

part, it was unanimously resolved to constitute the proposed organization with the object of drawing together the members of the medical profession in the inter-allied countries with a view to promoting intercourse and cooperation for the promotion of medical science and public health.

A general committee was nominated, and Sir Arbuthnot Lane was appointed honorary treasurer, and Sir St. Clair Thomson, Mr. Douglas Harmer and Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister honorary secretaries (*pro tem.*).

#### THE PRODUCTION OF QUICKSILVER IN 1918

THE domestic output of quicksilver in 1918, according to statistics compiled by F. L. Ransome, of the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, was 33,432 flasks of 75 pounds each, valued at the average quoted market price at San Francisco (\$117.92 a flask) at about \$3,942,301. Compared with the output of 1917 of 36,159 flasks, valued at \$3,808,266, this shows a decrease in quantity of 2,727 flasks but an increase in value of \$134,035.

The productive states were California, Texas, Nevada, Oregon and Idaho, named in the order of decreasing importance.

The production of California was 23,231 flasks, against 23,938 flasks in 1917, a decrease of 707 flasks. As usual of late years, the New Idria mine, with which is included the San Carlos mine, yielded nearly half of the total output of the state. Only one other mine in the state, the New Almaden (including the El Senador mine), produced over 2,000 flasks in 1918. New Almaden has produced to date about 1,124,100 flasks and in 1865 alone produced 48,138 flasks from ore that yielded 11.3 per cent. of quicksilver. In total production New Idria, with 315,434 flasks to the end of 1918, ranks second, and Oat Hill (Napa Consolidated), with about 140,000 flasks, comes third. Sulphur Bank nearly trebled its output of the previous year and probably would have made still larger gains were it not for the fact that the high sulphur content of the ore renders furnace treatment and condensation difficult.

In general, quicksilver mining in California maintained fairly well during the year the revival of activity due to the war, as indicated by comparison of the output (33,432 flasks) with the production of 11,303 flasks in 1914. A large number of mines that were formerly productive have remained idle, however, and with the gradual return to normal conditions other mines are likely to revert to this class.

The output of quicksilver in Texas was 8,475 flasks, against 10,791 flasks in 1917. The Ellis mine, near McKinney Springs, considerably increased its output, and the Mariposa mine also made a small gain. The output of the Chisos mine, however, declined, and that of the Big Bend showed a still larger falling off. The Big Bend has been nearly exhausted down to the level of the underground water, so that pumping and additional development will be necessary if any considerable output is to be maintained. Prospecting has been continued by the Rainbow Mining Co., on the westward continuation of the Chisos ore zone, and some ore is reported to have been found.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. WILLIAM N. LOGAN, professor of economic geology in Indiana University, was appointed state geologist by Governor Goodrich on January 1.

PROFESSOR NELLIS B. FOSTER, now lieutenant-colonel in the Medical Corps of the United States Army, has presented his resignation as professor of medicine and dean of the school of medicine of the University of Michigan, as he expects to be detailed to the military service for an indefinite period.

DR. A. HOYT TAYLOR, professor of physics at the University of North Dakota, now a lieutenant commander in the Navy, has resigned after a year's leave of absence and will continue his work at the Bureau of Standards on naval radio communication.

MAJOR LAWRENCE MARTIN, general staff, U. S. Army, on leave of absence as associate professor of physiography and geography in the

University of Wisconsin, who is chief, Geographical Section, Military Intelligence Division, General Staff, was sent abroad last July as military observer in France and Italy and served at the front with American, British, French and Italian troops. He is now on duty in Paris with the American Commission to Negotiate Peace.

E. B. BABCOCK, professor of genetics in the college of agriculture, University of California, has gone to France under the auspices of the United War Work Council of the Y. M. C. A. to help carry out the program for the vocational education of American soldiers.

DANIEL H. OTIS, assistant dean of agriculture in the University of Wisconsin, has received from the government an appointment as farm management specialist in France.

DR. J. F. ABBOTT, professor of zoology at Washington University, has been appointed commercial attaché to the American Embassy at Tokyo and will leave for Japan in February.

PROFESSOR J. C. MERRIAM, of the National Research Council, returned to his work in paleontology at the University of California after attending the Baltimore meetings.

PROFESSOR DAVID MORRILL FOLSOM has resigned from the chair of mining at Stanford University.

PROFESSOR JOJI SAKURAI, director of the newly established Institute of Physical and Chemical Research in Tokyo, Japan, has been visiting scientific institutions in the United States.

