

the Canadian Army. He will visit Montreal and Toronto to observe the food conditions of the concentration camps and will later inspect camps in the United States.

MAJOR FRANK BILLINGS, M.R.C., professor of medicine in the University of Chicago, who was appointed medical adviser to the governor of the state of Illinois, in the creation of the medical advisory boards, and who has been acting in this capacity, is now relieved from this duty and assigned to the Provost Marshal General's Office, Washington, D. C. It is understood that Major Billings' work in Washington will be that of adviser to the Provost Marshal, in connection with the medical problems under the Selective Service Law. Major Billings will report in Washington on February 1.

DR. EDWIN OAKES JORDAN, head of the department of bacteriology of the University of Chicago, returned on January 12, from Fort Sill, Okla., where he has been making a study of epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis.

DR. L. B. BALDWIN, superintendent of the Hospital of the University of Minnesota, has been commissioned as a major in the medical reserve corps of the U. S. Army, and assigned to the personnel division of the Surgeon General's office at Washington, D. C.

LAWRENCE MARTIN, professor of geography in the University of Wisconsin, has been commissioned a first lieutenant in the National Army.

THE University of Chicago has granted leave of absence to Associate Professor Carl Kinsley, of the department of physics, for work in the Radio Division of the Signal Corps of the United States Army, and to Professor Henry Gordon Gale, of the same department, who is now a captain of infantry in the United States Army.

DR. C. A. MAGOON, assistant professor of bacteriology at the State College of Washington, has resigned to accept a position in the Bureau of Plant Industry at Washington, D. C. His new field will be bacteriological in-

vestigations in connection with the problems of food preservation.

THE secretary for Scotland has appointed Mr. Charles Weatherill to be secretary to the Board of Agriculture for Scotland, in place of Mr. H. M. Conacher, who has been appointed a deputy commissioner of the board.

MR. WORTHINGTON G. SMITH, known for his publications on and especially for his illustrations of British fungi, died on November 1.

SIR WILLIAM H. LINDLEY, known for his work on municipal engineering, died on December 30, aged sixty-four years.

MAJOR HARRY CLISSOLD, teacher of natural science at Clifton College, England, has been killed in action.

THE annual meeting of the New York State Breeders' Association was held at Syracuse on January 8, 9 and 10. Addresses were given by President J. G. Schurman, of Cornell University, on "Food Problems, National and State"; by Dr. V. A. Moore, dean of the New York State Veterinary College, on "Control of Hog Cholera," and by Professor Mark J. Smith of the New York State College of Agriculture, on "Farm Flock Husbandry," and by Ernest I. White, of Syracuse, president of the New York State Association of Horsemen, on "Horse breeding and the war."

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

DR. THOMAS F. KANE, president of Olivet College, has been elected president of the University of North Dakota, to succeed President Frank L. McVey.

DR. CARROL G. BULL, of the Rockefeller Institute, who is now in France demonstrating with the French armies his newly discovered cure for gangrene, has been named as associate professor of immunology and serology in the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health.

THE board of regents of the University of Minnesota at their meeting on January 18, elected Dr. W. A. Riley, of Cornell University, professor of parasitology and chief of the di-

vision of economic zoology. Professor A. G. Ruggles was, at the same time, appointed station entomologist, which position carries with it the office of state entomologist. At the December meeting of the board Professor F. L. Washburn, who has held the position of state entomologist in Minnesota for nearly sixteen years, asked and obtained permission to be relieved of that position and its attendant police duties, and the action of the board on the eighteenth was necessary to fill the vacancy thus caused.

MR. D. C. DUNCAN, assistant professor of physics at Purdue University, has resigned his position to accept appointment in a similar capacity at the Pennsylvania State College.

E. G. WOODWARD, formerly head of the dairy department at the University of Nevada, has been made head of the dairy division, State College of Washington.

I. D. CHARLTON, professor of agricultural engineering at the State College of Washington, has resigned to accept a similar position at the University of Minnesota.

DR. WILSON GEE, professor of biology in Emory University, has resigned to become assistant director of agricultural extension work in South Carolina. His successor is Dr. R. C. Rhodes, formerly assistant professor of biology in the University of Mississippi.

PROFESSOR F. DE QUERVAIN has been appointed to the chair of surgery in the University of Berne in succession to the late Professor Kocher.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

VITAMINES AND NUTRITION

IN this national food crisis when people are scrutinizing the make-up of their diet for patriotic, economic and physiologic reasons the proper selection of food materials looms up as a problem of no mean proportions. Especially is this true with those who, having attempted to keep abreast of the most recent developments in nutrition, have had their faith in former practises shaken by a smattering of knowledge of the importance of vitamins in the dietary. Truly, from the standpoint of

the investigator, an appreciation of the rôle of vitamins has made and will make much progress in nutrition possible and in every way more complete, but from the standpoint of the people as a whole it is questionable if the possibility of a lack of vitamins in the diet is of more serious import than that of the lack of suitable proteins or mineral constituents.

Vitamins as a class are now acceptably divided into a fat soluble and a water soluble type. Both are absolutely essential in a complete diet and both vary considerably in their occurrence. Individually many foods are deficient in one or both of them, but safety has undoubtedly been assured to the consumer by his desire for variety. It is scarcely to be doubted that in the American diet there is probably no danger of a lack of sufficiency of the water soluble vitamin, but with the fat soluble type the case is not so clear. Up to the present, studies on its occurrence are limited to a few seeds and leaves, and fats of plant and animal origin. While butter fat is richer in this dietary essential than butter substitutes, it is still too early to predict if in the aggregate this special property of butter fat warrants its taking a superior place in the mixed diet. The fat soluble vitamin has recently been found in this laboratory to occur in liberal amounts in edible roots as compared with our cereal grains, but it has also been found to be quite easily destroyed—apparently by oxidation. The chemical stability of the dietary essential and its occurrence in various foods is now being studied in this laboratory to determine if there is any probability of a varied diet of raw and prepared foods being deficient in this constituent.

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A FLOOD IN THE VALLEY OF THE ORISKANY CREEK, NEW YORK

ON Monday, June 11, 1917, there occurred in central New York a flood which was remarkable in respect to the damage done in a very limited area, and the control of the waters by physiographic conditions.