tures chiefly concerned with divers nations of Europe and the East now at war or likely to be involved before long, including especially some of our less known and smaller allies. The general plan of most of these monographs will be a résumé of earliest known data, racial origins, shiftings and blendings, historical development and present status, aiming to further a more thorough acquaintance with these peoples, their characteristics and capabilities and the causes which have made them what they are. The appended schedule may be subject to some changes in detail as the season advances and is now necessarily incomplete as to one or two items, but will give a sufficient idea of what is to be expected. The society meets at 4.30 P.M. in rooms 42–43 of the new building of the National Museum on alternate Tuesdays, beginning October 2d, 1917.

PROGRAM

October 2. Dr. Aleš Hrdlička, Bohemia and the Bohemians.

October 16. Dr. Mitchell Carroll, The Story of Greece.

November 6. Professor James H. Gore, Belgium.

November 20. Mr. George J. Zolnay, Roumania, Past and Present.

December 4. Dr. Amandus Johnson, Scandinavia; Mr. Juul Dieserud, Certain Customs of Norway.

December 18. France.

January 15. Dr. Voyslav M. Yovanovitch, Serbia.

January 29. Voyslav M. Yovanovitch, Italy.

February 12. Dr. Joseph Dunn, Scotland.

February 26. Dr. B. Israeli, Russia.

March 12. Mr. E. T. Williams, The Origin of China.

March 26. Mr. E. T. Williams, Holland.

April 9. Dr. Paul Haupt, Mesopotamia and Palestine.

April 22. Annual meeting and election of officers.

Some, perhaps, most, of these lectures will be illustrated by lantern slides or otherwise. The public will be welcome.

Wm. H. Babcock, *President*

EFFECTS OF THE WAR ON TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Walter Humphreys, registrar of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has compiled registration statistics which indicate the effects of the war on technical education. The total registration is between eighty-five and ninety per cent. of what it was last year at the same time. The freshman year shows an increase, the percentage in terms of last year's figure being 104, while the second, third and fourth years classes are respectively 93 per cent., 75 per cent. and 86 per cent., of the number in the school in June.

The graduate students stand at 60 per cent. of last year's figure. There is the most shrinkage in the juniors, the sophomores of last year, to whom two years more of schooling has perhaps seemed a long time. The return of eighty-six per cent. of the juniors to be seniors is evidence in favor of the junior summer camp. The purpose of this was to give some military practise and an opportunity to anticipate fourth-year studies, and complete work at an earlier date.

In a consideration of the effect on the courses it may be well to omit those with less than fifty men, since the defection of a few students makes an undue percentage shrinkage. One of them, however, naval architecture, is stimulated by the war, the increase being 16 per cent. The course in naval architecture has always been small in attendance and has been maintained by the institute as a contribution to education.

Of the larger courses civil engineering maintains practically the same figure as in former years, the shrinkage being 1.2 per cent., while electrical engineering opens the year with a loss of only 2 per cent. Chemical engineering has 12 per cent. increase. Engineering administration is practically holding its own, having lost only six and one half per cent. since the last registration. Architecture has declined nearly one third in the number of its students. Perhaps the undue cost of building materials, fifty to one hundred per cent. in many cases, and the consequent gossip that building operations will be at a standstill, has had its influence in deterring young men from taking it up with

usual vigor. Mechanical engineering has lost about 21 per cent. This is a study that should be stimulated by the war. In this work Professor Miller, head of the department, has undertaken for the U. S. Shipping Board the management of the schools for marine engine-room officers in the principal ports in the country.

WORK OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

UPON recommendation of the National Research Council Dr. Augustus Trowbridge, of Princeton University, and Professor Theodore Lyman, of Harvard University, have received commissions in the Signal Corps, U. S. A., for work in sound ranging. They have sailed for France to investigate conditions at the front in this subject. The sound ranging service which will be developed under their direction will utilize in the near future more than fifty men. Captain Horatio B. Williams is in charge of the development work in this country during Major Trowbridge's absence.

A meteorological service has been organized under the Signal Corps, U. S. A., in which about one hundred physicists and engineers will be engaged in aerological observational work under the direction of Dr. William H. Blair, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, who has received a commission of major and has sailed for France to investigate conditions abroad. Forecasting work for the American Expeditionary Force in France will be in charge of Mr. E. H. Bowie, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, who has likewise received a commission of major in the Signal Corps and is already on his way to France. Major Bowie will be assisted by Mr. R. Hanson Weightman, of the U. S. Weather Bureau, who has received a commission as lieutenant in the Signal Corps.

Professor Charles E. Mendenhall, of the University of Wisconsin, has received a commission of major in the Signal Corps, U. S. A., and has been placed in charge of the development of aeronautical instruments.

All of the work of these services, sound-ranging, meteorology and aeronautical instruments, is included within the scope of the Science and Research Division of the Signal Corps, which in accordance with a recent order of the chief signal officer has been established and placed under the direction of the National Research Council, of which Major R. A. Millikan is the executive officer. The functions of this division of the Signal Corps are two-fold, namely: (1) to furnish personnel of the research sort to the other divisions when the situation warrants the assignment of men of this type to these divisions, and (2) to have a personnel of its own which maintains intimate contact with all research and development work in other divisions, and distributes research problems to university, industrial and governmental research laboratories with which it is associated. Similar, though in some cases less formal, relations have been established with other technical bureaus of the War and Navy Departments.

Upon request of the French High Commission a number of American physicists and chemists are being sent to France to assist in various war problems in which technically trained men are needed. Except in certain cases, the Interministerial Commission in Paris will assign them to work in university laboratories and in technical services of the government. Upon recommendation of the National Research Council the following men are receiving commissions in this connection and a number of them have already sailed for France:

Professor R. W. Wood, of Johns Hopkins University, major in the U. S. Signal Corps.

Messrs. Roy W. Chestnut, Leonard Loeb and Samuel Sewall, lieutenants in the U. S. Signal Corps.

Professor Edward Bartow, of the University of Illinois, major, and Professor Reston Stevenson, of the College of the City of New York, captain in the U. S. Sanitary Corps.

Messrs. Ralph L. Brown, of the University of Chicago, George Scatchard, of Columbia University, and Kirke W. Cushing, of Western Reserve University, lieutenants in the U. S. Sanitary Corps.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE trustees of Columbia University have dismissed Professor J. McKeen Cattell from the chair of psychology which he has held since 1891, on account of a letter which he