

The duties of the institution have been so arranged that it is believed entirely satisfactory results have been attained, while the operations move with a common purpose known to the entire staff. The council has held its regular meetings and special meetings for the consideration of matters requiring prompt action.

The Naval Observatory consists of an astronomical department for securing the most accurate positions of the heavenly bodies possible; a nautical department in which are tested and repaired navigational instruments for the Navy; an office for the preparation of a nautical almanac by which the ships ascertain their positions at sea; a time service by which the operation of all railroads, ships and commercial bodies are furnished accurate time daily; a compass office in which the latest form of compasses are examined, as well as a means to show the younger naval officers the latest improvements in them; an inspection department, with inspectors at New York, Boston and San Francisco, under direct supervision of the observatory. These inspectors are on duty at the factories of manufacturers engaged in the production of navigational material for the Navy and United States Shipping Board. There is not another national observatory in any country that has all these departments combined under one head and carried on in one plant. Therefore, when this question of expense arises and comparisons are made, those separate departments should be combined to get the true cost.

A few of the complimentary notices from competent authorities are appended.

GIFT TO THE RED CROSS FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH IN FRANCE

THE Atlantic Division of the American Red Cross has announced that hereafter all expenditures for vivisection would come from a fund which had been contributed by an individual. The announcement, which came here from Harvey D. Gibson, general manager of the Red Cross in Washington, said that this fund also would be used to reimburse the treasury of the organization for money already spent in experiments on living animals. Mr. Gibson's statement in part was as follows:

Considerable public and private criticism has been made of an appropriation of the American Red Cross in August, 1917, for medical research work in France, because partly involved in this work was experimentation upon living animals

for the purpose of finding methods of prevention and remedies for new and strange diseases among soldiers. This appropriation was made at a time of emergency, upon the recommendation of army medical officers and of a number of eminent scientists in this country. Prompt action was necessary, and it seemed to officers of the Red Cross at the time that the use of money in this way was proper from the Red Cross point of view, for it would be difficult to imagine any more imperative duty upon the Red Cross than to seek for every means of prevention and remedy for sickness among soldiers.

The Red Cross did not, as has been stated, appropriate this money for abstract medical research and experimentation. It was to be used for the direct and immediate purpose of finding ways to prevent or cure wounds and sickness among American soldiers. It was strictly a war measure. It develops, however, that there are large numbers of earnest Red Cross members who have sincere convictions against the use of animals for discovery of remedies for sickness. We recognize that it should be an obligation of the Red Cross management to show deference to such honest conviction.

Realizing the situation, an individual has come forward and has offered to supply money necessary for this work so that none shall be taken from the general funds of the Red Cross. The fund provided will also be used to reimburse the Red Cross General Fund for any expenditures in connection therewith in the past. The War Council decided to accept this offer without in any way taking a position either for or against the question in controversy, but because they do not wish their acts to be considered to be in conflict with the sincere convictions of Red Cross members.

The New York *Times* says in an editorial article:

It will be with regret deeply tinged with indignation that all sane and reasonably enlightened people will hear of the decision by the heads of the Red Cross not to use for animal experimentation—often and almost always incorrectly called “vivisection”—the money hitherto appropriated by them for that purpose. The decision may mean avoiding the loss of a few contributions to the Red Cross funds, but it also means the triumph of vicious ignorance over common sense, and it will encourage to further efforts the members of the most detestable and not the least dangerous group of men and women to be found in the United States.

The campaign of the anti-vivisectionists is waged, now as always, with no other weapons than those of calumny and falsehood. They deliberately and persistently make the most abominable accusations against men who have done and are doing an enormous amount of successful work to mitigate human suffering and to save human life. Incidentally, these same workers are conferring like advantages on innumerable domestic animals, but let that pass. The immediate issue is that interference with animal experimentation just now decreases the safety of the men in our army and navy, makes impossible, so far as the interference is effective, the conquest of several terrible diseases to which the fighters for liberty are still exposed, and sets up the absurd claims of fanatic degenerates against the well-demonstrated truths of medical science.

And the Red Cross cautiously says that it does not take sides for or against "vivisection"! Such caution is reprehensible—is utterly unworthy of that great and beneficent organization. It should take sides, standing for right and against wrong. The immediate profit of doing anything else or less will be dearly bought in future loss of both money and respect. Red Cross money, in the amount that was proposed, could not possibly have been better invested than in the establishment of a biological laboratory near the scene of war for the study of the maladies of soldiers which this sort of research has not yet conquered. It was weak, and worse than weak, for the Red Cross to heed the hysterical shrieks and the monstrous charges of venality and murder that came from a few people whom it strains charity to call deluded or insane.

THE JOINT INFORMATION BOARD ON MINERALS AND DERIVATIVES

FOR the purpose of systematizing the handling of official inquiries regarding minerals and mineral products the Joint Information Board on Minerals and Derivatives has been formed. This body, which will serve as a clearing house to secure the prompt preparation and transmittal of data from a single authoritative source without duplication effort, is composed of representatives from the various government bureaus, boards and departments interested.

The war has caused an increased demand by various officials for all available information regarding raw materials essential to the government, and this demand has caused a notable

increase in the work and the personnel of those bureaus that had in the past been directly concerned in mineral investigations.

This joint board was created to coordinate the activities of all concerned. Its purpose in no wise curtails but supplements the existing activities; its function is to make the equipment and personnel of the various bodies concerned better known and more readily available to the other organizations and to bring about an even more effective operation.

Mr. Pope Yeatman, of the War Industries Board, Division of Raw Materials, is chairman of the Joint Information Board, and all inquiries should be addressed to Edson S. Bastin, Secretary Joint Information Board on Minerals and Derivatives, Room 5037, New Interior Building, Washington, D. C.

Following are the government departments and official organizations and names of representatives on the board:

War Department.—Bureau of Ordnance, Lieutenant Colonel R. P. Lamont, Sixth and B Streets NW.

Navy Department.—Bureau of Ordnance, Commander R. S. Holmes, Lieutenant Commander N. W. Pickering, New Interior Department Building.

War Industries Board.—Division of Raw Materials, L. L. Summers, Pope Yeatman (chairman Joint Information Board), Council of National Defense Building. Division of Statistics, F. G. Tryon, H. R. Aldrich; Commercial Economy Board, M. T. Copeland; Council of National Defense Building. Bureau of Investigations and Research, F. H. Macpherson, Council of National Defense Building.

Department of Agriculture.—Bureau of Plant Industry, K. F. Kellerman; Bureau of Soils, Frederick W. Brown; Bureau of Animal Industry, R. M. Chapin; Bureau of Chemistry, W. W. Skinner; Federal Insecticide and Fungicide Board, John K. Haywood.

Department of Commerce.—Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, C. D. Snow, assistant chief; Bureau of Standards, Henry D. Hubbard.

Treasury Department.—Bureau of the Mint, Frederick P. Dewey; Division of Customs, George W. Ashworth; Office of Internal Revenue, A. B. Adams.

Interior Department.—Geological Survey, Adson S. Bastin (secretary of Joint Information Board); Frank J. Katz, New Interior Department Build-