

A. A. NOYES, *Past-president, American Chemical Society.*

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PLAN FOR THE IMPRESSMENT OF CHEMISTS FOR WAR
SERVICE AS CHEMISTS AND FOR THE PRESERVA-
TION OF THE SUPPLY OF CHEMISTS

I. There shall be organized a committee of three to advise the President of the United States through the War Department on requests for exemption of chemists. This committee might well include besides a government representative two chemists, one a chemical engineer or technical chemist, the second a university man. These men should be nominated to the President by the Council of National Defense.

II. Requests for exemption of individual chemists shall be made to this committee by:

1. Government, state or municipal laboratories and bureaus.

2. Heads of manufacturing plants on the basis of the imperative need of these men for their successful operation.

3. Presidents of universities, colleges and schools of engineering or mining on the basis of proficiency, promise and ability of candidates for college or university degrees, specializing in chemistry. Men recommended under this head who are candidates for the doctorate degree shall not be over 26 years of age when they receive the degree, and men who are candidates for a four-year college degree shall not be over 23 years of age when they are to receive the degree.

III. (1) Chemists under 21 and over 30 years of age and chemists between 21 and 30 who have not been drafted may enroll with the above committee as volunteers in chemistry subject to the same conditions as the enlisted and exempted men.

(2) Students in chemistry under 21 years of age may enroll with the above committee for a "chemists reserve" under the conditions specified in II. (3).

IV. Men thus enrolled and accepted under the provisions of the above paragraphs for war service as chemists shall be subject to the orders of the government as to location and nature of service and shall be entitled to wear a badge or other insignia indicating their official status (practise of France and possibly of other European countries). Students enrolled in a "chemists reserve" shall be subject to the same conditions as obtain for other

reserves of the government and shall also be entitled to wear some insignia or badge indicating their enrollment.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

A COMMISSION under the chairmanship of Dr. Frank Billings, of Chicago, is about to leave for Russia, under the auspices of the war council of the American National Red Cross. Its members include specialists in sanitary science, general medicine, tuberculosis, bacteriology and other branches of medicine, engineering, foods, transportation, business, etc. Mr. William B. Thompson, of New York, is assuming the expense of the commission.

FORTY-FIVE engineers of the topographic branch of the Geological Survey who are members of the Engineer Officers' Reserve Corps, have been assigned to active duty in connection with the military mapping now being done for the War Department. Among the men affected are Majors Frank Sutton, William H. Herron, Robert B. Marshall, Glenn S. Smith, George T. Hawkins, Robert Muldrow, James H. Jennings, William H. Griffin, Robert H. Chapman, Joseph H. Wheat and Albert M. Walker; Captains Claude H. Birdseye, Emory I. Ireland, Clyde B. Kendall, Albert Pike, Herbert H. Hodgeson, Carl L. Sadler, J. G. Staack, William L. Miller, Eugene L. McNair, Asahel B. Searle, William O. Tufts, Bertram A. Jenkins, James W. Bagley and Calvin E. Giffin. The list also includes twenty first and second lieutenants.

MR. HENRY S. GRAVES, chief of the U. S. Forest Service, has arrived in Paris to make arrangements for the forest work which the American army engineers will undertake in France in connection with the military operations of the allied forces.

DR. ALLERTON S. CUSHMAN, president of the Institute of Industrial Research, with headquarters at Washington, D. C., has been commissioned a major in the Officers' Reserve Corps, and will carry on special research work under the ordnance section on the chemistry of high explosives.

DR. ALEXIS CARREL, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, who has been at the

head of one of the French military hospitals, arrived in the United States on July 4.

MR. C. P. WINSLOW has been appointed director of the Forest Products Laboratory to succeed Mr. H. F. Weiss, now in charge of the Division of Forest Products of the C. F. Burgess Laboratories. Dr. S. F. Acree severed his connection as chief chemist at the laboratory and is now with the National Wood Chemical Association, with headquarters at Syracuse University.

DR. FRANK D. ADAMS, of the faculty of applied science of McGill University, has been elected a foreign honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Boston, Mass., and also an honorary member of the Mineralogical Society of Russia at Petrograd.

MR. J. J. MANLEY, the curator of the Daubeny Laboratory, has been elected to a fellowship at Magdalen College, Oxford, for the prosecution of special researches in physics and chemistry.

THE committee on science and the arts of the Franklin Institute has awarded its Edward Longstreth medals of merit to Professor A. E. Kennelly, Messrs. F. H. Achard and A. S. Dana, for their joint paper entitled "Experimental researches on the skin effect in steel rails," appearing in the August, 1916, issue of the *Journal* of the Franklin Institute.

