

numbers every meeting in which arrangements had been made for it. The local committee on arrangements and the medical profession of Chicago are to be congratulated on the results of this session, and the thanks and appreciation of every Fellow of the American Medical Association is due them.

THE PRODUCTION OF OPTICAL GLASS IN THE UNITED STATES

THE War Industries Board authorizes the statement that before the war little effort was made to produce optical glass in the United States. Manufacturers of optical instruments were able to obtain optical glass in desired quantity and quality from Europe and consequently did not feel the necessity for making it themselves. In 1912, however, the Bausch & Lomb Optical Co., of Rochester, N. Y., built an experimental optical-glass plant and placed a practical glassmaker in charge; by 1914 this company was able to produce a few types of optical glass which was used in optical instruments.

By the end of 1914 the importation of optical glass had become difficult and uncertain. Other firms, as Keuffel & Esser, of Hoboken, N. J., and Spencer Lens Co., Buffalo, N. Y., and the Bureau of Standards of the Department of Commerce, at Washington, began to experiment in making optical glass. By 1917, when the United States entered the war, the optical glass situation had become critical. The European supply was practically cut off. Optical glass had to be made in this country if our army and navy were to receive the fire-control instruments which they needed.

The Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington was called upon to aid in the production of high-grade optical glass. A party from the laboratory was stationed at the plant of the Bausch & Lomb Optical Co. in April, 1917, and for seven months all efforts of the laboratory were concentrated at this plant. At the end of 1917 the essential details of the manufacture had been developed and glass in considerable quantities was being produced. The efforts of the laboratory were then extended to the Spencer Lens Co. and to the Pittsburgh Plate Glass

Co., Pittsburgh, Pa. During this period the Bureau of Standards rendered effective aid.

At the present time, as a result of cooperation between the manufacturers and scientists, large quantities of optical glass of the kinds needed for military fire-control instruments are being produced of a quality equal in practically every respect to the best European glass. The need for a continuous and assured supply of optical glass is so great that the workmen trained in the details of manufacture and subject to draft, are being withheld from the draft in order that their technical training may be utilized at this time. The required information and details of manufacture and the skill necessary for proper production have been gained at great expense and under high pressure.

THE SOURCE OF TRENCH FEVER¹

A CABLEGRAM from the commanding general of the American Expeditionary Forces to the Secretary of War reports the success of a trench-fever investigation, which was made possible through the willingness of sixty-six American soldiers to risk their lives. The message contains the names and home addresses of the men who submitted to inoculation. All of them now are either cured or convalescent.

These men were from field hospitals and ambulance organizations, units commonly designated as noncombatant. They were selected from a large group of volunteers as the healthiest and consequently the best able to withstand a long siege of trench fever, which has been one of the most baffling diseases which the allied armies have encountered. The men selected were sent to a hospital behind the British front line in January.

Trench fever is a disease which has been common on the western front. It may have existed before, but has not been either frequent or severe enough to direct the attention of the medical profession. Now it represents one of the greatest causes of disability in the allied armies. Nothing definite was known about either the cause or mode of spread of this disease.

¹ Publication authorized by the Secretary of War.