month of conception, back to November, 1920, in which month not only the value of the American dollar in marks but also the wholesale prices of German goods thereby affected reached the maximum of the observation period. Roesle therefore assumes that the failure of the rational increase in the birth rate for July, 1921 (conception month, October, 1920), to materialize is traceable to the further increase in the cost of living which followed the advance of the dollar and of the wholesale prices of German goods. In the months of February and March, 1921, the cost of living came down, and it is to be noted that there was a corresponding increase in the birth rate for the months of November and December, 1921 (just nine months later). It could not be shown that economic conditions exerted a perceptible influence on the death rate. The year 1921 shows the lowest recorded death rate in German cities with more than 15,000 inhabitants; namely, 13.5 per thousand of population, and excluding deaths among strangers and transients, the death rate was only 11.9. A comparison of the monthly death rates for former years brings out the fact that during the winter months of January, February and March, 1921, especially favorable weather conditions must have prevailed. The abnormally mild winter was followed by an abnormally hot summer, but the summer peak of infant mortality did not reach the terrible percentage of the summer of 1911. Also during the autumn of 1921 the weather conditions were favorable. These favorable weather conditions prevailed elsewhere as well, so that favorable death rates for the year 1921 are to be expected also from other countries. Only for the month of December, 1921, was there a higher death rate than for the corresponding month of the previous year, which is explainable by the severe influenza epidemic. The rapid and continued decrease in the death rate, since the war, is due, for the most part, to the improvement in the food situation.

THE REDWOOD TREES OF CALIFORNIA

DR. J. B. GRANT, chairman of the board of directors of the "Save the Redwoods League," has issued a report, giving the history of the league which was organized four years ago. The report, according to the *New York Times*, states that the original redwood belt is a remnant of the massive forests of this and related species that in prehistoric times covered a considerable part of the northern hemisphere. It averages twenty miles in width and extends some 450 miles from Monterey County, California, to just above the Oregon line. In the southern part of this belt, in Santa Cruz County, as long ago as 1905, the State of California established a state park, preserving what is known as Big Basin, containing many magnificent trees. Muir Woods, on the slopes of Mount Tamalpais, has already been made a national monument. And now, as a part of the Save the Redwoods movement, the nucleus of another state park has been preserved in the northern portion of the redwood belt, in Humboldt County, in the basin of the south fork of the Eel River and adjoining the California State Highway.

The Humboldt State Redwood Park, which is the beginning of a larger area to be preserved, consists of about 2,000 acres, extending fourteen miles along the California state highway, where it skirts the eastern bank of the south fork of the Eel River, between Phillipsville and Dyerville. It contains perhaps 200,000,000 feet of some of the finest redwoods. It is 230 miles from San Francisco on the main state highway leading to Eureka, California, and is administered for the state by the California State Forestry Board. It is accessible through the year by train.

One tract of redwoods saved by private donation was Bolling Memorial Grove, which is within Humboldt State Park. It was established by Dr. John C. Phillips, of Massachusetts, in memory of Colonel Raynal C. Bolling, one of the first American officers of high rank to give his life in the World War.

The establishment of Humboldt State Redwood Park is a part of the general movement to save representative groves through the redwood belt, particularly those along the "Highway of the Giants," the state highway, leading from the southernmost redwoods in Monterey to the northernmost at the Oregon line. It is in the northern region that a larger national

park, preserving adequately for all time a representative redwood forest in its primitive state, will probably be established. The task of the Save the Redwoods League is to cooperate with the state in assuring the preservation of the Highway of the Giants and to aid the federal government toward establishing the national park.

The league is interested also in promoting the preservation and reforestation of cutover redwood lands. The redwood is a tree that reproduces by sprouting from the stump, and in time produces beautiful second growth trees. While these are in no way comparable in size or grandeur with the ancient redwoods that have taken 1,000 to 1,500 years to mature, nevertheless if it is possible to save the finest of the virgin stands of redwoods, the remaining redwood area will ultimately be covered with attractive second growth.

Since the league can not hope to raise more than a fraction of the needed sum through state appropriation or private contributions, it advocates federal action toward the establishment of such a park.

CERAMIC DAY

The American Ceramic Society has issued the following letter to members of the society:

Our society has provided the program for one of the days during the exposition week (11-16 inclusive) known as Ceramic Day. This will be on Friday, September 15.

President Frank H. Riddle will appear on the opening program of the exposition with the presidents of other technical societies.

Messrs. E. P. Poste and Ross C. Purdy will appear on the special program on "Specifications." Mr. Poste will discuss specifications for enameled chemical ware and Mr. Purdy will describe the problems in writing specifications for refractories.

The partial program for Ceramic Day, September 15 is:

High temperature cements, by W. H. GAYLORD, JR., Quigley Furnace Specialties Company.

Application of magnetic separator in ceramic industries, by E. S. HIRSCHBERG, Dings Magnetic Separator Company.

Preparation of clays and minerals for ceramic purposes, by J. D. DICKEY, chemist, Industrial Filteration Corporation.

Apparatus for quickly determining fineness of grind, by ERIC TURNER, Trenton Flint and Spar Company.

Feldspar Colloquium: W. H. LANDERS, GEORGE M. DARBY, O. O. BOWMAN, 2d, V. A. STAUDT, C. R. MOORE, C. M. FRANZHEIM and others.

Manufacture of gray enameled ware, by H. C. ARNOLD.

Whiting for ceramic uses, by A. E. WILLIAMS.

Gas producers for glass works, by C. B. CHAPMAN, Chapman Engineering Company.

Witchery of glazes, by PAUL E. COX.

Architectural faience and its artistic possibilities, by CONRAD DRESSLER.

Organization of a decorative ceramic research department; financial and manufacturing considerations, by FREDERICK H. RHEAD.

R. D. LANDRUM
Chairman of Committee on Program.

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

AT the last annual meeting of the Geological Society of America held at Amherst, the fellows listened to an instructive symposium on Isostasy, in which it was clearly brought out that this is not the primary cause in the making of folded mountains. There is a greater antecedent cause, and it is the later adjustments in the mountains that are due to isostasy.

It is therefore proposed that at the meeting of the society to be held at the University of Michigan next December, there be held a symposium on "The Structure and History of Mountains and the Causes for their Development," dealing with the following questions: What are the chief internal structures of mountains? To what extent is lateral compression responsible for folding and uplift? What causes the lithosphere locally to upheave and to fold into mountains? These discussions will be led by

Charles Schuchert—The sites and nature of the American geosynclines.

Chester R. Longwell—Professor Kober's theory of mountain structure and mountain making.

William H. Hobbs—The Asiatic arcs.

Arthur Keith—The Appalachians.

Jay B. Woodworth—The mountains of New England and the Maritime Provinces of Canada.

Willis T. Lee—The Front Ranges of Colorado and New Mexico.