MR. JOHN HALL SAGE, secretary of the American Ornithologists' Union was, on April 20, the guest of Dr. A. K. Fisher, at the camp of the Washington Biologists' Field Club, at Plummer's Island in the Potomac near Washington, D. C., where they were joined by sixteen other fellows and members of the union who gathered there in honor of Mr. Sage's seventieth birthday.

A COMPLIMENTARY dinner was recently given to Mr. Thomas J. Parker by some of his friends, at the Chemists' Club, New York City. The speakers were Dr. Milton C. Whitaker, Professor Chas. F. Chandler, Dr. Charles H. Herty and Dr. Hugo Schweitzer.

DR. ROBERT H. LOWIE, associate curator of anthropology at the American Museum of Nat-

ural History, has received a temporary appointment as associate professor in the University of California for the academic year 1917-18. He has been given a leave of absence by the American Museum of Natural History. In exchange, Professor A. L. Kroeber will join the staff of the museum during the first half of the year 1918.

PROFESSOR H. H. BARTLETT has received leave of absence from the University of Michigan for the next year and a half in order that he may take charge of the laboratories of the United States Rubber Co. in Sumatra. At a recent meeting of the board of regents of the university, a letter was presented from Professor Bartlett with respect to a clause in the contract between himself and the United States Rubber Company relating to certain fellowships to be established in the university during Professor Bartlett's absence by the company in order to retain certain of Professor Bartlett's graduate students. This clause received the approval of the board.

PROFESSOR R. G. HOSKINS, of the Northwestern University Medical School, has been appointed editor of *Endocrinology*, the bulletin of the Association for the Study of the Internal Secretions.

MR. GEORGE H. ASHLEY has returned to the U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C., having concluded his term as acting professor of geology in Vanderbilt University. He took the chair of geology for six months in the absence of Professor L. C. Glenn.

W. E. TOTTINGHAM, assistant professor of agricultural chemistry, College of Agriculture, Madison, Wis., is on leave of absence and is working at Johns Hopkins University with Professor Livingston, on special problems in plant chemistry and physiology.

JULIUS OTTO SCHLOTTERBECK, professor of pharmacognosy and botany and dean of the College of Pharmacy of the University of Michigan, died on June 1.

THE death occurred at Cambridge on June 9 of T. McKenny Hughes, F.R.S., Woodwardian professor of geology in the university, at the age of eighty-five years. He was elected

a fellow of the Royal Society in 1889, and received the Lyell medal of the Geological Society in 1891, when he acknowledged the value of his intimate association with Sir Charles Lyell, with whom he made many geological tours during his early years. As Sedgwick was elected Woodwardian professor in 1818 he and his successor have between them occupied the chair for ninety-nine years.

HORAS T. KENNEDY, geologist of the Geological Survey of Ireland, was killed on June 6 while serving as lieutenant in the British Army.

THE annual meeting of the American Chemical Society will be held in Boston on September 11, 12 and 13. We learn from the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* that the Northeastern Section has been requested by the directors to omit the usual annual banquet and excursions, and to arrange a program characterized by simplicity and seriousness, and bearing as fully as possible on questions concerning the activities of chemists both in the government service and in the industries during the present war. The general meeting will be held on Tuesday morning. This will be followed in the afternoon by a general conference to be opened by Dr. W. H. Nichols, chairman of the committee on chemicals of the National Defense Council, and by Dr. M. T. Bogert, chairman of the Chemistry Committee of the National Research Council, the conference then to be continued from the floor. It is expected that an informal, get-together meeting of a social character will be held on Tuesday evening, at which time opportunity will be given for informal discussion of problems of the day. Wednesday morning will be devoted to divisional conferences, and the afternoon to divisional meetings, with papers, or a continuation of the conferences, as the divisions may decide. The presidential address will be delivered on Wednesday evening. Thursday, both morning and afternoon, will be given to divisional meetings.

THE Rockefeller Foundation has awarded contracts for the building of two hospitals

to cost \$3,000,000. One of these will be located in Peking and the other in Shanghai, and both will be for the work of the China Medical Board. It is also announced that the Foundation will send a hospital ship to the Moros and allied tribes of the Sulu Archipelago. The Philippine government is co-operating in this enterprise. The ship will cruise for five years among the many islands in the southern Philippine group. The foundation has learned that many of the Moros are suffering from skin diseases, malaria, hookworm, dysentery and other diseases.

