

tral department of minerals and metals" under government auspices to collect and impart information bearing on the sources of minerals and the production of metals, as being imperatively necessary in the public interest. This is advanced in a letter sent to the chairman of the "advisory council of scientific and industrial research" by the presidents of the "institution of mining engineers," "institute of mining and metallurgy" and "institute of metals." The letter points out that there is at present no connecting link between various organizations, that there is considerable overlapping and much waste and confusion. If a properly organized and efficiently conducted department of minerals and metals had been in existence much valuable time, many lives and vast sums of money would have been saved to the nation in the conduct of the present war, and much of the cost and inconvenience to British industries depending largely for their raw material on mineral products would have been saved. The following are some of the duties suggested by the new department: Arrangement for expediting the completion of mineral surveys of the United Kingdom and crown colonies and other British possessions. Systematic collection and coordination of information bearing on the occurrence, uses and economical value of minerals and their products; special attention being devoted to securing industrial applications for newly discovered minerals or metallurgical products and to finding mineral materials required for new metallurgical products or inventions.

ACCORDING to *Nature* the *Gazette de Hollande* emphasizes the use made in Germany of geological advice in trench warfare, and Professor Salomon, of Heidelberg, is said to have urged the formation of a special organization of geologists in connection with the army. It is said that excellent use has been made by the British military authorities of the Geological Survey staff, members of which have been of technical assistance in fields as wide apart as the deeply dissected strata of Gallipoli and the undulating Cretaceous expanses of

the Paris-Brussels basin. The geologist has been found of service in military mining as well as in questions of water supply, and the memoir recently issued by the Geological Survey on "Sources of Temporary Water Supply in the South of England and Neighboring Parts of the Continent" was drawn up specially to meet the needs of camps.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

MUSKINGUM COLLEGE, New Concord, Ohio, has received an anonymous gift of \$150,000 for endowment and buildings, on condition that the college pay an equal amount.

WITH the desire to encourage the study of Russian, in view of the commercial intercourse between Russia and Hull, Capt. H. Samman has expressed to the Hull Chamber of Commerce his willingness to start an endowment fund for the purpose with a sum of £10,000.

O. R. SWEENEY, Ph.D. (Penna.), for the past six years instructor in qualitative analysis at the University of Pennsylvania has been appointed instructor in industrial chemistry at the Ohio State University where he formerly graduated from the chemical engineering course.

C. H. SNYDER, the consulting structural engineer, has been appointed lecturer in civil engineering in the University of California.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE PHOSPHATES

SOME experimental results in a comparison of different phosphates at the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station have recently been referred to by Dr. C. G. Hopkins¹ in such a way as to be easily misunderstood. The writer wishes to say that neither now nor in the past have these results allowed us to advocate, as intimated by Dr. Hopkins, the use of unacidulated bone meal. From the standpoint of economy the data obtained here have been

¹ SCIENCE, p. 652, November 3, 1916.