

ists are engaged in chemical work for the government, or state bureaus concerned, essential to the prosecution of the war. At the same time they are advised that the new selective service regulations, to be published shortly, will emphasize to the draft boards the fact that skilled employees of war industries should be placed in deferred classification. The induction into the military service of skilled men necessary to essential industries or occupations, to be subsequently furloughed back to their industries or occupations, involves an expense to the government, and the men concerned lose time from their necessary work. The bureaus concerned are authorized by the selective service regulations to submit to the draft boards affidavits and written proof to maintain their contention that their employees should be placed in deferred classification and it is believed that they should be encouraged in securing deferred classification rather than securing the furlough of the men after they have been inducted into the military service. All communications in regard to information from those desiring any details should be addressed to Major Victor Lenher, Chemical Warfare Service, U. S. A., chief, governmental and State Relations Branch, Unit F, Corridor 3, Floor 3, 7th and B Streets, N.W., Washington, D. C.

#### THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

THE American College of Surgeons will convene at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City on October 21. Arrangements for the meeting, which is expected to attract surgeons from all parts of the United States and Canada, are in charge of a committee headed by Dr. J. Bentley Squier. Three important meetings at which the latest discoveries in medical science will be discussed and demonstrated will be held on October 22, 23 and 24.

The first will be addressed by the retiring president, Dr. John G. Clark, of Philadelphia, after which Dr. William J. Mayo, of Rochester, Minn., president-elect, will be inducted into office. Other speakers at this meeting will be Surgeon-General Gorgas, of the army, Surgeon-General Braisted, of the navy, and Sur-

geon-General Victor Blue, of the public health service. Clinics will feature the remaining sessions.

Among the surgeons expected from abroad are Sir Thomas Myles, C.B., of Dublin; Gray Turner, of Newcastle-on-Tyne; Raffaele Bastianelli, of Italy; Major R. Ledeaux Lebard, of the French army; Theodore Tuffler, Surgeon-General of the French army; Lieutenant Colonel Clarence L. Starr, of Toronto; Sir Robert Jones, of Liverpool; W. W. Chipman, of Montreal; Pierre Duvall, of Paris; Surgeon-General Antoine de Page, of the Belgian army, and Colonel Cuthbert Wallace, of the British army.

Prominent American surgeons who are expected to attend are Major-General M. W. Ireland; Surgeon-General Blue, of the public health service; Major General Gorgas, of the army; Surgeon-General Braisted, of the navy; Colonel Frank Billings and Colonel Joseph Miller, of the Army Medical Corps, and Dr. Frank Martin, founder of the American College of Surgeons. An invitation has also been sent to Colonel Joseph A. Blake and Colonel George E. Brewer, New York surgeons, now with the forces in France.

#### THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE

THE United States Department of Agriculture announces the arrival in England of a committee of men familiar with food production and agricultural organization and activities in the United States. The personnel of the committee is as follows:

Dr. W. O. Thompson, chairman, president of Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio; Mr. Carl Vrooman, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture; Mr. R. A. Pearson, president of Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Ames, Iowa; Mr. T. F. Hunt, director of the Agricultural Experiment Station and dean of the College of Agriculture, University of California, Berkeley, Cal.; Mr. D. R. Coker, farmer and member of National Agricultural Advisory Committee, Hartsville, S. C.; Mr. Wm. A. Taylor, chief, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture; Mr. George M. Rommel, chief,

Animal Husbandry Division, Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture; Mr. George R. Argo, specialist in cotton business methods, Bureau of Markets, U. S. Department of Agriculture; Mr. John F. Wilmeth, administrative assistant, Bureau of Markets, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The committee will secure general information regarding food production conditions in England, France and Italy, so that, when they return, they will be able to reveal the needs more effectively to the leaders of agriculture in the United States and to farmers generally. They will also study agricultural problems in England, France and Italy, including the use of machinery and the assignment of labor in farming operations, the livestock situation, the depletion of herds and the probable extent to which Europe may call on this country for live stock to replenish herds, the seed situation and the probabilities of securing supplies from Europe and similar matters.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

MAJOR GENERAL MERRITTE W. IRELAND, of the Medical Corps, has been appointed Surgeon General of the Army, to succeed Major William C. Gorgas, who was retired on October 5. General Gorgas will remain in Europe as the medical representative of the United States Army at the Interallied War Council.

DR. ARTHUR L. DAY, director of the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington since its establishment in 1906, has resigned to accept a research position with the Corning Glass Works, Corning, N. Y.

SECRETARY HOUSTON has visited the drought-stricken sections of the country to confer with field representatives of the Department of Agriculture in regard to making loans to farmers from the special fund of \$5,000,000 set aside for that purpose. Professor G. I. Christie and Mr. L. M. Estabrook, assistants to the Secretary, are supervising the work in the northwest and southwest, respectively.

PROFESSOR FRANK P. UNDERHILL, of Yale University, has received the commission of Lieutenant Colonel in the Chemical Warfare Service. He is in charge of gas investigations at New Haven.

WILLIAM H. ROSS, of the Bureau of Soils, has been commissioned captain in the Chemical Warfare Service and has been assigned to work in the chemical laboratory, at Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland.

DR. LUCIUS POLK BROWN, chief of the Bureau of Food and Drugs of the New York City Health Department, has been granted leave of absence without salary for the period of the war, to accept a commission as a captain in the food and nutrition division of the sanitary corps.

DR. PAUL E. KLOPSTEG, formerly of the physics department of the University of Minnesota, is now with the Leeds and Northrup Company, of Philadelphia.

THE Italian Scientific Society has awarded the natural sciences gold medal for 1918 to Professor Filippo Eredia for his work in meteorology.

IN honor of Professor Golgi, who retires this year from the chair of pathology and histology at the University of Pavia, it is proposed to found a scholarship in the medical department for the orphan of some physician, preferably one whose father was lost during the present war. Contributions may be sent to the treasurer, Tesoriere dell' Ordine dei Medici della Provincia di Pavia.

MR. WILLIAM BOWIE has resigned as treasurer of the Washington Academy of Sciences on account of having been commissioned a major in the Engineering Corps, U. S. A., and is succeeded by Mr. R. L. Faris, of the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

MR. GEO. F. FREEMAN, plant breeder in the college of agriculture of the University of Arizona, has left for Egypt and will take up his permanent residence in Cairo, in connection with the Société Sultanienne de Agriculture.

THE first lecture of the series of the Harvey Society will be given in New York City on Oc-