tories are on a single level and all are covered with the saw-tooth roof peculiar to the modern factory. In the center of this section is the supply room, accessible by virtue of being at the intersection of two hallways and communicating by elevator with the large storage and stock rooms in the floor below. A feature of this part of the building is that none of the partitions which divide the teaching laboratories are "structural." This is essentially one enormous room under a single roof. The dividing walls are but the thickness of one brick and can be torn down and shifted if necessary without inconveniencing any other part of the laboratory This feature, together with the easy accessibility of the plumbing and wiring, gives the flexibility which is so necessary if any building of this sort is to be permanent.

THE CIRCULATION OF AGRICULTURAL NEWS

AT a recent staff meeting of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, Dr. R. W. Thatcher, director of the station, read a report on the station news service for 1922. Beginning with January of last year items of timely interest on the work of the experiment station have been sent at frequent intervals to newspapers and farm papers, with the result that the station activities have been brought to the attention of a much larger number of persons than would be possible in any other way.

According to the report, a total of 152 different news stories dealing with the work of the station were sent out during the year. By means of returns from clipping bureaus, the station authorities are able to check up on the use of these stories in the newspapers, although the clipping bureaus undoubtedly fail to see many of the items. A close check is also kept on the stories appearing in farm papers received and in this way and through the clipping bureaus some idea is obtained of how extensively the news material is used.

During the past year accounts of the station work appeared 3,559 times in different papers. Of this number more than 1,200 were in daily papers, while 1,867 were in weekly newspapers. Items appeared 206 times in farm papers and 283 times in the county farm bureau publications of this state. Papers as far north as Maine and Canada, as far west as the Pacific Coast, and as far south as Tennessee and Virginia made frequent use of the station news service. It is estimated by the station authorities that the papers carrying the station news material had a total circulation of more than 45,000,000, and it is certain that many papers of which there is no record carried the station news items. The station officials expressed a keen sense of appreciation of the generous amount of space devoted to station news in the various papers.

The news service was inaugurated at the time that the mailing lists were revised along subject matter lines and the bulletin editions greatly reduced. The bulletins are now sent only to those who have asked to receive station publications on certain subjects with the idea that such a system of distribution will insure the bulletins going to those who will make the best use of them. The news service supplements the bulletin publications and renders a valuable service in calling attention to the recent findings and developments of the work.

THE ENGINEERING SOCIETIES LIBRARY

THE United Engineering Societies maintain a large library in the Engineering Societies Building, 29 West Thirty-ninth Street, New York City. It contains about 117,000 volumes and 32,000 pamphlets. While these are not entirely indexed, in the last three years about 150,000 cards have been added to the catalog. There is now available 50,000 subjects presented to prospective readers in a systematic and logical relation. These subjects are handled in two different ways: The searcher who wishes to exhaust his field will find all entries arranged from the large group down to the most minute in one place. The casual reader who wants a minute subject has an alphabetic subject index available.

The attendance at the library during 1922 was 26,000 persons. Enquiries made by telephone and correspondence brought the total number of users of the library up to 34,000. The library added 3,353 books to its collection during the year. Service bureau orders, including searches, translations and photoprints, were sent to forty-six states and to the Argentine Republic, Australia, Belgium, Bermuda, British West Indies, Canada, Chile, Cuba,

	1916	1919	1920	1921	1922
Number of words	307,904	227,300	352,970	289,000	343,130
German	70.4%	40%	62%	68.4%	72.6%
French	25.3	42	20	23.4	10.3
Italian	1.7	4	4	1.8	6.4
Scandinavian	1.0	7	4	1.3	1.9
Portuguese	.97	....	....	....	....
English	.56	....	....	....	....
Spanish	.07	3	....	2.3	1.0
Dutch	....	4	....	....	1.2
Russian	....	....	10	....	3.0
Japanese	....	....	....	2.0	2.6

Haiti, India, Italy, Japan, Mesopotamia, Mexico, Norway, Rumania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The accompanying table gives the available data concerning the number of words translated during the past few years, showing the relative amounts of German and French translated before, during and after the war.

H. ANDREWS

COMMITTEE MEETING ON STANDARDIZATION OF STAINS

ON March 2 at the Chemists Club in New York City there was held a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Commission on Standardization of Biological Stains. The members of this committee are: H. J. Conn, Geneva; F. B. Mallory, Boston; L. W. Sharp, Ithaca; J. A. Ambler, Washington, D. C., and S. I. Kornhauser, Louisville, Ky. The meeting was also attended by C. H. Herty to represent the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturers' Association, and by F. P. Garvan and W. F. Keohan to represent the Chemical Foundation.

At this committee meeting the very encouraging results of the work were reported. It was shown that already the stains available in America are in practically all cases as good and sometimes better than the best of the pre-war stains. The most important fact brought out at this meeting was that while the pre-war stains were standardized only in an empirical way, by buying large batches without knowing the exact composition of the dye, they must now be standardized on the basis of pure chemicals.

The reason for this is because it is proving that in some cases the impurities present in the pre-war stains were very necessary. Sometimes these impurities were other dyes and sometimes supposedly inert materials like dextrin. In all such cases the task plainly before the commission is to find out what the impurity is which was responsible for the good staining qualities of the impure product. Then in the future the users of stains must demand that these impurities be present, not as impurities, but as intentionally added ingredients. When this has been done and the products are labeled and used accordingly, the American stains will become standardized in a true sense of the term.

Very shortly the commission will begin issuing certification of definite batches of stain that it has found satisfactory. These stains will be put on the market under a special label bearing the name of the commission. Users of stains must be on the lookout for products bearing this label. Buyers of stains should also be on the watch for spurious imitations of this label put out by unreliable concerns. Any statement of certification not bearing the name of the commission is a certification by the manufacturer or dealer himself, and therefore has no value. A cut of the commission label will appear in this journal as soon as it is ready for the use of the manufacturers of stains.

The Chemical Foundation has agreed to support the work of this commission financially.

H. J. CONN

THE SOLAR ECLIPSE OF SEPTEMBER 10

THE State Department transmits to the Smithsonian Institution a communication from Mr. Leighton Hope, consul in charge at Ensenada, Mexico, on the conditions at Ensenada with respect to the observation of the total solar eclipse of September 10, 1923. An abstract of the consul's report is as follows:

The town is on the west coast of Lower California. The eclipse is total at Ensenada at 2:02 p.m. Weather conditions there promise