MR. DAVID BRUCE, of London, has been elected a corresponding member of the Paris Academy of Sciences in the section of medicine and surgery.

MAJOR F. E. BREITHUT, Chemical Welfare Service, has been detailed by the War Department to the War Trade Board to act as chairman of the chemical group of the price section. Associated with Major Breithut will be: Mr. F. W. Cassebeer, Captain P. W. Carleton, Lieutenant Chas. L. Fry, Lieutenant W. N. Jones, Dr. H. L. Lewenberg, Captain W. Lee Lewis, Dr. W. B. Meldrum, Captain H. L. Trumbull. This group of workers is engaged in a study of

price fluctuation of chemicals during the war and an analysis of its cause and consequence.

FAYETTE S. CURTIS, chief engineer of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad, was elected president of the American Society of Civil Engineers for the year 1919 at the sixty-sixth annual meeting, which opened in New York City on January 15. The other officers of the society elected are: Herbert S. Crocker, Denver, Col., and Leonard Metcalf, Boston, Mass., vice-president; Arthur S. Tuttle New York, treasurer; George H. Clarke and Jacob S. Langthorn, New York; Charles C. Elwell, New Haven, Conn.; Willard Beahan, Cleveland, O.; John W. Alvord, Chicago, Ill., and Carl E. Grunsky, San Francisco, Cal., directors.

At the annual meeting of the Brooklyn Entomological Society held on January 16, the following officers were elected for 1919: *President*, Mr. W. T. Bather; *Vice-president*, Mr. W. T. Davis; *Treasurer*, Mr. C. E. Olsen; *Recording Secretary*, Dr. J. Bequaert; *Corresponding Secretary*, Mr. J. R. de la Torre Bueno; *Librarian*, Mr. A. C. Weeks; *Curator*, Mr. George Frank; *Publication Committee*, Messrs. J. R. de la Torre Bueno, Chas. Schaeffer and George P. Engelhardt.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM J. HALE, of the department of chemistry, of the University of Michigan, tendered his resignation to the regents at the December meeting of the board. Professor Hale has accepted a position with the Dow Chemical Company, at Midland, Mich., and will devote his entire time to research work.

DR. S. L. GALPIN, who for several years has been a member of the department of geology and mining engineering at Iowa State College is now engaged in development work in the oil fields of Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas.

MR. HENRY HINDS has resigned from the Geological Survey to enter the employ of the Sinclair Oil and Gas Company, at Tulsa, Oklahoma.

D. D. BEROLZHEIMER, formerly librarian of the American Chemical Society, and of The Chemists' Club, is now assistant technical

editor with The Chemical Catalogue Company, New York.

ANNOUNCEMENT is made at the Smithsonian Institution of the appointment of Neil M. Judd of the department of anthropology as curator of American archeology, United States National Museum. Mr. Judd has been a member of the scientific staff of the Smithsonian Institution for eight years. He returned to Washington on January 1, after eleven months' service in the aviation section of the army.

IN January Professor H. Austin Aikins, of Western Reserve University, gave two lectures at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh, before the occupational therapy class on problems of psychotherapy and the work in Canadian hospitals of importance for occupational aids. Lieutenant Colonel E. K. Strong spoke on job analysis in the army before the Research Bureau for Retail Training at the Carnegie Institute of Technology on January 22.

ROLLA C. CARPENTER, professor of experimental engineering at Cornell University since 1890, died at his home on January 19. Professor Carpenter, who was born in Orion, Mich., 1852, had active charge of many large engineering projects, and was the author of important works on engineering.

THE death from influenza is announced of Edwin Henry Ingersoll, chemist in the Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

PROFESSOR R. NIETZKI, professor of chemistry at Bâle, known for his work on the chemistry of dyestuffs, has died at the age of seventy-one years.

At a meeting of the bureau chiefs and other high officials of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, December 11, 1918, held to take action on the death of L. W. Page, Dr. L. O. Howard said: "During the forty years of my daily association with the workers of the department, I have seen many changes. Many men of different types have been here. Many have come and many have gone. Some of the best of us are still here. Some of the

very best of us have gone—some to other fields of work, some to the Unknown. Among them all I think that Logan Waller Page, looking at his individuality as a whole, was unique. Absolutely unspoiled by his wealth, his culture, his family connections, his social position, gaining from his Harvard education all that was good and nothing that was bad; frank, straight forward, honest, despising sham and pretense, hating graft, highly trained, idealistic in a way but with a clear, cool brain, full of great plans and with the ability to make them practical; unselfish, working intensely for the good of the whole country, dedicating to the good of all ideas which might have been turned to his own personal profit, a wonderful mixer, meeting every man on his own level, a marvellous teller of apt anecdotes; a citizen of the world and the highest type of good American—no other single one of us has approached him and I am sure that no one of us will ever meet just his like again."

