

ing; Bureau of Mines, Harvey S. Mudd, New Interior Department Building.

*U. S. Food Administration.*—Division of Chemicals, Charles W. Merrill.

*U. S. Fuel Administration.*—Oil Division, Thomas Cox; Coal Division, C. E. Leshner, New Interior Department Building.

*U. S. Shipping Board.*—C. K. Leith, J. E. Spurr, New Interior Department Building.

*War Trade Board.*—Bureau of Research, S. H. Salomon, 1027 Vermont Avenue; Bureau of Imports, Lincoln Hutchinson, Bond Building; Bureau of Exports, S. C. Thompson, 1435 K Street NW.

*U. S. Tariff Commission.*—Guy C. Riddell, 1322 New York Avenue NW.

*Department of State.*—Consular Service, H. A. Havens.

*U. S. National Museum.*—Division of Mineral Technology, Chester G. Gilbert.

*Federal Trade Commission.*—C. C. Houghton, 921 Fifteenth Street NW.

*National Research Council.*—John Johnston, 1023 Sixteenth Street NW.; Section of Metallurgy, H. M. Howe, 1023 Sixteenth Street NW.; Division of Geology and Geography, John C. Merriam, 1023 Sixteenth Street NW.

*Director General of Railroads.*—Car Service Section, G. F. Richardson, Interstate Commerce Building.

#### PHYSICIANS FOR THE ARMY AND NAVY SERVICE

DR. FRANKLIN MARTIN, chairman of the committee on medicine of the advisory commission of the Council of National Defense, appeals for an increased enrollment of doctors for service as medical officers in the Army and Navy.

Surgeon-General Gorgas asks for 5,000 medical men for the Army with which to establish a reserve as fast as the 16,000 medical officers now in training and in uniform are ordered to France. While men between the ages of 25 and 45 are most desirable, the maximum age limit for medical officers is 55 years. Physicians are commissioned as first lieutenants, captains and majors. After acceptance of their commissions they are given a reasonable length of time in which to arrange their affairs before assignment to active duty.

An increased demand for naval medical officers has been created by the additional re-

sponsibility of the Navy in protecting ships engaged in the transportation of troops and supplies to Europe. The following letter from Surgeon-General Braisted is self-explanatory:

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 5, 1918.

DR. FRANKLIN MARTIN,

*Council of National Defense.*

*My Dear Doctor:* May I request the cooperation of the Council of National Defense in conveying to the medical profession the fact that the Medical Department of the Navy is urgently in need of additional medical officers? Anything that you can do to assist us in filling these needs will be greatly appreciated.

Thanking you in advance for this, as well as for your many acts of cooperation in the past, I am,

Very sincerely, yours,

W. C. BRAISTED,

*Surgeon General, U. S. Navy*

Two thousand medical officers are required to meet the demands for immediate expansion and to establish a reserve.

Application blanks may be obtained from the Surgeon General of the Army, the Surgeon General of the Navy, the Council of National Defense, or examining boards for medical officers located in all the large cities of the country.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

MR. SAMUEL HENSHAW has been appointed director of the Harvard University Museum.

DR. JOHN JOHNSTON, of the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution, has been appointed secretary of the National Research Council.

DR. STEPHEN SMITH has resigned as member of the New York State Board of Charities, an office which he has held for many years. Dr. Smith was ninety-five years of age on February 19.

PROFESSOR RUSSELL H. CHITTENDEN, director of the Scientific School of Yale University, Professor Graham Lusk, of the Cornell Medical School and Mr. John L. Simpson, of the United States Food Administration, have been representing the United States at the inter-allied food conference in Paris. The immediate purpose of the conference is to establish

a scientific rationing system whereby the individual will be enabled to make the greatest effort on the minimum amount of food.

LEAVE of absence for the remainder of the year has been granted by Harvard University to Louis C. Graton, professor of economic geology, to enable him to take charge of the work of the Copper Producers Committee in Washington.

MR. H. E. IVES, of the United Gas Improvement Company of Philadelphia, Pa., has entered the Science and Research Division of the Signal Corps.

DR. FREDERIC BONNET, JR., professor of chemistry at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, has resigned to accept the position of chief chemist at the new Perryville plant of the Atlas Powder Company.

PROFESSOR ADOLPH F. MEYER, associate professor of hydraulic engineering of the University of Minnesota, has accepted a position as engineer for the Minnesota-Ontario Power company and will resign his position on the faculty probably at the end of the current year.

DR. W. F. FARAGHER has resigned his position as research chemist for the Alden Speare's Sons Co. to become senior fellow at the Mellon Institute in Pittsburgh. He will work on crude petroleum.

