

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-

tober 19, at 8.30 P.M., by Dr. E. K. Dunham, on "Certain aspects of the application of antiseptics in military practise."

PROFESSOR EDWARD F. NORTHRUP, of Princeton University, addressed the meeting of the Institute of Radio Engineers on October 9, on the subject "Special heating effects of radio frequency currents."

DR. CHARLES R. EASTMAN, of the American Museum of Natural History, the author of important contributions to paleichthyology, was drowned at Long Beach on September 27.

By the will of Alfred Louis Moreau Gottschalk, American Consul General at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, who was one of the passengers on the United States collier *Cyclops*, which mysteriously disappeared from the seas last March, the U. S. National Museum receives a valuable collection of Inca pottery, Aztec idols, Trojan lamps, eastern brasses and arms, pottery and porcelains from Spanish America.

BRAZIL is sending a medical mission to France. The party is to consist of fifty doctors besides a number of students. They are to be attached to the Brazilian Hospital already installed near the front.

TWELVE professors chosen from the faculties of various Spanish universities spent August in Paris, visiting the principal medical and surgical centers. The mission was charged to prepare a report on the progress made by French war surgery.

THE much-dreaded European potato wart disease for which the Federal Horticultural Board quarantined against further importation of potatoes in September, 1912, has been discovered in ten mining villages near Hazleton, Pa., by Professor J. G. Sanders, economic zoologist of that state. Every effort of the state authorities, with the federal department assisting, is being directed to prevent the further spread of this insidious and most dangerous disease known to affect the potato. It appears that the disease has been established in some of these villages for at least seven or eight years, where it has been impossible to secure even the amount of seed planted in some gardens for the past few years. Only

by accident was this disease discovered in these villages, which are largely made up of foreigners, who supposed that there was something affecting the soil and ruining the crop. It seems advisable that all state authorities should inspect large centers of consumption where imported potatoes may have been purchased during the past eight or ten years.

THE British Ministry of Munitions has made an order prohibiting the sale, except under licence, of radio-active substances, luminous bodies and ores. The order applies to all radio-active substances (including actinium, radium, uranium, thorium and their disintegration products and compounds), luminous bodies in the preparation of which any radio-active substance is used, and ores from which any radio-active substance is obtainable, except uranium nitrate and except radio-active substances at the date of the order forming an integral part of an instrument, including instruments of precision or for timekeeping.

MR. J. E. BARNARD, speaking at the British Scientific Products Exhibition at King's College on August 20, said that the microscope was the almost universal tool of scientists, and was used in every industry which had a technical side. There was little doubt that after the war the microscope industry would undergo a transformation that would lead to a state of affairs in which the British microscope would be preeminent, as indeed, it was somewhere about 1880 to 1890.

SOME of the results of research on the nitrogen problem were shown at the British Scientific Products Exhibition at King's College, London. The Munitions Inventions Department of the Ministry of Munitions exhibited a unit plant for the oxidation of ammonia to oxides of nitrogen. The process (which was not extensively used outside Germany before the war) has been largely used by the enemy to obtain nitric acid for explosives, and also in the manufacture of sulphuric acid by the chamber process as a substitute for Chile nitrate, which he has been unable to obtain owing to the blockade. The method is now widely used in England, and large firms,

such as Messrs. Brunner, Mond, and Co. (Limited), and the United Alkali Company (Limited), are using apparatus similar to that exhibited. The program of lectures at the exhibition was as follows: Professor A. Keith, F.R.S., "Scientific progress as applied to medicine." Dr. F. M. Perkin, "Oils from mineral sources." Mr. R. E. Dennett, "Palm tree to margarine factory." Mr. A. Newlands, "Water power in industry." Dr. C. H. Brown-ing, "Advances in bacteriology in peace and war" (lantern lecture).

The Electrical Review, London, states that the results of the first two thrashings of electrified corn are announced by Mr. H. H. Dunn, seed specialist, of Salisbury. In the *Daily Mail* last July it was stated that over 2,000 acres were then under electrified seed. The electrification consists of soaking the seed in a weak solution of common salt or calcium chloride, passing a comparatively small electric current through the grain in soak for a few hours, and then slowly drying it in a kiln. Wheat grown at Fort St. Cleer, Liskeard, Cornwall, showed 28 per cent. increase on grain and 40 per cent. on straw. Oats grown at Moreton, near Dorchester, showed a gain of 61 per cent. on grain.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

By the will of the late Elmer P. Howe, '76, whose death occurred on June 13, 1918, Yale University would receive one half of the residuary estate, its share being estimated at about \$200,000. An equal amount will go to the Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

MAJOR GEORGE W. LITTLEFIELD, of Austin, has loaned the University of Texas, of which he is a regent, \$800,000. In addition to this sum he purchased the famous Wrenn private library of its Chicago owners last spring for \$225,000 and has donated the collection to the university. He also gave as a gift \$5,000 for fitting up a room at the university in which to place the library. The \$800,000 which he has loaned to the institution is being expended in building additions to the war schools which

the university is conducting for the government. These schools include automobile mechanics, radio, aviation and military aeronautics.

The Experimental Station Record states that the agricultural school and experiment station near Panama City, Panama, started in 1915, has been closed for lack of funds. Dr. B. H. A. Groth, formerly of the New Jersey Station, who has been in charge of the school and station since its establishment, has returned to this country.

THE corporation of McGill University has formally approved a recommendation made by the faculty of medicine, that women should be admitted to the study of medicine provided they have completed the first and second years in arts at McGill University, have taken an arts degree from a recognized university, or are prepared to take the double course of B.A. and M.D. or B.Sc. and M.D. at McGill. Women students are now admitted also to the medical faculties of Toronto, Queen's, and the Western Universities.

DR. WILLIAM E. KELLCOTT, professor of biology in Goucher College and recently head of the report division of the United States Food Administration, has been appointed professor of biology and chairman of the department in the College of the City of New York.

R. V. MITCHELL, professor of poultry at Delaware College, has been elected head of the poultry department, and director of the all northwest egg laying contest at the State College of Washington, Pullman, Washington.

DR. V. H. YOUNG, formerly assistant professor of botany at the State University of Iowa, who was appointed assistant pathologist in the Office of Cotton, Truck and Forage Crop Disease Investigations of the U. S. Bureau of Plant Industry at the close of the last school year, has now resigned from this position to become professor of botany and head of the department of botany at the University of Idaho.