FELLOWSHIPS OF THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

DR. ALONZO E. TAYLOR, of Leland Stanford University, has recently returned from Europe where, in the capacity of financial and economic expert, he was assisting Dr. R. M. Pearce in his survey of conditions in medical education. In the following paragraphs we are giving a brief outline of his description of the situation in medical science in Germany and of the results which may be expected from the aid which has been voted by the Rockefeller Foundation for German medical scientific men.

Just after the war, according to Dr. Taylor, the number of students entering medical schools in Germany was unduly large; now, however, it has diminished to about one fourth of the pre-war number. There are still plenty of young men desirous of doing research and special work, but facilities for such work are regrettably lacking. Buildings and basic equipment, it is true, are still effective, but current supplies—animals, instruments, chemicals and so forth—are prohibitive in price. The continuity of German science is, therefore, threatened in its quality and not for lack of men desirous of devoting themselves to the work.

The gift of the foundation for scholarships and fellowships in Germany Dr. Taylor considers the most important constructive assistance given Germany since the war. It will, he believes, have the double effect of aiding medicine and strengthening the influence of liberalism throughout the country. According to present plans it is probable that one hundred fellowships will be in active force by the first of February and one hundred more will be granted during the course of the next six months.

A total of 226 fellowships were granted during 1922 by the foundation and its various boards. Of these, seventy-nine were fellowships in public health administered by the International Health Board, twenty-two were under the Division of Medical Education, sixty-three under the China Medical Board and sixty-two were fellowships in physics, chemistry or medicine, supervised by a committee of the National Research Council. These fellows represent the following countries: Austria, 3; Australia, 3; Brazil, 20; Canada, 12; Ceylon, 1; China, 14; Costa Rica, 1; Colombia, 2; Czechoslovakia, 16; Great Britain, 9; Hungary, 3; Japan, 2; Jugoslavia, 2; Mauritius, 1; Mexico, 1; Nicaragua, 3; Norway, 1; Philippine Islands, 4; Poland, 10; Salvador, 1; Siam, 2; Syria, 3; United States, 111.

CHEMISTRY-COMMERCE COURSE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

THE growing importance of chemistry in modern commerce has brought about a condition which makes desirable the offering of a four-year university course in which the student may get the essentials of a commercial training, together with an amount of chemical training sufficient to enable him to understand the basic technical features of the industries with which he will come in contact.

The University of Wisconsin, realizing the necessity for such training, has established a new four-year course to be known as the chemistry-commerce course and which will be open to prospective students at the beginning of the school year 1923-24, in September. This course is intended particularly for men who desire to fit themselves to hold commercial positions such as business managers, technical secretaries, managerial secretaries, purchasing agents, technical salesmen and, in fact, any commercial position in which a thorough understanding of fundamental chemical principles would be an asset.

Men of affairs in the industrial world are often seriously handicapped because they do not possess a fundamental knowledge of the technical principles involved in their business. Each year it becomes more and more important for the business man to have a knowledge of the chemistry of the processes with which he is concerned. As our civilization advances and becomes increasingly complex, the successful application of sound chemical principles becomes increasingly important. While it is true that the business man may hire chemists or chemical engineers to develop the technical details of his business, it is equally true that he will be greatly handicapped unless he himself knows enough chemistry to be able to talk intelligently with these men. Without a fundamental knowledge of chemistry, their reports will mean but little to him and there will not be the sympathetic understanding which should

exist beween the executive office and the technical department. We are now living in a chemical age and the business man who has neglected to acquire a knowledge of fundamental chemical principles is in the same boat with the farmer who continues to use the methods of fifty years ago.

In addition to certain required courses in chemistry, economics, mathematics, foreign languages and English, a considerable number of free electives have been provided, so that the student may broaden his education in the direction he sees fit.

The course in commercial chemistry which runs throughout the junior year is not a course dealing with the engineering features in industrial chemistry. The students taking this four year course are interested primarily in the economic or commercial aspect of the subject, rather than the purely technical. Only so much of the technical will be given as is necessary for a background. It is the intention to give the student a wide acquaintance with commercial processes and materials of commerce, rather than a detailed, technical knowledge of a few. For those who desire a more technical treatment, courses in industrial chemistry will be open for election. In discussing processes and products, the emphasis will be placed on the chemistry and the economic conditions which determine the value of the process. Such subjects as the location of a plant with respect to all the factors involved will be especially emphasized. The cost of transportation of both raw and finished products will be studied. Each student will make a special detailed study of one typical plant and will turn in a report of his findings. Market reports will be analyzed and those factors which influence the fluctuation in chemical markets will be taken into consideration. The course may properly be called a "Survey of the field of commercial chemistry" and will interpret the rôle played by chemistry in commerce.

J. H. MATHEWS
Director

STANDARDIZATION OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL COLORS

FORTY-TWO men, representing the manufacturers and users of traffic signals, federal and state governmental departments, associations interested in the prevention of traffic accidents and representatives of the general public, are now at work on the drafting of a national code on the proper colors for traffic signals, which it is expected will not only cut down the annual loss of life through traffic accidents, but will eliminate many of the existing irritations to motorists and to the operators of steam and electric railways.

This work is being carried on under the auspices of the American Engineering Standards Committee, whose approval of a code or standard insures its ultimate acceptance and observance throughout the country. The American Engineering Standards Committee is composed of seven departments of the United States Government, the principal technical, industrial and engineering societies and individual business concerns interested in standardization.

The sectional committee drafting this code is made up of seven representatives of the manufacturers of traffic signals, nine representatives of the purchasers of such equipment, three representatives of the users of traffic signals, twelve representatives of governmental bodies, five technical specialists and six insurance representatives.

Charles J. Bennett, state highway commissioner of Connecticut, who represents the American Association of State Highway Officials, has been selected chairman of the sectional committee. M. G. Lloyd, of the United States Bureau of Standards, who is the representative of both the bureau and the American Society of Safety Engineers, is vice-chairman, and Walter S. Paine, research engineer of the Aetna Life Insurance Company, who is the representative of the National Safety Council, is secretary of the sectional committee.

THE LIBRARY OF WILLIAM JAMES

MORE than a thousand books from the private library of William James, who taught psychology and philosophy at Harvard University from 1872 to 1907, a large number of which contain marginal notations by him, have been presented to the university by his family. The collection is considered by Harvard library officials to be of unique interest and value to future students of the philosophical thought