

Veterinary Officers' Reserve Corps. Dr. Moore is a member of the committee on military service of the American Veterinary Medical Association. That committee had been serving as a board advisory to the Surgeon General and Dr. Moore was elected to represent it in the Surgeon General's office.

DR. A. R. DAVIS, assistant professor of agricultural botany, the University of Nebraska, has been commissioned captain in the Coast Artillery, U. S. R. He is at present assistant ordnance officer, Fort Howard, Maryland.

CARL H. BUTMAN, who has been editorial assistant at the Smithsonian Institution for the last seven years, has resigned to become Washington editor of a new aviation magazine, *Air Service Journal*.

PROFESSOR ARTHUR D. BUTTERFIELD, head of the department of mathematics of the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, has resigned, as he expects to be called for service as captain in the aviation branch of the signal corps. Professor David L. Gallup, head of the gas engineering department, will also resign on October 1, having accepted a position as head of the research laboratories of the Nordyke & Marmon Company.

PROFESSOR A. M. BUCK, who for the last six years has been in charge of electric railway courses at the University of Illinois, has resigned to join Mr. John A. Beeler, of New York, in the consulting field. His new work will consist largely of investigations dealing with the construction, operation and management of electric railway properties.

DR. MAX KAHN has resigned his position as biochemist to the Western Pennsylvania Hospital, Pittsburgh, Pa., to accept the appointment of director of the laboratories, Beth Israel Hospital, New York City.

GEORGE H. STICKNEY, of Montclair, N. J., has been elected president of the Illuminating Engineering Society.

THE recently established Engineering Council has appointed the following standing committees: On Public Affairs—C. W. Baker, G. F. Swain, S. J. Jennings and E. W. Rice, Jr. On Rules—J. P. Channing, Clemens Herschel,

N. A. Carle and D. S. Jacobus. On Finance—B. B. Thayer, I. E. Moulthrop, Calvert Townley and Alexander C. Humphreys. The council has also created a war inventions committee, comprising H. W. Buck, A. M. Greene, Jr. and E. B. Kirkby, to cooperate with the Naval Advisory Board and other departments at Washington. It also created a committee, comprising George J. Foran, E. B. Sturgis, A. S. McAllister and A. D. Flinn, which is to collect and compile such information regarding engineers of the country as will enable it to cooperate with the different departments of the federal government.

It is stated in *Nature* that a committee to inquire into various matters connected with the *personnel* and administration of the army medical services has been appointed by the British Secretary of State for War. The committee is composed of Major-General Sir F. Howard (chairman), Sir Rickman J. Godlee, Bart., Sir Frederick Taylor, Bart., Sir W. Watson-Cheyne, Bart., Dr. Norman Walker, Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Stiles, Dr. Buttar and Dr. J. B. Christopherson (secretary). It will begin its work in France, and afterwards carry out similar investigations in England.

Two new orders have been instituted by the British king in recognition of services rendered by British subjects and their Allies in connection with the war, viz., the Order of the British Empire and the Order of the Companions of Honor. The Order of the British Empire has five classes, viz.: *Men*: (1) Knights Grand Cross (G.B.E.); (2) Knights Commanders (K.B.E.); (3) Commanders (C.B.E.); (4) Officers (O.B.E.); (5) Members (M.B.E.). *Women*: (1) Dames Grand Cross (G.B.E.); (2) Dames Commanders (D.B.E.); (3) Commanders (C.B.E.); (4) Officers (O.B.E.); (5) Members (M.B.E.). The first two classes, in the case of men, carry the honor of knighthood, and in the case of women the privilege of prefixing the title "Dame" to their names. The first lists of appointments to the orders have been issued. *Nature* selects the following as those known for contributions to science: To the Order of the British Empire: Lord Moulton and Lord Sydenham (G.B.E.); Mr. Dugald

Clerk, Professor H. S. Jackson and Mr. R. Threlfall (K.B.E.); Dr. Garrett Anderson, Professor H. B. Baker, Mr. L. Bairstow, Professor W. H. Bragg, Professor S. J. Chapman, Mr. W. Duddell, Mr. F. W. Harbord, Professor F. W. Keeble, Dr. Mary A. D. Scharlieb and Professor J. F. Thorpe (C.B.E.); Professor J. C. McLennan (O.B.E.). The following have, among others, been appointed Companions of Honor: The Hon. E. Strutt and Professor Ripper.

ACCORDING to the London *Times* the program for the autumn meeting of the Iron and Steel Institute, held at the Institution of Civil Engineers on September 20 and 21, included the following papers: "Present practise in briquetting of iron ores," by G. Barrett and T. B. Rogerson; "Microstructure of commercially pure iron between  $Ar_1$  and  $Ar_2$ ," by W. J. Brooke and F. F. Hunting; "The influence of heat treatment on the electrical and thermal resistivity and thermo-electric potential of some steels," by E. D. Campbell and W. C. Dowd; "New impact testing experiments," by G. Charpy and A. Cornu-Thénard; "Heat treatment of gray cast iron," by J. E. Hurst; "Effect of mass on heat treatment," by E. F. Law; "Investigation upon a cast of acid open-hearth steel," by T. D. Morgans and F. Rogers; "The acid open-hearth process," by F. Rogers; "The Eggertz test for combined carbon in steel," by J. H. Whiteley, and "Failure of boiler plates in service, and investigation of stresses occurring in riveted joints," by E. B. Wolff.

