

not joined in the work we are undertaking who ought to be with us, for our efforts are for the benefit of every chemist in America and every chemist should do his part. The only way to reach these is through the energetic, individual help of the members, who can aid the society in this way.

Some of these non-members probably never can be made to understand that they have any part to perform in elevating the standard of the profession in the country nor see any personal responsibility therein so long as they are able to read journals provided for them by others. Possibly a few have no ambition for personal advancement and care little about the advancement of American chemistry as such, but this is not true of many. Some have not been invited, but with most the reason that they are not with us is simply due to the fact that the matter has not been presented to them individually in the correct light. The argument of the journals we are publishing, of the fact that more and more corporations are urging their chemists to identify themselves with us, that many employers are asking whether or not young men belong to our society as a guarantee of the fact that they are alive and interested in the development of the profession, has been placed before them, but the fact that they are not personally assisting in the movement and that it is their duty as well as privilege to do so may not have been shown. These non-members do not realize that if we had no more than one thousand members our present publications would cost those members at least thirty dollars per year each; that by the union of 4,500 chemists we have been able to return to the individual material which could not have been furnished in any other way and that two thousand more members will enable us almost to double the work that we are now doing. Will you not help present to them the fact that it is this *union* of American chemists that is so rapidly advancing American chemistry, that is giving it prominence approaching nearer and nearer to that of Germany and that they should, if worthy members of that profession, do their annual part towards its development.

Census of American Chemists

The secretary is attempting to secure a list of all American chemists with their addresses, whether they are members of the American Chemical Society or not. He would be greatly obliged to any member who will send him names and addresses of non-members of the society in order that they may be added to this list if not already thereon. It would be a special favor if chief chemists of large industrial firms would send him a list of all chemists in their employ to be checked off for this purpose.

CHARLES L. PARSONS,
*Secretary of the American
Chemical Society*

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF COLLEGES AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

THE fourth annual meeting of the National Conference Committee on Standards of Colleges and Secondary Schools was held in the rooms of the dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences of Harvard University, University Hall, Cambridge, Mass., on Saturday, October 9, 1909. All the organizations which send delegates to the conferences of this committee were represented, the delegates being as follows: President George E. MacLean, the State University of Iowa, from the National Association of State Universities; Headmaster Wilson Farrand, Newark Academy, from the College Entrance Examination Board; Professor Nathaniel F. Davis, Brown University, from the New England College Entrance Certificate Board; Dean Herman V. Ames, the University of Pennsylvania, from the Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools of the Middle States and Maryland; Principal Frederick L. Bliss, the University School of Detroit, from the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools; Chancellor James H. Kirkland, Vanderbilt University, from the Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools of the Southern States; Secretary James G. Bowman (in place of President Henry S. Pritchett), from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; Dr. Elmer E.

Brown, the United States Commissioner of Education, and Dean Frederick C. Ferry, Williams College, from the New England Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools.

The officers of the past year were reelected as follows:

President—President George E. MacLean.

Vice-President—Headmaster Wilson Farrand.

Secretary-Treasurer—Dean Frederick C. Ferry.

The sub-committee of four, consisting of Headmaster Farrand, President Pritchett, Principal Bliss and Dean Ferry, appointed at the 1908 meeting to formulate the definition of the minute for the measurement of admission requirements, submitted a final report on this question, which was adopted after slight modification in the following form:

(DEFINITION)

A unit represents a year's study in any subject in a secondary school, constituting approximately a quarter of a full year's work.

(EXPLANATION)

This statement is designed to afford a standard of measurement for the work done in secondary schools. It takes the four-year high-school course as a basis, and assumes that the length of the school year is from thirty-six to forty weeks, that a period is from forty to sixty minutes in length, and that the study is pursued for four or five periods a week; but, under ordinary circumstances, a satisfactory year's work in any subject can not be accomplished in less than one hundred and twenty sixty-minute hours or equivalent. Schools organized on any other than a four-year basis can, nevertheless, estimate their work in terms of this unit.

The sub-committee was requested to continue its consideration of various subjects already before it and to report again at the next meeting. It is hoped in particular that it will present at that time recommendations as to some accurate use of the terms "progress of study," "curriculum," "course of study," "hour," "count," "point," "exercise," etc.

The committee passed a resolution expressing its approval of the tendency shown by many colleges to make their definitions of admission requirements conform to those of the College Entrance Examination Board, and

its hope that the definitions of admission requirements published by that board come into universal use.

It was voted to invite the Association of American Universities to accept membership in the committee and to send a delegate to its meetings.

The full minutes of the proceedings of the conference will be printed and distributed to the members of the associations which are represented in the committee.

FREDERICK C. FERRY,
Secretary-Treasurer

THE NEW ENGLAND GEOLOGICAL
EXCURSION

THE ninth annual intercollegiate geological excursion of New England was held in the northern Berkshires, Massachusetts, on Saturday, October 9, 1909, under the leadership of Professor H. F. Cleland, of Williams College. Representatives from Bates, Brown, Dartmouth, Harvard, Mt. Holyoke, Smith, Tufts, Wellesley, Wesleyan, Williams and Yale Colleges, the normal schools at Boston, North Adams, Salem and Worcester and other institutions, a total of 44, gathered for a preliminary discussion in Hotel Wendell, Pittsfield, on Friday evening. At this meeting papers were read on the glacial geology of the region to be traversed by Professor Cleland, on the areal geology by Professors Barrell and T. Nelson Dale, and on the anthropogeography by Professor Davis.

The party left Pittsfield at eight o'clock, Saturday morning, on a special electric car and made its first stop at the outlet of Glacial Lake Bascom. Here Professor Cleland explained the conditions attending the formation and the various halts of this former lake, and Professor Davis discussed the esker which traversed the valley. A second stop was made at the glass sand quarries and mill at Cheshire where Professor Emerson spoke of the origin of the sand and furnished the party with an explanation of its physical characters. Mr. C. Q. Richmond, superintendent of the Berkshire Street Railway, gave an interesting description of the industries of the Hoosic valley.