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

of William James and the group of philosophers about him.

An important part of the collection consists of about 400 volumes, almost all of which have to do with philosophy, psychology and the moral sciences; these books have been selected, with the counsel and assistance of Professor Ralph Barton Perry and Dr. Benjamin Rand, of the philosophical department at Harvard, because of the unusual interest attaching to the annotations by Professor James which appear in them. They contain numerous marginal comments and interlineations, mostly in pencil, which throw light on the development of James' philosophical ideas and on the influences which shaped his thought.

There is another group of about 600 volumes, some of which have to do with psychical research, spiritism and abnormal psychology and some with the religious emotions, religious biography and topics touched on in James' "Varieties of religious experience." This second group is interesting as a collection because many of the books are not easily obtainable or are not ordinarily classified in library catalogs under the subjects to which Professor James related them.

Still another group consists of about fifty philosophical and religious books used by Professor James and containing annotations by his father, the Reverend Henry James. These books would be of special interest to students of the sources and influences of James' work.

Finally there are about twenty books, somewhat annotated, which the philosopher placed together shortly before his death with the intention of working up the subject of military psychology.

The collection as a whole is being transferred to the Harvard University Library, where arrangements will be made to place the books of the first group in the "Treasure Collection," where they will be accessible only to those qualified to consider and respect the marginal notations.

## THE SWARTHMORE CHAPTER OF SIGMA XI

ON the afternoon of April 27, there was installed at Swarthmore College a new chapter of the society of Sigma Xi, to be known as the Swarthmore College Chapter. The ceremonies of installation were in charge of President Henry B. Ward, of the National Society, assisted by the national secretary, Edward Ellery. Delegates were present from the chapters at the University of Pennsylvania and at Rutgers College. The new chapter was initiated with twelve charter members, seven of whom were already members of the society. Unusual interest attaches to the establishment of the Swarthmore Chapter in that it has been a distinct departure from the previous policy of the organization that a charter has been granted to a group in an undergraduate institution. The chapter begins its activities under the following officers: *President,* John A. Miller; *vice-president,* Spencer Trotter; *secretary,* Winthrop R. Wright, and *treasurer,* Errol W. Doebler.

After the installation the national officers, the delegates, the chapter and the faculty and managers of the college were the guests of President and Mrs. Aydelotte at a reception held in their home. Following this reception a public address was given by President Ward in Collection Hall. Dr. Ward prefaced his address with a brief statement of the ideals and the achievements of Sigma Xi in encouraging and producing research and of the uniqueness of its position among the so-called honor societies. His address was entitled "On the trail of the Alaska salmon" and was illustrated with photographs secured by him during an investigation in the interest of the conservation of food supply.

The ceremonies were concluded with a dinner in the evening which was attended by about one hundred members and guests. The toastmaster, Ex-governor William C. Sproul, was introduced by President Aydelotte, who took this occasion to welcome the new chapter on behalf of the administration and to pledge the support of the college for the ideals of Sigma Xi. The principal address was made by Dr. A. L. Day, director of the Geophysical Laboratory, on "The approaches to research." Brief remarks were also made by Dr. C. E. McClung, past-president of Sigma Xi, Secretary Ellery, Ex-provost Edgar F. Smith of Pennsylvania and President Miller. The festivities of the evening were closed by President Ward, who wished God-speed to this, the youngest and smallest of Sigma Xi's chapters.