MISS KATHERINE MARDEN, assistant bacteriologist in the Massachusetts State Department of Health, has been appointed sanitary bacteriologist in the United States Public Health Service, and has been ordered to proceed to Greenville, S. C.

DR. ABRAHAM JABLONS, of the Bureau of Preventable Diseases, Department of Health, City of New York, is on active duty in the United States Naval Reserve Force, at the Naval Hospital, Brooklyn, New York.

THE Rockefeller Institute recently tendered a banquet to Dr. G. Gasteñeta, subdean of the medical department of the University of Lima, Peru, who has been on a brief visit to the United States.

THE Gill Memorial of the Royal Geographical Society has been awarded to Dr. Cuthbert Christy for his surveys and explorations in Central Africa.

THE *Journal of the American Medical Association* states that the seventieth birthday of the well-known authority on physiologic chemistry and histology, Professor C. A. Pekelhar- ing, of the University of Utrecht, falls on July 18, and his friends and pupils are collecting a fund to erect a tablet in his honor or endow the laboratory for physiological chemistry there. The secretary of the committee in charge of the testimonial is Dr. C. J. van Hoogenhuyze, Banstraat 8, Amsterdam.

THE officers of the Royal Microscopical Society, elected for the ensuing year, are: *President*, J. E. Barnhard; *Vice-Presidents*, E. Heron-Allen, F. Martin Duncan, A. Earland and R. Paulson; *Secretaries*, Dr. J. W. H. Eyre and D. J. Scourfield.

THE Medical Research Committee of Great Britain has appointed a special committee to consider the methods of manufacture, biological testing, and clinical administration of salvarsan and its substitutes used in Great Britain, and the results of these, and to propose to the Medical Research Committee specific investigations aimed at improving those methods and results. The committee consists of Dr. H. D. Rolleston, C.B., temporary Surgeon-General R.N. (chairman), Professor F. W. Andrewes, M.D., F.R.S., Professor Wm. Bulloch, M.D., F.R.S., Dr. H. H. Dale, F.R.S., Lieut.-Colonel L. W. Harrison, D.S.O., R.A.-M.C., and Dr. F. J. H. Coutts, assistant medical officer, Local Government Board (secretary).

PROFESSOR FREDERICK B. LOOMIS, of Amherst College, recently addressed the Middletown Scientific Association at Wesleyan University on "The Patagonian Pampas." The subject matter of this lecture was taken from facts gathered during five months' traveling over the Pampas, while hunting for extinct animals.

THE Cutter lectures on preventive medicine and hygiene will be delivered at the Harvard

Medical School from 5 to 6 P.M. on April 25 and 26, by Frederic S. Lee, A.M., Ph.D., professor of physiology of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, on "Industrial Efficiency and the War."

DR. W. EAGLE CLARKE, keeper of the Natural History Department of the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, has been elected president of the British Ornithologists' Union, in succession to Col. Wardlaw Ramsey.

IN view of a biography of the late Percival Lowell, it is requested that any one possessing letters of his will be kind enough to lend them to G. R. Agassiz, 14 Ashburton Place, Boston, Mass. All letters lent will be promptly copied and returned.

PROFESSOR EWALD HERING, the eminent physiologist, professor at Leipzig, has died at the age of eighty-four years.

THERE is announced in *Nature* the death of Miss B. Lindsay, on December 16 last, at Onchan, Isle of Man. She was known for her experimental work in the morphology of birds and molluscs and for her text-books.

PROFESSOR G. MESLIN, director of the physical institute laboratory of the University of Montpellier, known for his work on optics, died on January 11, aged fifty-six years.

THERE is need for about 100 women bacteriologists to take the place of men in the cantonment laboratories, the Surgeon General's Office of the United States Army announces. The service of the men is demanded for the hospital units which are going abroad and their places at the home cantonments are to be filled by women. Applications are arriving from all camps, some asking for as many as nine women. A good practical knowledge of clinical pathology and diagnostic bacteriology is required for the work. The present salary is \$720 with maintenance and \$1,200 without, with transportation furnished by the government. Applications may be made to Office of the Surgeon General, Washington, D. C.

