

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

CHEMICAL RESEARCH IN FRANCE AND ENGLAND

THE Paris correspondent of the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* writes: "Scientific research is at this moment passing through a serious crisis. It is going to lack personnel. The alarm has been sounded by Professor Daniel Berthelot, the son of Marcellin Berthelot. In a recent speech he called attention to the utilitarian direction of all scientific research, and more especially chemical. We have here in France many schools of chemistry, but they are all schools of industrial chemistry. Almost without exception they are concerned with producing the industrial chemist, and, little by little, we are seeing the laboratories attached to professorships abandoned—laboratories such as that of Fremy at the Museum of Natural History, which have been the nurseries of the research chemists. The necessity which the younger generation feels of earning a living as soon as possible is the cause of this state of affairs. Add to this that most of the laboratories lack funds and can not bear the costs of theoretical research whose economic profit may be far distant. The public authorities, however, seem willing to consider these questions, and to-day, for instance, you may see in the French parliament, a deputy, Mr. Maurice Barres, offer one of the arguments which you Americans have so wisely brought to the solution of the social problem: 'It is useless to quarrel with wealth; it is better to use its activity to create more; and in this creation of wealth we chemists have a large duty to fill.'"

The London correspondent says: "In applied chemistry we are faced in Great Britain with a state of uncertainty and chaos without parallel in the recollection of any of us. No one can form any just estimate of the future supply or price of coal or other fuels; no one has any sure data upon which to base an opinion as to the future of the principal metals and other raw materials. Accounts from Germany and Austria are singularly conflicting and it is not easy for us to know whether in chemical industry we are to export to those

countries at a reasonable profit or whether we shall suffer from acute competition from those countries. And in our own financial state nothing seems certain beyond the fact that grievous and necessary taxation will continue for a long period and will hamper the development of business and the starting of new enterprises. We have recently lived through times infinitely more anxious, and our neighbors in France and Italy have far more difficult problems to solve than we have. Our anxieties are as nothing to theirs and the state of political industrial and financial chaos in Germany, Austria and Russia is such as to be beyond conception. We are not merely perplexed by this; the aspect continually changes and it is hopeless for us to try and imagine what will happen in the east of Europe. In time some sort of settlement or stability will be achieved, but the details of the process are beyond the wit of man to imagine."

MEDICAL EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES

For the twentieth consecutive year the *Journal* of the American Medical Association publishes this week statistics dealing with medical education in the United States. In all medical schools during the last session there were 14,088 students, or 1,036 more than during the previous session. These increases are in the first, third and fourth year classes, smaller second year classes following the small freshman enrolment in the fall of 1918 caused by war conditions. The increased enrolments have been most marked in Class A medical schools, the number enrolled this year having increased from 87.9 to 89.6 per cent. of all students. The percentage in Class B schools decreased from 8.3 to 4.8, and in Class C schools it increased from 3.8 to 5.6.

The number of graduates this year was 3,047, or 391 more than in 1919. The number of graduates of Class A colleges was increased by 470, while the numbers graduating from Class B schools decreased by 116. Of the Class C colleges, there were 37 more graduates than in the previous year. The number of graduates holding degrees from colleges of