

exist between 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