

rapidly increasing number of students taking mining engineering work, it has been necessary to add two wings to the School of Mines building and to employ additional assistance. Certain laboratories will be set aside for the experimental and research work on gas, coal, clays, building materials, cements, etc., and for this work the laboratories will be among the very best equipped in America. This work is unquestionably of very great importance to the state.

The research which has already been carried on in the Mining Engineering College of the State University relative to lignite, coal, gas and clays has attracted the attention of many men throughout the country who are interested in these subjects. It is intended to build up laboratories and carry on investigations which will be a help to the state.

The work which will be taken up most vigorously during the coming year will be for the purpose of obtaining by investigations and practical tests, a cheap and commercially satisfactory method of lignite coal briquetting, to show the best methods of burning lignite, and to determine the possibility of utilizing lignite for producing gas for light, heat and power. Considerable attention will be given also to the utilization of the high grade clays of the state for the manufacture of a variety of wares.

In order to carry on this work on a practical commercial basis, considerable machinery of special design will be installed at the sub-station at Hebron. For several months work has been devoted to machinery and methods which seemed to be suited to the manufacture of briquettes from lignite. As a result complete briquetting plant has been designed and is now being built. The press will have a capacity of 2 tons of briquettes per hour. In addition to this a specially constructed gas plant is being made for the purpose of manufacturing gas for light, heat and power from lignite coal. This will be one of the most perfect types of gas plants and large enough to produce several thousand cubic feet per day. Machinery and kilns of commercial

working size will be installed later for practical testing of the higher grade clays.

THE ELIZABETH THOMPSON SCIENCE FUND

In January, 1910, there will be a meeting of the trustees of the Elizabeth Thompson Science Fund for the award of grants. Applications, in order to be considered at that time, should reach the secretary, Dr. C. S. Minot, Harvard Medical School, Boston, before January 15, 1910. All applications *must be accompanied by full information*, especially in regard to the following points:

1. Precise amount required.
2. Exact nature of the investigation proposed.
3. Conditions under which the research is to be prosecuted.
4. Manner in which the appropriation asked for is to be expended.

The trustees are disinclined, for the present, to make any grant to meet ordinary expenses of living or to purchase instruments such as are found commonly in laboratories. Decided preference will be given to applications for small amounts, and grants exceeding \$300 will be made only under very exceptional circumstances. Preference will be given to those investigations which can not otherwise be provided for.

THE BOSTON MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

THE hotel headquarters for physicists at the Boston meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Physical Society will be the Hotel Brunswick, Boylston Street, near Copley Square, which is also the general association headquarters. Rates: single rooms, \$1.50 to \$2.50; double, \$2.50 to \$3.50; with bath, single, \$2.50 to \$3.50; double, \$3 to \$4.

Section B has a joint session with Section A on Tuesday afternoon, December 28, immediately after the address of Vice-president Guthe. Interesting papers will be presented by Professors G. Runge, A. A. Michelson, E. W. Brown and H. F. Reid.

Friday morning, December 31, there will be