THE United States Civil Service Commission announces an examination for apprentice draftsman, for males only, to fill vacancies in

the Coast and Geodetic Survey. The entrance salary will be at the rate of \$60 a month during the time of probationary service of six months, with subsistence at the rate of \$1 a day when serving on shipboard or in camp, and \$2 a day when living on shore and boarding. Those serving a satisfactory probationary period of six months will be appointed draftsmen at \$900 a year and will be eligible for appointment to one of the statutory positions in the drafting section of the Coast and Geodetic Survey at Washington, D. C., after passing the examination for topographic draftsman. On entering the service, apprentice draftsman will be given special instruction in the office at Washington, D. C., for two or more months, and then will be ordered for duty with a field party. In the field they will be given elementary instruction in the several branches of surveying and afforded an opportunity of becoming familiar with survey methods by taking part in the different classes of field work. At the close of the field season they will be ordered to the office at Washington, D. C., where they will be engaged in completing the records of the past season's work and at the same time they will be given special instructions to fit them for more advanced cartographic work.

THE next annual session of the Biological Laboratory at Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, New York, will be held during June to September. Class work will begin Wednesday, July third and continue for six weeks. Courses of instruction are offered in field zoology by Drs. Walter and Kornhauser, bird study by Mrs. Walter, comparative anatomy by Professor Pratt, sanitary entomology by Mrs. Elizabeth H. Wright and others, animal biometrics and evolution by Dr. Davenport, systematic and field botany by Dr. John W. Harshberger, a training course for field workers in eugenics by Drs. Davenport and Laughlin. Advanced work in zoology and botany is offered by the staff. Professor and Mrs. H. H. Wilder also offer a course of lectures and laboratory work on physical anthropology. This last course and the course on sanitary entomology and the elementary course in botany are this

year adapted to war conditions. Announcement and further information can be obtained by addressing C. B. Davenport, Cold Spring Harbor, New York.

THE meeting of the British Association, which it was hoped would be held in Cardiff this year, has been cancelled. The local committee has reluctantly decided that satisfactory arrangements could not be made to ensure success for the meeting, and has sent a resolution to that effect to the council of the association. The council has accepted this view, so that for two years in succession the annual assembly of workers in all departments of science will not take place. Sir Arthur Evans has consented to occupy the office of president for another year, and there will be a statutory meeting in London on July 5 to receive reports of committees and transact other business, but otherwise the corporate life of the association will continue in a state of suspended animation, though there never has been a more favorable time than now to make the nation realize the debt it owes to science for the successful conduct of the war and the need for unceasing scientific activity to prepare for the industrial struggle which the future must bring.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

SIR WILLIAM SCHLICH, F.R.S., professor of forestry in Oxford University, has received £500 from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous, to be added to the fund for the permanent endowment of the professorship of forestry. With the sums already contributed, the capital of the fund now amounts to over £6,300, and the annual income from all sources to about £300 a year, making about half of what is required.

A COMMITTEE, of which Sir William Osler is chairman, met in Cardiff recently to prepare a scheme for the Mansel-Talbot chair of preventive medicine in the University of Wales endowed by Miss Talbot. When the scheme had been approved the election of a professor will be proceeded with.

PRESIDENT BENJAMIN IDE WHEELER, of the University of California, has again asked for an increase in salaries for members of the California faculty. A year ago men of the grade of instructor and assistant professor received an increase of ten per cent.

JULIAN L. COOLIDGE, assistant professor of mathematics at Harvard University, has been advanced to a full professorship.

AT the Pennsylvania State College, E. H. Dusham has been promoted to be professor of entomology; M. D. Leonard, instructor in entomology at Cornell University, has been appointed instructor in entomology extension and R. C. Walton, of the Ohio Experiment Station, instructor in plant pathology.

DR. KIRTLEY F. MATHER, professor of paleontology at Queen's University, Kingston, Canada, is acting professor of geology and geography at Denison University, Granville, Ohio, for the spring term.

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#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE THE EXISTENCE OF LECITHIN

SOME eight years ago and again very recently, Barbieri<sup>1</sup> has reported results of experiments which he claims proves the non-existence of lecithin. His arguments are the following:

The fatty matter of egg yolk can be separated in a state of purity by the aid of neutral solvents. The nitrogen-containing bodies can be removed by simple dialysis or by repeated washing with distilled water in the presence of a little alcohol. The fat yields on hydrolysis nothing but glycerol and fatty acids. Glycerolphosphoric acid can not be obtained by treating the egg yolk with a neutral solvent. It appears only after hydrolysis. The phosphorus occurs only in the form of metallic (potassium, sodium, calcium or magnesium) salts of phosphoric acid and is entirely dialyzable. Egg yolk contains no trace of choline, the supposed biological choline being a product of either the degradation of the ovochromin or of putrefaction.

From these results it would appear that the compound ordinarily called lecithin is a mixture of fats, phosphates and dialyzable nitro-

<sup>1</sup> Barbieri, N. A., *Comp. rend.*, 1910, 151, 405; *Gaz.*, 1917, 47, 1-13; *J. Chem. Soc.*, 112, I, 238.