

Mr. Richard M. Field, has been completed, and the results will soon be ready for publication. The outstanding features of that section are certain peculiarities of the fauna which have been heretofore undescribed, and the remarkable series of limestones and dolomites, replete with phenomena significant of their origin and evolution.

WAR SERVICE FOR CHEMISTS

THE secretary of the American Chemical Society, Dr. Charles L. Parsons, has prepared the following statement:

So many hundreds of letters are being received from firms and individuals that it is necessary to answer by this form letter, which covers most inquiries.

Individuals can obtain deferred classification only through the local boards or by appeal to the district boards.

Manufacturers engaged in the production of materials necessary for the war may apply by letter to the Chemical Service Section, National Army, Room 1108, Interior Building, Washington, D. C., for the return to them of necessary, trained chemists now in the army and not already transferred to chemical service. They may also apply through the Chemical Service Section for deferred classification of trained chemists necessary to the control of their operations who are not yet called. Applications from the men themselves will not be considered. Only those chemists whose services are necessary to war work will be considered. The evidence submitted by the manufacturers must be conclusive.

Students taking a regular chemical course may be enlisted in the Engineers' Reserve Corps and placed on the inactive list in order to complete their college course. The dean or president of the institution must certify, however, that their standing is such as to warrant the conclusion that they will graduate with a record equal to the first third of the graduates of the previous ten years. This does not apply to students in biological and physiological chemistry, as the Chief of Engineers has ruled that such come under the Surgeon General's Office, rather than under the Engineering Department. Students wishing to take advantage of this opportunity to receive their degrees before entering the country's service should address the Chief of Engineers, War Department, Washington, D. C., asking for the necessary blanks to be filled out for this purpose.

Transfers to chemical service are made by the War Department on request from some division of the army for the particular chemist needed. After the approval of the commanding officer and the Chemical Service Section, the man is transferred. Remember that the Secretary has no power to transfer you to chemical service. He simply brings your name and qualifications before those who have.

No one can predict how great this requirement for chemists will be. At present, although nearly 1,000 chemists are serving in a chemical capacity, some 300 men properly classified as chemists remain in the camps. Accordingly, if you enlist as a chemist before you are called, you will deprive another chemist, actually in the army, of his opportunity to render chemical service. The industries which supply the army and navy with the sinews of war need chemists and are being seriously handicapped by the depletion of their chemical personnel. Cards, giving age, training, experience, etc. (obtained from questionnaires filed with the Bureau of Mines), of all men with chemical training (known to be in the army) are kept in the office of the society. These cards are constantly consulted by those in command needing chemical assistance. Men are chosen, not to give the individual an opportunity to serve in a chemical capacity, but to find the man especially qualified for the work in hand. Accordingly, you may or may not be selected. Men with plant experience, research, physical and organic chemists, some analytical chemists, etc., have been in demand. On the other hand, there has been almost no chance to place pharmaceutical chemists, agricultural or food chemists, as the army apparently has little need for this form of chemical service, and the government itself is not manufacturing in these lines.

Chemical positions in the government service other than those by enlistment in the army and navy are obtainable only through the Civil Service Commission. They do not necessarily exempt the incumbent from military service.

Commissions seek the man. A number of chemists have been commissioned, but in almost every instance it has been by promotion from the ranks for recognized ability, or the particular man has been sought to fill a special place of responsibility or trust for which he was known to be especially fitted. The place was not made for the man, but the man was found for the place, sometimes after long search. A commission carries authority with it and is not lightly awarded, whether in the engineering, medical, or chemical branches of the service.

The War Department has ruled that no class I man may be commissioned before enlistment in a non-fighting branch of the service.

Information regarding individuals is obtained from the questionnaire on file in the Bureau of Mines, Washington, D. C. If you have not filled out one of these questionnaires, write to the Bureau of Mines, asking that one be sent you for this purpose.

When once in the army, keep me informed by post card of your military address and any change in that address, even should you be sent to France. Although you may not be chosen early among those needed for chemical service, the demand for chemists is constantly increasing, and your country may call you at any time where you are best trained to serve.

It is my duty to help place you where you can serve our country best as the need arises. It is your duty to keep me informed of your address and to accept any service to which the War Department may assign you, even if you prefer to fight in the ranks in France.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. JOHN M. COULTER, professor of botany in the University of Chicago, has been elected president of the Chicago Academy of Science. Professor Coulter is this year also president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the American Association of University Professors.

DR. GEORGE T. MOORE, director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, has been elected president of the Academy of Science of St. Louis, to succeed the late Dr. E. A. Engler.

PROFESSOR THOMAS A. JAGGAR, JR., of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, has been elected a non-resident vice-president of the Washington Academy of Sciences.

DR. FRANCIS G. BENEDICT, director of the nutrition laboratory of the Carnegie Institute in Brookline, Mass., has received a gold medal from the National Institute of Social Sciences, in recognition of his "notable service to mankind." The medal was presented at the recent fifth annual dinner of the National Institute in New York City.

PROMINENCE has been given in the press to a story that Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey, of Ithaca,

former director of the College of Agriculture, has been selected by the Democratic chiefs as their candidate for nomination for governor of the state of New York. Mr. Bailey states that this action, if it has been taken, is without his consent, and that he has not been consulted in the matter.

MEMBERS of the Public Health Council, executive officers of the state department of health, and former United States Public Health Service representatives, gave a dinner in honor of Dr. Allen J. McLaughlin, commissioner of health, Boston, prior to his departure to begin work in Washington as assistant surgeon general in charge of the Division of Interstate Quarantine.

A BANQUET in honor of the ninety-fifth birthday of Dr. Stephen Smith, New York, known for his work in medicine and sanitation, was given at the Battle Creek (Mich.) Sanitarium, on February 19. Dr. Smith gave a most interesting account of the changes he had witnessed in the methods of his profession.

THE Mayo Unit, Rochester, of which Major Louis B. Wilson, U. S. Army, is director, with Captains Wayne W. Bissell and Arthur U. Des Jardins as assistant directors, has left for a mobilization point preparatory to sailing for France.

MAJOR BASHFORD DEAN, of the Bureau of Ordnance, has lately returned from a journey to England and France.

DR. R. T. CRAWFORD, associate professor of practical astronomy at the University of California, has been commissioned major in the aviation section of the Signal Corps and has been detailed for duty at the Balloon School at Fort Omaha.

CLARENCE F. HIRSCHFELD, until 1915 professor of power engineering at Cornell University, has received a commission as major in the Ordnance Reserve Corps and is now stationed in the inspection division of the Ordnance Department. He has been with the Detroit Edison Light and Power Company.

DR. PAUL E. KLOPSTEG, of the physics department of the University of Minnesota, has been granted a year's leave of absence for the