THE state health commissioner of Massachusetts has appointed as a committee on the conservation of child life, Drs. David L. Edsall and William J. Gallivan, members of the public health council, and Dr. Lyman A. Jones, director of the division of hygiene of the state health department. As consulting members he has named Drs. Fritz B. Talbot, pediatricist and chief of the children's medical department, Massachusetts General Hospital; Richard M. Smith, Boston, pediatricist, assistant in pediatrics, Harvard Medical School; Walter E. Fernald, psychiatrist, superintendent of the Massachusetts School for the Feeble-minded, and William Healy, psychologist, director of the psychopathic institute of the Chicago Juvenile Court, and Miss Mary Beard, director of the Instructive District Nursing Association.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association states that on June 20, a session was held at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Philadelphia, at which physicians past the age for medical service organized for the reclamation of men physically unfit for the United States Army or Navy. Dr. W. W. Keen was elected president of the organization and as vice-presidents, Drs. John B. Deaver and James M. Anders. Physicians more than 55 years of age, doctors who can not pass the reserve corps medical examination and physicians who for other reasons can not go to the front, will form the membership of the organization which will include also dental surgeons, pharmacists and chiroprodists. The plan is to have a camp where

men who have been refused service in the army or navy for minor defects may have these defects cured or so remedied that they will be able to enlist later. This is carrying out the plan of Dr. William Duffield Robinson, which won the approval of the surgeon-general. The entire equipment of the German-town Hospital has been offered.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE will of the late Colonel Oliver H. Payne provides bequests of more than \$7,000,000 to charitable and educational institutions. The largest gifts are to Yale University, Lakeside Hospital, Cleveland, and the New York Public Library, each of which will receive \$1,000,000. An endowment of \$500,000 is bequeathed to the Cornell University Medical College. Other gifts include: Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass., \$500,000; St. Vincent's Charity Hospital, Cleveland, \$200,000; Cleveland Jewish Orphans Asylum, \$200,000; Hamilton College, Clinton, N. Y., \$200,000, and the University of Virginia, \$200,000.

MRS. REED, widow of late Dean John O. Reed, has presented to the library of the department of physics of the University of Michigan about 400 scientific books and bound reprints from the library of Professor Reed, the books being principally on physics and mathematics. There was received from Mrs. Reed, also, a gift of eight prisms of special design of various kinds of glass and natural crystals made by Professor Reed and used by him in research work. Mrs. Guthe, widow of the late Dean Karl E. Guthe, has presented to the library about 100 volumes of scientific works from Professor Guthe's library, together with about 1,000 catalogued reprints of scientific papers and a card catalogue of several thousand references.

PROFESSOR ROBERT DEC. WARD, of Harvard University, is giving instruction in meteorology in the school for the preliminary training of aviators, recently established at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in cooperation with the War Department. For the pur-

poses of this work, Professor Ward has become a member of the teaching staff at the Institute of Technology, and, under orders from the War Department, has been to Toronto to familiarize himself with the instruction which is there being given at the Cadet School of the Royal Flying Corps.

THE State College of Forestry at Syracuse announces the appointment of Mr. Ernest G. Dudley, of Leland Stanford University and the Yale Forest School, as assistant professor of forest extension. Mr. Dudley goes to the college from the U. S. Forest Service in California where he has recently been in charge of the Forest Service Exhibit at the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego.

DR. MILTON C. WINTERNITZ, formerly associate professor of pathology in Johns Hopkins University, has been elected professor of pathology in the school of medicine of Yale University.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE A REMARKABLE COINCIDENCE

THE most remarkable coincidence known to me relates to the discovery of Perrine's second comet. I published the facts in the case in *The Observatory*, Vol. 26, pp. 293-94, 1903, where they were made familiar to many astronomers. On describing the coincidence recently to a group of my colleagues in other sciences they urged strongly that I republish the facts in a journal of more general character, and thus make known the occurrence to students in other subjects.

Professor Charles D. Perrine, of the Lick Observatory staff, discovered the first of his many comets on November 17, 1895. This was Comet *c* 1895. He observed it night after night until December 20, 1895, when it was lost to sight in the glare of the sun's rays. The orbit of the comet was accurately determined, and its path for the early months of 1896 was computed and published in advance. I had the pleasure of assisting Mr. Perrine when he first looked for its reappearance from behind the sun, on the morning (just before dawn) of January 30, 1896. He found it at once, in the