that it is not so far, after all. From the highways and byways from one end of this country to the other are coming the men who are to fight the battle for freedom; in last analysis the idealism for which this nation stands is rooted in the minds of its people; and the extent to which the government can prosecute the war, it may be even victory itself, depends upon the strength of that idealism in the minds of even the most humble and least traveled of our citizens.

But after the war will come peace, when we will resume to a large degree our former daily habits of life and thought, when the communities in which we live will once more take up the tasks of civic and industrial development, when our nation will turn again to those problems of government and society upon the successful solution of which its future prosperity, if not its existence, depends. Then will be needed more than now the idealism which a crisis like the present calls forth in such strength, but which slumbers in time of peace; then will we need to consider most seriously the means by which that idealism may be developed and kept active. Then will democracy even more than at the present time need to be fostered and will we need to make use of every agency which will educate people to a broader view of their responsibilities and increase sympathy, the love of truth, right and justice, regard for the welfare of others, and a feeling of kinship with all mankind. And if the study of animal life can contribute even in a small degree to the effectiveness of our people and to the development of that idealism upon which the future of democracy depends, then is it worthy of consideration and the value of zoological science has one more claim to recognition.

R. H. WOLCOTT

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

TIN IN VIRGINIA

THE United States is almost entirely dependent on foreign countries for its supply of tin. As this metal is a war-time necessity, and as a domestic source of supply is urgently needed, all known deposits of tin ore (cassiterite) in the United States have recently been examined by geologists of the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior. One of the most promising of these deposits is in the Irish Creek district, in the eastern part of Rockbridge County, Va., near the summit of the Blue Ridge. This deposit was recently examined by H. G. Ferguson, of the United States Geological Survey, which in this research is acting in cooperation with the Virginia Geological Survey. The existence of tin ore in the Irish Creek district has been known for many years, and between 1883 and 1893 the deposit there was actively mined. The mining company, however, became involved in litigation as to land titles and abandoned work in 1893. Work on the deposit was never resumed, and the old workings are now caved and heavily overgrown with brush, so that a thorough examination of them is difficult, but what Mr. Ferguson saw in the field and the information he derived from old reports led him to conclude that the deposits along the Blue Ridge in this vicinity offer some promise as a source of tin, both through the systematic working of the known veins and the possible discovery of other deposits. The cassiterite occurs in quartz veins that cut a granitic rock of peculiar appearance known as a hypersthene granodiorite. The veins do not continue for long distances and their content of tin is probably very irregular from place to place. Some high-grade ore was found, however, and some tungsten ore occurs with the cassiterite. It is believed that the district is worthy of further investigation. A copy of the report may be secured on application to Dr. Thomas Leonard Watson, director, Virginia Geological Survey, Charlottesville, Va.

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC NOMENCLATURE[1]

IN the *Comptes rendus* of the Paris Acad-

[1] From *Nature*.