

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.

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#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

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

ian Institution in Washington on April 22, 23 and 24. The program includes accounts of war activities in different branches of science and reports of the results of several important scientific researches by members of the academy and others. The Hale lectures will be given by Professor John C. Merriam, of the University of California. His subject is "The beginnings of human history from the geologic records."

PROFESSOR COMFORT A. ADAMS, of Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is the nominee of the directors of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers for president for the year beginning August 1.

SURGEON-GENERAL SIR ALFRED KEOGH, G.C.B., has been appointed to the Order of the Companions of Honor for services in connection with the war.

DR. BENJAMIN F. ROYER, Harrisburg, acting commissioner of health of Pennsylvania, will deliver the memorial address on the late commissioner, Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, at the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, on April 9.

DR. H. L. RUSSELL, dean of the college of agriculture of the University of Wisconsin, has been appointed by the Food Administration to take charge of the division of butter and cheese, in succession to Mr. George E. Haskill.

PROFESSOR CLARENCE A. WALDO, Ph.D., late of Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., retired last commencement from the Thayer professorship of mathematics and applied mechanics, as professor emeritus and is now living at 401 West 118th St., New York City.

JAMES ZETEK, professor of biology and hygiene at the Instituto Nacional de Panama, has been appointed entomologist of the Board of Health Laboratory, Ancon Hospital, Canal Zone.

DR. HARRY B. YOCOM, professor of zoology at Washburn College, has been commissioned first lieutenant in the Sanitary Corps and ordered to report for duty to Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas.

DR. JOHN W. KIMBALL, instructor in chemistry and physics at the dental school of West-

ern Reserve University, has been called to Washington to undertake chemical work for the Army. Dr. Kimball has been granted leave of absence from the university and will leave immediately to take up his new work.

PROFESSOR ELMER P. KOHLER, of the department of chemistry of Harvard University, has gone to Washington and will give his whole time, at least until the beginning of the next academic year, to chemical research for the national government. He will be at the experiment station of the Bureau of Mines as assistant to the director in charge of research problems.

FRANCIS C. FRARY, research chemist of the Aluminum Company of America, has been commissioned as captain in the ordnance reserve corps and assigned to research work in the trench warfare section, Engineering Bureau office of the chief of ordnance, Washington, D. C.

JOHN G. FRAYNE, an instructor in physics at the University of Minnesota, has enlisted in the signal corps of the army and will be sent to France.

DR. B. FRANKLIN ROYER, who has been chief medical inspector of the Pennsylvania State Department of Health for a number of years and who has supervised the work in the Harrisburg office during the long illness of Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, has been appointed acting health chief, pending the selection of a permanent successor to the late commissioner.

DR. ROBERT A. LYSTER, lecturer in public health and forensic medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and county medical officer for Hampshire, has been elected editor of *Public Health*.

PROFESSOR FREDERIC J. CHESHIRE, director of the department of technical optics at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, has been reelected president of the Optical Society of Great Britain.

MR. CLYDE L. PATCH, of the Victoria Memorial Museum, Ottawa, lectured on "Local Snakes, Frogs and Salamanders: their relation to agriculture," on February 5, under the auspices of the Ottawa Field Naturalists Club.

He discussed twenty-five different species and described observations made in eastern Ontario. The lecture was illustrated with living specimens and lantern views.

THROUGH the courtesy of the regents and secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, a reception was tendered there on the evening of February 28 by the Chemical Society of Washington to the five hundred chemists temporarily residing in Washington for war duty. Addresses of welcome were made by Dr. Frederick B. Power, president of the society, and by Dr. George P. Merrill, head curator of geology of the Smithsonian Institution, after which brief addresses were made by Professor Frank W. Clarke, Dr. Charles L. Parsons, Major Samuel J. M. Auld, the British chemist cooperating with this government in the Gas Defense Service, Chancellor Samuel Avery, of the University of Nebraska and Professor Wilder D. Bancroft. A large proportion of the guests were in uniform and included many of academic distinction.

G. A. LEBOUR, for many years professor of geology at the University of Durham, died on February 7, at the age of seventy-one years.

THE death is announced of C. I. Istrati, professor of organic chemistry and dean at the University of Bucharest and president of the Roumanian Academy of Sciences.

DR. A. W. E. ERLANDSEN, professor of hygiene at the University of Copenhagen, has died at the age of thirty-nine years.

OWING to greatly increased activities in the Public Health Service, there is urgent need of the services of medical officers for field duty in connection with the sanitation of numerous civil sanitary districts. The salaries of the positions in question vary from \$1,800 to \$2,500 per annum, depending on the qualifications and experience of the appointees. Men who have been disqualified physically for the Medical Reserve Corps are eligible for appointment, provided they are not suffering from complaints which will seriously interfere with the performance of their duties. It is especially desired to secure the services of competent sanitarians and those who have had previous

experience in health work. There are also numerous vacancies for sanitary engineers, scientific assistants, sanitary inspectors and others. Applications for appointment to these vacancies should be made to the Surgeon-General, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington, D. C., and in order to avoid unnecessary correspondence should include complete data concerning age, nativity, experience and training, and other necessary information.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

A GIFT of a large tract of land has been made to Harvard University by Mr. Andrew Carnegie, President A. Lawrence Lowell, Mr. Henry L. Higginson and ten others. The tract, which comprises 2,344,000 square feet, is adjacent to the Soldiers' Field. There are no buildings on the land, and, according to university authorities, no plans have been made for the immediate use of the property.

GIFTS reported at the recent Corporation meeting of Yale University, included one of \$5,000 from Mrs. James Wesley Cooper, of Hartford, for the establishment of a publication fund in memory of her husband, who graduated from the college in 1865 and who was for over thirty years a member of the corporation, and \$5,000 in memory of the late William A. Read of New York by his widow, to assist the work of the Yale University Press. Two bequests were also announced: \$10,000 from the late Samuel J. Elder, for the college, and \$5,000 from the widow of Amory E. Rowland, for the benefit of the Sheffield Scientific School.

By the will of Mrs. Eliza C. Farnham \$1,200 is left to the Howard College for two Horace Farnham Scholarships.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR HERBERT L. SEWARD, '06 S., of the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University has been granted leave of absence to become head of a new school being organized by the Navy Department to train engineers for the naval service. The leave of absence granted by the corporation begins on May 1, but Professor Seward will continue in charge of the engineering instruction of the