made the qualifications for active membership extremely rigid, believing that a very important object of an organization of chemists and engineers (besides meeting for purely social purposes) should be the raising of professional standards among its members. To this end a careful and serious effort is being made to so limit membership that admission to the institute will be in itself an evidence of the standing of its members.

That there was need for some such movement is sufficiently evident by the extent to which fake processes have at times been offered in this particular field. Hitherto chemistry has by the very nature of the phenomena studied, the transformation of matter, presented that element of the mysterious which seems to be important to the successful exploitation of fraud. Numerous patents, which never worked and never could work, have been taken out and sold or made the basis of "Wildcat Companies." Numerous manufacturers have been victimized and it is hoped that in time the Institute of Chemical Engineers may be able to do for the chemical engineering profession what the Society of Civil Engineers has so ably accomplished in its field.

All communications from those desiring to attend the Pittsburg meeting, or from manufacturers who desire to exhibit, should be addressed to the secretary, Dr. J. C. Olsen, Polytechnic Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y.

#### VOCATIONS OF YALE ALUMNI

THE *Yale Alumni Weekly* gives some statistics from the new quadrennial catalogue of living graduates. It shows that the law holds its own, or nearly so, in the ratio of alumni

choosing it even if one goes back far into the expired century or even earlier. In 1797 there were 42 per cent. of Yale graduates in the law. This ratio fell to 33 per cent. in 1802; rose to 36 per cent. in 1813-14; fell to 31 per cent. in 1821-2-4; rose to 32 per cent. in 1831-3-4; and to 33 per cent. in 1841-5. During the last ten years in the academical department there were graduated 2,950 men, of whom 713 (or somewhat more than 24 per cent.) took the law. The choice of law varies much in particular classes. Thus in the class of 1898 it runs up to 31 per cent.; in the class of 1901 it runs down to about 21 per cent. But the average of 24 per cent. in the last ten classes is not strikingly divergent from the ratios of the first half of the nineteenth century.

As was to be expected, the ministry shows a big decrease. It took 39 per cent. of the Yale graduates in 1797; 30 per cent. in 1802; 25 per cent. in 1813-14; 34 per cent. in 1821-2-4; the same in 1831-3-4; and 27 per cent. in 1841-5. The last ten academic classes, with 2,950 men, return but ninety-five ordained or prospective clergymen, or somewhat more than 3 per cent. For the whole university there are but thirty-six more clergymen as compared with four years ago, although during that time the total of living graduates shows an increase of 2,141.

Medicine in 1797 took 8 per cent. of the college graduates; in 1802 the same; in 1813-14 it rose to 14 per cent.; in 1821-2-4 to 20 per cent.; in 1831-3-4 it fell to 15 per cent.; and in 1841-5 to 9 per cent. Among the 2,950 graduates of the last ten years it numbers 162, or about five and one half per cent. Here again appear striking disparities—eight out of 290 men in the class of 1906 taking that vocation, as compared with twenty out of the 305 men in the class of 1903.

Education in the vocations of the academic graduates comes out stronger than any occupation except the law and business. In 1797 it counted 3 per cent.; in 1802 it fell to 2 per cent.; in 1813-14 it rose to 5 per cent.; in 1821-2-4 it was the same; in 1831-3-4 it was up to 10 per cent. and in 1841-5 fell to 8 per cent. During the last ten years it has taken

343, or nearly 12 per cent. of the college graduates.

But it is in the drift to the business vocations that the change comes out most impressively, an index, in a sense, of the familiar materialistic character of the age. In 1797 there were in business 6 per cent.; in 1802 there were 17 per cent.; in 1813 it fell to 12 per cent., to 8 per cent. in 1821-2-4, to 4 per cent. in 1831-3-4, and rose to 12 per cent. in 1841-5. It seems only fair to include under the head of "business," manufacturing and banking (finance), as well as the mercantile occupations. In the last ten classes there are then 1,149 out of the 2,950 academic graduates, or about 40 per cent., in the "business" vocations. A larger number (413) went into "finance" than into mercantile vocations (368).

Out of 7,869 graduates of the academic department now living and including all classes since 1837, only 173 have gone into agriculture and only 112 into art; 890 into education; 231 into engineering; 927 into finance; only ninety-four into the government service; 2,288 into law; 291 into literature, including journalism; 716 into manufacturing; 575 into medicine; 769 into mercantile pursuits; 496 into the ministry; forty-four into specialized science as distinguished from education; 119 into transportation; and only 119 are unspecified.

#### THE CHARLES WILLIAM ELIOT FUND

A COMMITTEE of nineteen influential Harvard alumni, including Mr. Alexander Agassiz and Dr. Simon Newcomb, has issued the following statement:

Charles William Eliot, after forty years of faithful and brilliant service, has resigned the presidency of Harvard University.

We think this event should be recognized by some suitable action on the part of the alumni.

With the cooperation of the Alumni Association we invite the graduates of Harvard University, and others who have been connected with it, to subscribe to a fund to be known as the Charles William Eliot Fund, the income of which shall be paid to President and Mrs. Eliot during their

lives, and afterwards be used in such a manner as he may designate.

It is especially desired that this fund should be, so far as possible, the gift of all, and the smallest contributions will be as gratefully received as the largest.

Subscriptions, to which no publicity will be given, may be sent to F. L. Higginson, 50 State Street, Boston, Mass.

#### THE DARWIN CELEBRATION OF THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE investigations and publications of Charles Darwin have had a profound influence upon the progress of science in America as well as in all other parts of the world, but no important memorial of this great naturalist exists in this country. The one hundredth anniversary of Darwin's birth and the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of the "Origin of Species" fall within the year 1909, and the council of the New York Academy of Sciences proposes that these events be suitably celebrated on Darwin's birthday, February 12, 1909, when addresses are to be delivered by members of the academy setting forth Darwin's achievements in different departments of science, and a bronze bust of Darwin is to be unveiled and presented to the American Museum of Natural History by the president of the academy and accepted by the president of the museum. It is also proposed to hold in connection with the celebration an exhibition at the museum of Darwiniana and objects illustrating Darwin's theory of evolution through natural selection and his work in botanical, zoological and geological research.

A Darwin memorial committee to make all arrangements has been appointed as follows: E. O. Hovey, *Chairman*; J. A. Allen, C. W. Beebe, C. L. Bristol, N. L. Britton, H. C. Bumpus, G. N. Calkins, J. McK. Cattell, F. M. Chapman, C. F. Cox, H. E. Crampton, C. B. Davenport, Bashford Dean, A. W. Grabau, W. T. Hornaday, M. A. Howe, J. F. Kemp, F. A. Lucas, W. D. Matthew, T. H. Morgan, H. F. Osborn, H. H. Rusby, W. B. Scott, J. J. Stevenson, C. H. Townsend, W. M. Wheeler, E. B. Wilson.