

for construction, installation and maintenance of electrical equipment to safeguard employees and the public are now under preparation by the Bureau of Standards, Department of Commerce. The rules for safety in the operation and handling of electrical lines and equipment, just published, proceed from a painstaking study by the engineers of the bureau of existing rules and practises. These are found to vary widely and to offer a very unsatisfactory basis for the formulation of mandatory codes by any state commission, unless a very extended study is made and the combined experience of many companies and workmen utilized. Many existing sets of rules have been developed from insufficient data and experience, while the vast majority of companies have no rules whatever in effect. This lack of rules in force is partly due to inaction on the part of state authorities and partly to the difficulty and expense each company encounters in preparing its own rules in any adequate form. The assistance of state commissions, operating companies and electrical workmen has been freely given to the bureau in this work, and the rules in their present form are offered to the public for criticism, discussion, and, so far as may be found desirable, for general adoption. The scope of the safety rules includes all operation of and work on or about power and signal lines, and the electrical equipment of central stations, substations, mines and testing departments. The rules are divided into three parts. The first two parts consist of general rules which apply to the employer and to the employee, respectively, and the third part comprises, under separate headings, those special rules which apply particularly to employees engaged in special classes of electrical work.

THE U. S. National Museum announces that it is exhibiting some designs in silk dress goods which use the designs and symbols left by the Aztecs and other early Indian peoples. Much material for designs pertaining to this early period of American history was available; buildings, temples, monuments, pottery, basketry and blankets are covered with picture-writings which form artistic designs. Not

only the designs proper were adaptable but the colors as well, a fact which has materially assisted in the creation of these new American fashion designs. The textile division of the museum has installed a series of pure dye taffeta silks, contributed by the manufacturers, which show the reproductions of these ancient Mexican designs printed on soft clinging fabric. The designs comprise the Aztec moon in rainbow tones on blue and taupe; the Aztec armadillo and arrow pattern in colors on peacock-blue; KorteZ—an Aztec hieroglyph—on dark green and satin-striped white taffeta; the Aztec coat-of-arms on navy blue, and an all-over design of Mexican feathers in shades of blue, green and brown. Other designs are reminders of the Pueblo Indians, one consisting of a rattlesnake symbol printed on Indian red, while another resembles a Navajo rug in which zig-zag stripes and a diamond arrangement of figures appear.

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#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

It is announced that the British universities will open as usual in the autumn. The Rhodes scholars from the United States and from the British colonies are expected to be in attendance at Oxford.

THE Nantucket Maria Mitchell Association is endeavoring to collect \$12,000 to endow an astronomical fellowship at Harvard College Observatory. Upwards of a thousand dollars have been given for this purpose, and in addition Dr. E. C. Pickering, the director of the observatory, and Mr. Charles S. Hinchman, of Philadelphia, have each subscribed \$250 for the inauguration of the fellowship.

DR. D. A. CAMPBELL, of Halifax, has promised \$60,000 to endow a chair of anatomy at Dalhousie University, Halifax, in memory of his son, the late Dr. George Campbell.

GEORGE PEABODY COLLEGE for Teachers has now an endowment of \$3,200,000 of which \$2,000,000 is to be used as a permanent endowment. Part of the remaining \$1,200,000 is being spent on new buildings. The Household Arts building and the Industrial Arts building have already been completed and this year

housed the summer school of a thousand students. In the basement of the latter building is located the power plant for heating, lighting and ventilating the buildings over the entire campus of 50 acres. Two other buildings are in process of erection. One is the Jesup Psychology Laboratory costing \$75,000. The other is the Social Religious building, which is designed to play an important part in the life of students, both in a social way and as a preparation for real service in life. This building will be the most commodious on the campus and will probably cost about \$300,000.

MR. DORR SKEELS, of the U. S. Forest Service, has been elected dean of the new school of forestry that has been established at the University of Montana.

DR. THEODORE C. FRYE, professor of botany, has been named temporary dean of the college of science by the University of Washington regents to succeed Dr. Henry Landes, acting president of the university.

THE following promotions have been made at the University of Colorado: Ralph D. Crawford, Ph.D., to be professor of mineralogy and petrology; Max M. Ellis, Ph.D., to be assistant professor of biology; Frank S. Bauer, B.S., to be assistant professor of mechanical engineering. The following new appointments for the coming year have been made: James L. Merrill, B.S., instructor in engineering drawing; Walter F. Mallory, B.S., instructor in mechanical engineering; Clarence L. Eckel, B.S., instructor in civil engineering; Edward R. Mugrage, M.D., instructor in pathology; Jay W. Woodrow, Oxford University Rhodes Scholar, 1910-12, Ph.D. (Yale, '13), instructor in physics; Esbon Y. Titus, B.A., instructor in chemistry.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### COMPOSITION AND THOUGHT

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In the February issue of *Modern Language Notes* appears from the hand of Professor French a rather unappreciative review of a new type of rhetoric by Steeves and Ristine; the title of the work is "Representative Essays in Modern Thought."

The review may go far to discourage the use of the book. And, since I doubt whether many of the readers of SCIENCE realize the importance to them of this innovation in rhetorical fields, I beg indulgence to comment upon the method by which the new rhetoric has been used in a western university.

"Representative Essays in Modern Thought" is intended to serve a new purpose in the rhetorical kingdom; students already trained in the essentials of expression are here presented with essays by Mill, Huxley, James, Maine, Clark and other writers famous not only for the clearness of their expression, but also for the solidity and pregnancy of their material. The student, having read any given essay, is asked each week to present his reaction upon that essay. Needing no discussion, surely, are the value of the analysis and outlining of these essays, and the mere advantage of the incidental knowledge gained. But two other points may well be emphasized: the awakening of the promising student to a genuine understanding of the timidity and slovenliness of his habits of thought; and the placing before him in the second semester of his freshman year at college of the sound principles of topics he hears everywhere discussed.

In the second semester of his freshman year, I repeat. That is the point which needs defense against the avowed antagonism of more than one instructor of rhetoric. The students in our modern universities who most need to learn to write are not those who already love to write; rather, they are the students in science, engineering, law and other professional fields. Yet it is perfectly obvious that our crowded curricula seldom, if ever, allow these students to take advanced courses in composition. Nor, be it predicated at once, would I rush the honest journeymen in such courses into the study of Steeves and Ristine. How much could be done for the mediocre student I am rather uncertain; and I refrain from the speculation in futurities in which even my scientific friends are prone to indulge. Here, statements are limited to what can be done for second-semester freshmen who have