

alloys has increased to meet the country's needs.

Domestic supplies of manganese and pyrite have been augmented.

These are but a few instances of our chemical progress. The matter can be summarized by saying that American chemists have met the country's needs as ably and completely as did the chemists of Germany. We can go forward with every confidence of no serious shortage of the many chemical products required for domestic consumption.

#### THE AMERICAN METRIC ASSOCIATION

THE association will meet in Pittsburgh on December 28 and 29 under the presidency of Dr. George F. Kunz, of New York. The first two sessions are to be held in conjunction with the Section on Social and Economic Science of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The program will be as follows:

##### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

2 P.M. Mr. George W. Perkins, of New York, and Mr. J. W. McEachren, of the Crane Company, Chicago, will present papers for discussion.

Friday evening will be free for the opening session and reception of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, with which the American Metric Association is affiliated.

##### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

10 A.M. The officers will render their annual reports. These will be followed by Dr. William C. Wells, chief statistician of the Pan-American Union; Mr. Henry D. Hubbard, of the United States Bureau of Standards, and others dealing with the general problem of international standards and their application to important industries in the United States and Canada.

2 P.M. Dr. John A. Brashear, past president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, will introduce the speakers who have prepared papers for the Standards Committee of the American Metric Association. Engineers and business men are especially re-

quested to attend this session. Technical problems in connection with the general use of metric weights and measures will be given special attention at this time.

6.30 P.M. An informal "Metric Dinner" will be served at the Hotel Schenley. The charge will be two dollars per cover, and those who desire to attend are asked to leave their names at the hotel office.

8 P.M. The final session in the Hotel Schenley, at which time officers for the ensuing year will be elected, and necessary business disposed of. The present rapid metric progress and the best methods for final success will be discussed by leaders in the metric movement.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE secretary of agriculture has announced the appointment of Dr. John Robbins Mohler as chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture. Dr. Mohler succeeds the late Dr. Alonzo D. Melvin, who died on December 7. Dr. Mohler has been in the service of the Bureau of Animal Industry since 1897, and has been assistant chief of the bureau since July 1, 1914. During the long illness of Dr. Melvin, Dr. Mohler performed the duties of acting chief as well as those of chief pathologist.

A PORTRAIT of Professor Thomas C. Chamberlin, head of the department of geology and paleontology at the University of Chicago, has been presented to the university by graduates and former students of the department.

DR. LIGHTNER WITMER, professor of psychology in the University of Pennsylvania and director of the psychological laboratory and clinic, sailed last week for Europe. He expects to have the direction of social service work in a foreign country under a commissioner appointed by the War Council of the American Red Cross, and has been granted leave of absence by the university for the remainder of this year. During Dr. Witmer's absence, Dr. Edwin B. Twitmyer will be acting director of the psychological laboratory and clinic.