THE autumn meeting of the Institute of Metals was held in the rooms of the Chemical Society, London, in Burlington House, on September 19. The papers presented were: "Experiments on the fatigue of brasses," by Dr. B. Parker Haigh; "Hardness and hardening," by Professor T. Turner; "The effects of heat at various temperatures on the rate of softening of cold-rolled aluminium sheet," by Professor H. C. H. Carpenter and L. Taverner; "A comparison screen for brass," by O. W. Ellis; "Further notes on a high temperature thermostat," by J. L. Haughton and D. Hanson; "Principles and methods of a new system of

gas-firing," by A. C. Ionides; "Fuel economy in brass-melting furnaces," by L. C. Harvey, with additional notes by H. J. Yates; "The effect of great hydrostatic pressure on the physical properties of metals," by Professor Zay Jeffries, and the "Use of chromic acid and hydrogen peroxide as an etching agent," by S. W. Miller.

WE learn from *Nature* that donations and promises towards the Ramsay Memorial Fund received by the treasurers amount so far to £21,352, including £835 from members of the British Science Guild; £500 from Sir George Beilby, and £100 each from Lord Rosebery, the Company of Clothworkers, and the Salt Union, Ltd. Professor Orme Masson, of the University of Melbourne, has undertaken to act as the representative and corresponding member of the committee for Australia. As already announced, Professor C. Baskerville, of the College of the City of New York, is acting in a similar capacity for the United States.

CHARLES LEE CRANDALL, emeritus professor of railway engineering and geodesy in Cornell University, died at his home in Ithaca on August 25, aged sixty-seven years.

DR. LEWIS ATTERBURY STIMSON, professor of surgery in Cornell Medical College, died on September 17, in his seventy-fifth year.

MR. WALTER E. ARCHER, known for his work on English sea fisheries, died on August 19 at Sand, Norway, at the age of sixty-two years.

MAJOR A. N. LEEDS, the English paleontologist, died on August 25 at the age of seventy years.

THE first of the four volumes of the Decennial index to *Chemical Abstracts* was issued September 20. This first volume, which contains a little over 1,000 pages, is devoted to authors, A to K. The completed index will be virtually a complete record of the world's accomplishments in chemistry during the period 1907 to 1916.

THE War Industries Board has requested the subcommittee on fertilizers to make an immediate survey of the nitrate of soda consumption and requirements in the fertilizer industry. Blanks are being mailed to the en-

tire fertilizer industry. It is requested that this information be placed in the hands of the War Industries Board at the earliest possible moment.

By decree of September 12, the president of Cuba has modified the Commission of Plant Sanitation to an Office of Plant Sanitation with Mr. John R. Johnston, former president of the commission, remaining as chief of the office. The duties of this new office are the same as of the former commission, it being the sole office to issue certificates for the exportation of plants, in charge of all plant-quarantine problems, and entrusted with the eradication of the "black fly," *Aleurocanthus woglumi*, the control of the coconut budrot, the banana blight and other insect pests and plant diseases.

THE report of the Education Branch of the British Board of Agriculture and Fisheries for the year 1915-16 is summarized in *Nature*. The report is said to afford evidence that, despite the severe restrictions imposed by the war upon the development of agricultural education and research, much useful work was accomplished during the year under review. There was a great decrease in the numbers of students taking long courses of instruction, whereas the numbers taking short courses were more than maintained. The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, and the Agricultural College, Uckfield, Sussex, were closed and the grants were withdrawn from two other institutions as a measure of war economy. Research work suffered severely owing to the heavy drain upon the staffs for army or munition purposes, but much useful work on problems of immediate technical importance was accomplished, of which the investigations at Cambridge on wheat-breeding and at Rothamsted on soil and manurial problems may be singled out for special mention.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

GOVERNOR JAMES E. FERGUSON, of Texas, has been impeached by the legislature. The charges against him were financial irregularities and improper interference with the board of regents of the state university. The bill

providing for the financial support of the university for the next biennium, which was vetoed by Governor Ferguson, has been re-passed by the legislature and signed by the acting governor. The professors who were dismissed at the instigation of Governor Ferguson have been reinstated.

YALE UNIVERSITY has received since commencement gifts amounting to \$362,393.05. The largest was \$100,000 from Mrs. Edward H. Harriman for the Harriman Fund for Obstetrics in the Medical School. Another gift was that of \$50,000 from Charles F. Brooker, of Ansonia, also for the Medical School.

It is now announced that the offer of the opening of the Harvard Medical School will be withdrawn, only one woman having replied, who was regarded as a desirable student.

PROFESSOR WALTER E. CLARK, head of the department of political science in the New York City College, has been elected president of the University of Nevada.

GEORGE F. KAY, B.A., M.A. (Toronto), Ph.D. (Chicago), has been elected dean of the college of liberal arts of the University of Iowa. Dr. Kay will continue to be head of the department of geology in the university, and state geologist of Iowa.

MR. SIMON MARCOVITCH, assistant entomologist for the past three years at the University of Minnesota, has resigned his position to accept the position of head of the department of biology at the National Farm School, Bucks county, Pennsylvania.

EUGENE DEATRICK, Ph.D. (Cornell), has been appointed professor of soils at the Pennsylvania State School of Forestry, Mont Alto, Pa.

MR. HARRY B. YOCOM, who recently received his Ph.D. from the University of California, has been appointed to the professorship of zoology in Washburn College, Topeka, Kansas, to succeed the late Johnathan Risser.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE THE COLORS OF LETTERS

SOME twenty-five years ago or more I published in *The Popular Science Monthly*, a little paper on "The Color of Letters." In it I referred to a curious form of association of