use, licensing or otherwise dealing with any articles made in accordance therewith) the commissioners may, on the request of the treasury, inquire into the circumstances of the case, and may make a recommendation to the treasury as to the remuneration (if any) that is proper to be allowed therefor.

THE REVISION OF PRITZEL'S BOTANICAL DICTIONARY

PRITZEL in the middle of the last century compiled a dictionary of every important published picture or illustration of every known plant, of which he enumerates more than 100,000, giving a reference to the book and page where each illustration may be found; so that any one hearing of a plant he never happened to have seen could look out the name in "Pritzel," and on referring to the book and page given, find a representation of the plant —colored or otherwise.

Pritzel's book is long out of print, and as he finished his work in 1866 it is desirable to bring Pritzel's work up to date. Different scientific bodies (and private individuals) in England and in the United States have from time to time made suggestions for undertaking this work of revision, but as yet none of their suggestions have taken effect, chiefly on account of the very large expenditures and scientific work it involves.

The original Pritzel, which must of course be reprinted, contains about 100,000 entries, and it is estimated that at least 125,000 more entries will have to be incorporated with them. The Royal Horticultural Society has at last definitely undertaken to carry out the work with the assistance of botanists attached to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the Natural History Museum and the Linnean Society, and in friendly cooperation with the United States government Bureau of Plant Industry.

In 1913 the society began to raise the required amount, the International Horticultural Exhibition held in 1912 starting the fund with a donation of £250 followed by £100 from the Veitch Memorial Trustees and the council of the Royal Horticultural Society voted £250 to which they have since added another £250 to enable the work to be begun. The work has now been actually started, the typists having accommodation found for them at Kew through the assistance of the director, and the whole is under the immediate supervision of the following committee, viz.: Professor I. Bayley, Mr. E. A. Bowles, Mr. F. J. Hanbury, Captain Arthur W. Hill, Dr. B. Daydon Jackson, Mr. Gerald W. E. Loder, Sir Daniel Morris, Sir David Prain, Dr. A. B. Rendle, Dr. O. Stapf, Sir Harry J. Veitch, to which, as has been said, will be added direct assistance from Kew, the Natural History Museum, the Linnean Society and the Bureau of Plant Industry.

GERMAN SCIENCE AFTER THE WAR

Nature quotes from an editorial in *Die Umschau,* for November 30, 1918, by the editor, Professor J. H. Bechhold, in which he indicates the manner in which German science can aid the Fatherland in its hour of defeat and assist it to gain the supremacy in the economic sphere. After pointing out that reconstructed Germany must perforce be simple in order to conform to the new conditions of life imposed upon her by recent events, he asks the question: In what relation shall science, technics and art stand in the new state? Germany, it is explained, must in future seek to live upon her own resources; further, she will have only a small amount of raw material surplus to her own needs, and for this reason it will be incumbent upon her to export the output of her genius; to meet the situation as it should be met, Germany will have to build herself up on efficiency management. She is told that she must attempt to excel all other countries in the quality of her precision instruments and lenses, artificial silks and textiles, dyes and medicines, high-class furniture and works of art, in order to create a demand for these valuable products of her industry in foreign lands. For this reason, Germany will require, says Professor Bechhold, highly trained engineers, chemists, electricians, skilled mechanics and artificers, and, in order that her needs in these directions may be suitably met, she will further require first-class teachers,

first-class training institutions and research laboratories, as well as colleges. These matters are, it is stated, of such overwhelming importance that they must not be permitted to become a class or caste question; there is little danger of this at the present time for already the intellectual men in Germany are combining forces in various directions: this is so in the case of the technical man and the academician, as well as in that of the artificer and the university professor. Finally, an inventors' institute must be founded in order that the inventor may be furnished with advice, the commercial possibilities of his work tested, a selection made of what is best, and a good market found for that which is of real worth.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE KANSAS STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

The Kansas legislature of 1919 appropriated a total of $1,675,500 for the support of the Kansas State Agricultural College for the biennium July 1, 1919, to June 30, 1921. This appropriation is in addition to the amount set apart for extension and demonstration work in accordance with the terms of the Smith-Lever Act. In accordance with this law, the legislature appropriated $63,073.65 for 1919–20 and $75,203.20 for 1920–21, the federal government supplying a like amount for each year of the biennium. The appropriations for the college proper represent an increase of more than $400,000 or approximately 33 per cent., over the appropriation for the present biennium.

One hundred and ninety thousand dollars was appropriated for completing the central part of Engineering Hall. This will more than double the floor space and will house the electrical engineering department which is now located temporarily in Denison Hall. It will also permit of the proper growth and development of the department of farm engineering. More space will be made available for the physics department, and the chemistry department will be able to expand its quarters. The erection of the new portions of the building will also afford proper coal storage facilities, thus economizing tremendously on labor. Work on the building will be begun at once as the sum of $50,000 is available immediately.

The biennial appropriations also include $12,500 for a new water plant for the college, and $10,000 for a new hog plant, buildings and equipment. Ten thousand dollars will be spent in the two years in testing road materials for the state highway commission, the Agricultural College having been made the official testing laboratory for the commission. Forty thousand dollars was appropriated for repairs and improvements each year—an increase of 60 per cent. over the present appropriation. The appropriation for the support of the Agricultural Experiment Station will be increased from $40,000 to $55,000 each year of the biennium.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

Dr. George Ferdinand Becker, geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey since 1879, died in Washington on April 20, at the age of seventy-two years.

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology is meeting this week at the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. The societies included in the federation are: The Physiological Society, the Society of Biological Chemists, the Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics and the Society for Experimental Pathology.

The annual meeting of the Association of American Anatomists was held from April 17 to 19 in Pittsburgh under the presidency of Robert R. Bensley, of the University of Chicago.

The executive committee of the American Society of Zoologists has voted to hold the annual Christmas meeting in 1919 in St. Louis in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Professor Roland Thaxter, professor of cryptogamic botany at Harvard University since 1901, has been appointed professor emeritus.

The Distinguished Service Medal has been awarded to Colonel John J. Carty "for exceptionally meritorious and distinguished services.