	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