

lumination and illuminating engineering, and to advise as to the directions in which research can be undertaken with advantage.

Mine-rescue Apparatus Research Committee.—To inquire into the types of breathing apparatus used in coal mines, and by experiment to determine the advantages, limitations and defects of the several types of apparatus, what improvements in them are possible, and whether it is advisable that the types used in mines should be standardized, and to collect evidence bearing on these points.

Abrasives and Polishing Powders Research Committee.—(1) To conduct investigations on abrasives and polishing powders with a view to their preparation and use as one factor in accelerating the output of lenses and prisms for optical instruments, not only for peace requirements but in connection with the war. (2) To investigate the preparation and properties of abrasives and polishing powders.

Food-research Committee.—To direct research on problems in the cooking of vegetables and meat, and in bread making, to be undertaken by two scholars of the committee of council.

Building-materials Research Committee.—To make arrangements for carrying out researches on building construction instituted by the department at the instance of the local government board committee or otherwise, to be responsible under the council for the direction of such researches, and to deal with such other matters as may be referred to the committee from time to time by the council.

Electrical Research Committee.—A committee of direction appointed in connection with certain researches affecting the electrical industry.

Committee for Research on Vitreous Compounds and Cements for Lenses and Prisms.—To conduct researches into the preparation, properties and mode of employment of cements for lenses and prisms; to prepare a reference list of vitreous compounds, their composition, densities, refractive indices and dispersive powers.

Tin and Tungsten Research Board.—The Cornish Chamber of Mines has been invited to nominate a representative of the landlords and a representative of the mine owners to serve on the board. A committee of control appointed in connection with certain researches into tin and tungsten.

Lubricants and Lubrication Inquiry Committee.—To prepare a memorandum on the field for research on lubricants and lubrication, which will contain an analysis of the problems involved, to-

gether with a suggested scheme of research, which would be most likely to lead to valuable results.

Provisional Committee on Research and Education for the Cotton Industry.—A committee appointed with a view to the organization of a research association for the cotton industry.

Provisional Committee on Research for the Wool and Worsted Industries.—A committee appointed with a view to the organization of a research association for the wool and worsted industries.

Provisional Committee for the Internal Combustion Engine Industry.—A committee appointed with a view to the organization of a research association for the internal combustion engine industry.

MEETING OF THE GENERAL MEDICAL BOARD OF THE COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

DEDICATION of the Warden McLean Auditorium at Camp Greenleaf, the military medical school at Camp Chickamauga, Ga., on March 11 was made notable not only because of the presence of the Surgeon General of the Army and members of his staff, as well as many distinguished medical men from military and civil life, but also because of the regular meeting there March 10 of the General Medical Board of the Council of National Defense, usually held in Washington. About 1,000 doctors, who as medical reserve officers are taking the 'three months' course, accepted the invitation to attend extended by Dr. Franklin Martin, member of the advisory commission of the council and chairman of the board.

These members of the General Medical Board attended: Dr. Franklin Martin, chairman; Dr. William F. Snow, secretary; Surgeon General William C. Gorgas, Dr. Victor C. Vaughan, Dr. William H. Welch, Dr. John Young Brown, Dr. John G. Clark, Dr. Thomas S. Cullen, Dr. Edward P. Davis, Dr. William D. Haggard, Dr. Jabez Jackson, Dr. Edward Martin, Dr. Charles H. Mayo, Dr. Stuart McGuire, Dr. John D. McLean, Dr. Hubert A. Royster.

Introduced by Dr. Martin, Surgeon General Gorgas said he knew of no more important work than the activities being developed at Camp Greenleaf; that the necessity of military medical training is obvious; also that on a visit to England five years ago he learned that the great developments in the English

system had been forced by the necessities arising during the Boer War; so, he said, the United States Military Medical Service is being developed by the exigencies now confronting us and would continue after the war. He said he gained from the British service ideas of value for his administration.

Dr. William H. Welch read a statement showing that in February there was an exceedingly satisfactory decline in the admission rates for communicable diseases, as well as for all causes. In the force afloat, the situation as to pneumonia and cerebrospinal fever is very satisfactory. Scarlet fever has been slightly more prevalent than usual but in no sense epidemic; a very satisfactory decrease in measles; mumps continues as heretofore.

For the committee on surgery, Dr. Charles H. Mayo told how data on 21,000 physicians had been gathered and placed on cards convenient for the ready selection of individuals and groups suited for any given task, a duplicate set of which cards has been prepared for the use of the Surgeon General's office in France. Dr. Mayo emphasized the need of reconstructing wounded men, not only for field service but also for labor after the war, inasmuch as the usual tide of immigration has ceased. Citing the many government activities in which medicine enters, he said these relations, he believed, could be coordinated in no way except by having a medical man as a Cabinet officer.

Lieutenant Colonel Victor C. Vaughan, reporting for the committee on legislation, told of the request of the Army medical officers for higher rank and greater authority, and of the Owen-Dyer bill (S. 3748 and H. R. 9563) now pending in Congress. He cited instances which he said indicated need for greater rank, and then read the following letter from President Wilson to Dr. Franklin Martin, indorsing the bill:

I read very carefully your memorandum of February 27 about the rank accorded members of the Medical Corps of the Army, and have taken pleasure in writing letters to the chairman of the Military Committees of the House and Senate, expressing the hope that the bill and resolution may be passed.

LECTURES ON AGRICULTURE

It has been arranged that a group of prominent agricultural speakers shall travel through the northern and western states, after conferences in Washington with Secretary of Agriculture Houston and Food Administrator Hoover to impress on the farmers the necessity of producing large crops during the coming season. A similar campaign already has been conducted in the southern states. The following have consented to take part in the campaign:

Dr. W. O. Thompson, president Ohio State University, speaking in Idaho and Wyoming.

Alva Agee, secretary of the New Jersey board of agriculture, speaking in Ohio.

Dr. A. H. Jordan, director of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y., speaking in Pennsylvania and Connecticut.

Dr. J. L. Hills, dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Vermont, speaking in New Hampshire.

Dr. C. F. Curtiss, director of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station and dean of the Iowa Agricultural College, speaking in Kansas and Nebraska.

Dr. Eugene Davenport, dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Illinois, speaking in Wisconsin.

Dr. W. J. Kerr, president of the Oregon Agricultural College, speaking in Oregon and in Idaho.

Professor William M. Jardine, president of the Kansas Agricultural College, speaking in Missouri.

Dr. C. A. Lory, president of the Colorado Agricultural College, speaking in Colorado.

Dr. S. C. Mitchell, president of Delaware College, speaking in New Jersey and Rhode Island.

Dr. E. C. Perisho, president of the South Dakota Agricultural College, speaking in South Dakota and Montana.

A. J. Glover, editor of Hoard's Dairyman, speaking in Minnesota.

Dean Alfred Vivian, of the College of Agriculture, Ohio State University, speaking in Iowa.

Dr. T. F. Hunt, dean of the College of Agriculture, University of California, will go direct from California for speeches in the state of Washington early in April.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE annual meeting of the National Academy of Sciences will be held at the Smithsonian