

emergency and deficiency items, which together amount to \$91,660, are subtracted, there is left a net appropriation of \$743,651 for the year 1917-18.

In addition to the above appropriations the general appropriation bill this year provides a specific item of \$42,000 for printing the publications of the College of Agriculture. Heretofore no special appropriation for printing has been made, but the college printing has been paid for out of a lump appropriation known as the legislative printing fund. The printing for the next fiscal year must be limited to the amount of this specific item.

Included in the \$743,651 in the general appropriation bill are a number of small items, of which the aggregate sum is \$34,000, for new construction and improvements. The largest of these is an appropriation of \$12,000 for the addition of a unit to the central heating plant. When this unit is installed the old heating plant in Roberts Hall is to be removed and the boiler room remodeled to provide additional space for the general purposes of the college. An item of \$8,000 is included for remodeling this boiler room. To put in additional roads, sidewalks and drains and general improvements to the grounds, \$5,000 is provided; for a new piggery with detached pens, \$7,000; for a packing shed on the pomology grounds, \$1,000, and for small storage houses for the department of plant breeding a small item is included.

AN INSTITUTE OF APPLIED OPTICS FOR FRANCE

MR. E. S. HODGSON writes in *Nature* that a scheme is on foot in Paris to establish an Institute of Applied Optics, with the object of securing closer cooperation between theory and practise in the optical trade. It has been suggested, according to an article in *La Nature*, that the scope of the institute should fall into three sections, viz., (i) a college of optics, providing a thorough theoretical and practical training for opticians, and promoting among its students a taste for optical research; (ii) a central optical laboratory, where tests of glasses and optical instruments would be made for men of science, public bodies and manufac-

turers and research work of general interest carried out; and (iii) a special trade school in which the students could obtain a thorough training in the practical branches of the trade.

It is proposed that the institute should publish transactions in a form following, the *Zeitschrift für Instrumentenkunde*. The students of the college of optics would be recruited from the educated classes—army and navy officers, students or ex-students of the universities and technical colleges, astronomers, illuminating engineers, manufacturers of optical instruments and doctors interested in physiological optics. There would be two distinct branches of instruction, viz., general optics and instrumental optics. The courses would be supplemented by lectures on all modern optical questions. The period of study is suggested as one year.

The central laboratory would serve as a test laboratory for manufacturers of optical instruments and for glass manufacturers, as a practise laboratory for the students, and as a research laboratory for the college staff.

The professional, or trade, school would take young people for three years and give them a thorough training in (i) glass-working, and (ii) construction and fitting up of optical instruments. The scheme has received the favorable consideration of various government departments and of certain scientific and learned societies in Paris; indeed, the publication of the transactions of the institute is already assured. While it would be difficult to install the machinery and plant necessary for the trade section of the institute, it is suggested that the program of the courses should be considered and the principal courses commenced in the school year of 1917-18.

THE CROCKER LAND EXPEDITION

DR. HARRISON J. HUNT, a member of the Crocker Land expedition, arrived in Copenhagen on June 2, reporting the expedition still in northern Greenland. Direct news from Donald B. MacMillan, head of the expedition, announcing that he and his companions had only enough supplies to last them until August of this year, has now been received by Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn, presi-