IN the article by Willard J. Fisher, entitled "The Balance, the Steelyard and the Concept of Force," in *SCIENCE* for November 1, 1918, "the words animism and animists, wherever used, should be replaced by "animatism" and "animatists." For the distinction between these reference may be made to the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, from which the definition in the article was drawn."

THE secretary general of the Nineteenth International Congress of Americanists has on inquiry received information from the Brazilian Embassy at Washington regarding the coming session of the Americanists at Rio De Janeiro, to the effect that, according to a cable received from the Foreign Office of Brazil, the Twentieth International Congress of Americanists will be held from the eighteenth to the thirtieth of June, 1919. In view of the above decision, and in consideration of the importance from many standpoints of the congress in Brazil, it seems advisable that due steps be taken without delay by the Americanists in this country and Canada for a good representation.

It is stated in *Nature* that the annual meeting of the Association of Public School Science Masters was held at the London Day Training College on December 31, 1918, and January 1, 1919, under the presidency of Sir Ronald Ross. The subject of the president's address was "Observations on the results of our system of education." A lecture on poison-gas warfare was given by Lieutenant-Colonel Smithells. There were discussions on the importance of restricting specialization in university scholarship examinations and giving weight to general education, opened by Mr. F. S. Young; science in the general education of boys, opened by Mr. W. D. Eggar and Mr. C. V. G. Civil; and courses in general science for classical Sixth Forms, opened by the Rev. S. A. McDowall.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

GIFTS aggregating \$128,000 to Yale University were announced on January 23. They include \$25,000 to the Forestry School from Mr. and Mrs. Gifford Pinchot.

THE zoology department of Wabash College, of which Professor A. Richards has charge, has received from the estate of Professor Donaldson Bodine, formerly professor of zoology the sum of \$5,000, to provide for the purchase of books for the zoology department, subject to an annuity.

At the request of Professor Bailey Willis, professor of geology at Stanford University, who is continuing his war work with the House Commission in New York, Professor James Perrin Smith will act as executive head of the department of geology and mining for the coming year. Dr. Eliot Blackwelder, of the University of Illinois, has been appointed acting professor of geology during the winter quarter.

MR. H. P. STUCKEY, for the past ten years horticulturist at the Georgia Experiment Station, has been appointed director, to succeed J. D. Price, who resigned to accept the position on the Railroad Commission to which he was elected. Other changes in the station staff are the appointment of Mr. T. E. Keitt, formerly chemist of the South Carolina Sta-

tion, as chemist the appointment of Mr. H. E. Shiver, formerly assistant in chemistry at the South Carolina Station as assistant chemist; the appointment of J. A. McClintock, formerly extension pathologist for Georgia, as plant pathologist and botanist, and the resignation of Mr. J. C. Temple, bacteriologist.

DR. N. L. BOWEN, of the Geophysical Laboratory, Carnegie Institution, has been appointed to the professorship of mineralogy at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE AN UNCOMMON ICE FORMATION

WHILE skating on the upper part of the Charles River at North Bellingham, Mass., January 13, 1918, during a severe cold spell, we encountered an ice formation of a kind wholly new to us, though we have practised river skating for many years and are both fairly observant of natural phenomena. There is a low dam here over which a good head of water was flowing. Just below the dam an uneven bridge of ice resting partly on rocks and partly on the water formed a hood over the stream, and out of this rose a considerable number of upright columns of ice superficially somewhat resembling stalagmites. They were of pretty uniform diameter, about four or five inches, and varied in height from two or three inches to as many feet, while the tallest was perhaps three and a half feet. This tallest one and a number of the others were completed, being finished off with a tapering cap of snow-like structure that curved over towards the dam and into the wind, which was blowing pretty strongly down stream. Many, however, in process of formation showed how they were made.

They were all tubular and were built up from the inside by the bursting of bubbles that rose through the tubes and the freezing of the resulting spray. It was evident that the rush of water over the dam carried air with it under the hood of ice below, and that this air found vent here and there in the form of bubbles, which, bursting, gradually built up these vertical columns. Each unfinished, or live, column showed a crown of bursting