

because they were already performing chemical duties, 34 were requested to remain with their military organizations because they were more useful in the military work which they were doing, 12 were furloughed back to industry, 165 were not chemists in the true sense of the word and were, therefore, ordered back to the line, and 1,294 have been placed in actual chemical work. There were being held for further investigation of their qualifications on August 1, 1918, 432 men. The remaining 23 men were unavailable for transfer, because they had already received their overseas orders. Each case has been considered individually, the man's qualifications and experience have been studied with care, the needs of the government plants and bureaus have been considered with equal care, and each man has been assigned to the position for which his training and qualifications seem to fit him best.

SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATIONS OF THE ALLIED NATIONS

At the invitation of the Royal Society, a conference between representatives of the Allied nations will be held in London on October 9 to discuss the future conduct of scientific organizations. According to *Nature* it is expected that representatives from the academies of Paris, Rome, Tokyo and Washington, as well as nominees of the governments of Belgium, Portugal and Serbia, will attend. A memorandum proposed by a committee of the Royal Society points out that international scientific organizations and conventions may be divided into four groups, according to their objects and methods of procedure. A first group consists of those important agreements which fix the standards of measurements, and are essential not only in purely scientific investigations, but also in the development of many industries. A second group contains associations definitely formed for the investigation of scientific problems in which coordination of observation is essential. A third group, which hitherto has not been large in numbers, but presents some special features, embodies the efforts to organize undertakings that might be carried out in one locality, but is

more economically dealt with by a division of work. The most prominent example of this type is the arrangement made between eighteen observatories to form a photographic chart of the heavens. The organization dealing with the "International Catalogue of Scientific Literature" may also be included in this group. In the fourth group is placed the large number of congresses called together by workers in some one department of science, and mainly intended to foster friendly personal relationships between those who pursue similar aims in different countries. There is, finally, in a group by itself, the International Association of Academies, which aims at coordinating the activities of international undertakings, and organizes work for which special permanent bodies do not exist and are not required. The council of the Royal Society will submit the following questions as subjects for discussion at the forthcoming conference: (1) Is it desirable for the Allied nations to establish organizations for scientific cooperation among themselves? (2) If this be agreed upon, what should be the particular forms of organization to be aimed at in geodesy, seismology, meteorology, etc? (3) Should particular academies be asked to submit proposals on those undertakings in which they have taken the leading part, such as: (a) The Académie des Sciences on the Commission Métrique and the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures; (b) The Royal Society on the International Catalogue of Scientific Literature? (4) What representations should be addressed to the governments with regard to those organizations which have hitherto received their support? The conference at present is intended to deal only with scientific subjects, but similar questions no doubt also arise on the literary side.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

SAMUEL WENDELL WILLISTON, professor of paleontology in the University of Chicago, has died at the age of sixty-two years.

MAXIME BÔCHER, professor of mathematics in Harvard University, has died at the age of fifty-one years.