

"Potash as a By-product from the Blast Furnace," by R. J. Wysor.

"Significance of Manganese in American Steel Metallurgy," by F. H. Willecox.

The committee on arrangements for the convention includes: David H. Browne, chairman; Lawrence Addicks, P. E. Barbour, George D. Barron, Karl Eilers, Louis D. Huntoon, H. A. Megraw, Thomas T. Read, Burr A. Robinson, F. T. Rubidge, E. Maltby Shipp, Bradley Stoughton, Edward B. Sturgis and Arthur L. Walker.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE House Bill making appropriations to the U. S. Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1918, is now under discussion. The main bill carries a total appropriation for routine and ordinary work of \$24,221,081. To this great amount are added other sums bringing the total amount carried in the bill to \$25,694,685. The amounts appropriated to the scientific bureaus are as follows:

Weather Bureau	\$1,778,320
Bureau of Animal Industry	3,528,286
Bureau of Plant Industry	2,769,630
Forest Service	5,711,195
Bureau of Chemistry	1,212,311
Bureau of Soils	363,855
Bureau of Entomology	911,980
Bureau of Biological Survey	589,510
Office of Public Roads and Rural Engineering	702,100

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

SIR WILLIAM CROOKES, the distinguished English chemist; Dr. C. A. Angot, director of the French Bureau of Meteorology, and Professor August Gärtner, professor of hygiene, University of Jena, have been elected foreign members of the Academy of Sciences of Sweden.

THE Elisha Kent Kane medal of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia was, on January 19, conferred on Dr. William Curtis Farabee. Dr. Farabee gave before the society an illustrated lecture on "Exploration in the Amazon Valley and in the Unknown Guinea,

1913 to 1916." Dr. Farabee has also had conferred upon him the gold medal of the Explorers' Club of New York.

PROFESSOR E. F. NORTHRUP, research physicist of Princeton University, has been awarded the Elliott Cresson medal by the Franklin Institute "in recognition of his electrical inventions and high temperature investigations."

PROFESSOR WILBUR M. WILSON, of the department of civil engineering at the University of Illinois, was honored by the Western Society of Engineers at its annual meeting on January 10, by having conferred upon him the Octave Chanute medal, in recognition of the fact that a paper presented by him in 1915 was judged to be the best in the field of civil engineering presented before the society during that year. The medal was established in memory of Dr. Octave Chanute, whose studies in the field of aerodynamics were notable.

BRIGADIER GENERAL JOSEPH E. KUHN has been appointed president of the War College.

E. D. BALL, formerly director of the Utah Station, has been made state entomologist of Wisconsin, vice J. G. Saunders resigned to succeed H. A. Surface as economic zoologist of Pennsylvania.

PROFESSOR WERNER has been appointed director of the Heidelberg Institute for the Investigation of Cancer established by the late Professor Czerny.

AFTER twenty years' service in the New York Department of Health, Dr. John S. Billings, now deputy commissioner of health and director of the bureau of preventable diseases, has offered his resignation, to take effect on May 1.

EARL B. SMITH, formerly with the U. S. Office of Public Roads and Rural Engineering has been transferred to the U. S. Bureau of Soils as mechanical engineer. His work will be on engineering lines in the design and construction of the new government potash plant at Summerland, California, where he, with Dr. Turrentine, of the Department of Agriculture, will investigate the commercial possibilities of extracting potash, iodine, tar

products, acetone, etc., from the kelps of the Pacific coast.

DR. L. H. BAILEY, Mrs. Bailey and Miss Bailey are preparing to leave Ithaca at the end of this month for a tour of the Far East to last the greater part of a year.

ROALD AMUNDSEN has definitely postponed the execution of his plans for an expedition to the north pole until after the war. His ship was almost equipped for the trip, which was to have lasted three or four years, and the crew had been hired; but the money difficulties proved insuperable. The necessary expenses of the expedition in consequence of war prices have mounted from \$135,000 to double that figure.

THE annual meeting of the Brooklyn Entomological Society was held on January 13 and the following officers were elected for 1917: President, W. T. Bather; Vice-president, W. T. Davis; Treasurer, C. E. Olsen; Recording Secretary, J. R. de la Torre Bueno; Corresponding Secretary, R. P. Dow; Librarian, A. C. Weeks; Publication Committee, J. R. de la Torre Bueno, C. Schaeffer and R. P. Dow.

DR. JAMES R. ANGELL, of the University of Chicago, is giving a course of lectures on "The Makers of Modern Psychology" on the Spencer Foundation at Union College.

A COURSE of twenty-four lectures on ore deposits is being delivered before the department of geology of Columbia University by Professor John D. Irving, professor of economic geology, Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University.

PROFESSOR F. J. METZGER, of the department of chemical engineering, Columbia University, has resigned his position to accept the position of manager of chemical development, with the Air Reduction Company, New York.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE late Dr. John A. McCorkle had set aside in trust bonds of the market value of \$50,000 which became payable to the Long Island College Hospital upon his death. A

committee of prominent citizens, headed by the Honorable Edgar M. Cullen, is endeavoring to raise an equal amount as a memorial fund to Dr. McCorkle.

A GIFT of \$50,000 to the principal of the alumni fund, subject to an annuity, from a graduate of the class of 1867, Yale College, was announced at the last meeting of the corporation. This is the second gift of like amount and under similar conditions that has been made to the credit of the class of 1867 in the alumni fund. There has also been received, from Robert W. Kelley, '74, class agent and a director of the fund, \$125,000 (subject to an annuity as to four fifths of the amount), the whole to be added to the Yale Alumni Fund as an addition to the permanent memorial fund of 1874.

DR. WILLIAM WISTAR COMFORT, professor of the Romance languages and literatures and head of the department at Cornell University, has been elected president of Haverford College. He will succeed Dr. Isaac Sharpless, who will retire after completing a service of thirty years in the Haverford presidency.

J. O. RANKIN has resigned as agricultural editor at the Missouri Station to become associate professor of agricultural economics at the Iowa College, and is succeeded by M. N. Beeler, agricultural editor at the University of Florida.

DR. RAOUL BLANCHARD, professor of geography and director of the Institute of Geography at the University of Grenoble, has been appointed exchange professor at Harvard for 1916-17. His term of service will fall in the second half year.

DR. V. A. COULTER, Ph.D., has been appointed assistant professor of chemistry in the University of North Carolina.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE NEGATIVE SURFACE TENSION

IN a recent number of SCIENCE (November 24, 1916) Professor W. A. Patrick in a note on "Ostwald's Handbook of Colloidal Chemistry," expresses doubt as to the existence of negative surface tension, and suggests that it