

leanings, and to be a man of fair business ability.

It was resolved that the Cawthron trustees approach the government with a view to the appointment of two scientific investigators to operate in the Nelson District with a view to finding out the causes and cures of certain blights; and that the trustees are willing to place at the disposal of the government the sum of £1,000 per annum for a period of two years on condition that any results obtained be the joint property of the government and the Cawthron Institute.

The regulations for the Cawthron Minor Scholarship are now published, and copies may be obtained from Messrs. W. Rout and Sons (Limited), Nelson. Candidates must be British subjects, and the scholar must matriculate at a university college and study for the B.Sc. degree, and sign a declaration that he will, after graduation, accept (if offered) a Cawthron Scholarship of £150 per annum, and pursue his studies for not less than two years at the Cawthron Institute. The Minor Scholarship is of the value of £80 per annum, plus the fees for attendance at university classes up to the amount of £25 per annum. The tenure of the scholarship is for three years. Preference in the selection of a scholar shall be given (*ceteris paribus*) to candidates from Nelson and Marlborough. The scholarship will be awarded on the science papers of the University Scholarship Entrance Examination in not less than two nor more than three of the following subjects: Mathematics, physics, chemistry and botany. The marks obtained, together with a criticism of the work of the first three candidates in each subject, are to be forwarded to the advisory board, which shall then recommend that candidate for election who appears to give the greatest promise of being useful to the institute.

The second annual Cawthron lecture was delivered in the School of Mines, by Professor W. B. Benham, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., on May 30. The subject chosen was "Biology in relation to agriculture," and the lecturer devoted particular attention to the problems of fruit-growing and the kinds of research the insti-

tute should attempt. These include inquiries into the efficiency of different kinds of sprays on different kinds of trees, the most productive method of pruning, and the most suitable and economic methods of manuring. Other matters that ought to receive attention are: (1) A thorough-going soil survey—the investigation of the chemistry, physics and biology of the soil, and especially of the humus and its effect on plant-growth, of which little is as yet known; (2) an extended program of investigation of the diseases that attack our plants, and especially those that are injurious to the fruit-tree.

The lecture, together with the first annual lecture by Professor T. H. Easterfield, is to be published by the institute.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE AT ROME<sup>1</sup>

THE operations of the institute have been, of course, profoundly affected by the war. At the beginning of hostilities its very existence seemed dubious. As its vice-president, M. Louis-Dop, has pointed out in a recent report reviewing its history and progress, the question was immediately raised as to the possibility of maintaining, in a conflict which has transformed the political and economic conditions of every continent, an organization based upon the collaboration of nations, the working together of a committee representing all the powers, belligerent or neutral, and the efforts of a personnel of international composition. Notwithstanding these obstacles, the continuation of the enterprise was decided upon. Apparently it was felt that the institute had been established as a permanent institution and the suspension of its operations should be avoided if possible. More than this, it was expected that the usefulness of the institute to the world would be in many ways intensified by the war conditions.

The work of the institute has, therefore, been carried on so far as possible. No nation has abrogated the treaty, so that all are full members as before. Meetings of the permanent committees have been held regularly, and each of the bureaus has been performing its func-

<sup>1</sup> From the *Experiment Station Record*.

tions much as in 1914, although crop reports and similar data have been withheld by the Central Powers.

The immediate result of the war upon the institute has been on the whole to increase and stimulate its activities. The need for accurate statistical data regarding the world's food supply has never been so urgent. Information as to improved farm methods and economic measures has been eagerly sought for and with more prospect than ever before of its practical utilization. As regards technical material, particular efforts have been made to render available data as to means of diminishing the impoverishment of the soil, overcoming the shortage of fertilizers and labor, and increasing the use of farm machinery. A special function has been the answering of inquiries regarding agriculture in countries whose own agricultural and statistical departments have been disorganized by the war. It is announced that these various efforts of the institute have met with unusual appreciation from the governing authorities of many nations.

The officers of the institute are also looking forward quite optimistically to the future of the institution after the war. They believe that the return of peace will bring with it vast agricultural problems of international significance, and that during the reconstruction period the institute will have a specially important function to perform. There will be a great demand for accurate information along statistical, economic and technical lines, much of it international in its scope, and for the collection and dissemination of which a central clearing-house, such as this, will have unique possibilities. The institute is already making plans for service in these directions, and more specifically in such projects as the control of locusts, the improvement of the economic status of the farmer, the establishment and development of small holdings, maritime transportation of farm products, the unification of methods for agricultural statistics, farm accounting, control of seed adulteration and concentrated feeding stuffs, and the development of rural sociology.

Despite the unexpectedly difficult problems it has encountered, the institute thus enters upon the second decade of its operations with its organization virtually intact, its publications and other lines of work going on with little interruption, and an ambitious program being formulated for the future.

#### THE MUSEUM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

THE University Museum has entered upon an extension of its educational features by the addition of four women to its staff for the purpose of assisting visitors. There will also be an information desk near the entrance door for the accommodation of all comers. Every day, including Sunday, there will be present a professional artist to assist students, professional or designers, who may come to the museum to seek inspiration from its many art and ethnological treasures. A new curator has been employed to assist visitors in examining the collections from Mesopotamia, Greece, Italy and Egypt. The curator of the Oriental Section and the curator of the American Section will be present at all times to assist those who desire to study these exhibits. While the University Museum has always laid stress on its educational features and it has been visited by artists and designers as well as by scholars and the public generally, the management believes the time has arrived when very special efforts should be put forth to make the museum a more integral factor in the commercial as well as the artistic and cultural life of the community. Its new assistants will devote themselves especially to this feature in the particular desire to aid those who are seeking new artistic designs. In explanation of its new work the University Museum makes the following statement:

It is realized everywhere that this war is to have a profound effect upon the artistic and cultural world. Not only has much of the accumulated artistic beauty of the world been destroyed, but many of the creators of art have lost their lives in the struggle. Reconstruction is not likely to be along the same lines as formerly, for it is certain that there will be new ideals and new inspiration growing out of this war in all countries.