

medicine, and which occupy to-day such an important place in pure and applied science, should be deliberately excluded from the benefits of the law respecting letters patent and should become public property from the date of their origin. The question was made the subject of a long discussion at a meeting of the Confederation of Intellectual Workers and the draft of a law providing for the protection of the rights of scientists has been prepared by a commission. According to this draft, the text of which has been submitted to the chamber of deputies and the League of Nations, the authors of scientific discoveries and inventions shall enjoy, for the duration of their life, the exclusive right of deriving a profit from their invention or discovery. Entitled to protection under this proposed law are: discoveries (that is, demonstrations of the existence of previously unknown principles, bodies, agents or properties of living beings or matter), inventions (that is, creations of the mind consisting of methods, apparatus, products, compositions of products as yet unknown) and, in a general way, all new applications of discoveries and inventions. To establish his right, the author of the discovery or invention must prove that his discovery or invention has been given sufficiently wide publicity. Publication in certain accepted periodicals will be regarded as sufficient publicity. Reproduction for commercial purposes of the name of the author of the published text or of the scientific communication and the bibliographic reference is prohibited, unless the written consent of the author is secured. The authors of inventions and discoveries may not oppose the industrial or commercial exploitation of new applications of their discoveries or inventions, but they will retain an author's rights in any exploitation in which applications of their initial inventions and discoveries have been made. The authors of discoveries or inventions in the domain of therapeutics will participate in the benefits of this law, it being understood that they can not exploit of themselves their discoveries and inventions unless they hold the diploma of a pharmacist.

THE TREND OF FORESTRY IN IDAHO

At an open meeting of the Idaho Chapter of Sigma Xi, recently held at the University of Idaho, Moscow, "The trend of forestry in

Idaho" was presented by Dean F. G. Miller, Professor C. Edward Behre and Dr. Henry Schmitz of the forest faculty. Dean Miller discussed the economic phases of the forestry situation particularly in north Idaho, where is found the largest body of white pine extant. He pointed out that about 48 per cent. of the timber in this part of the state was owned privately while the government held forty per cent. and the state about twelve per cent. He further showed that the greater bulk of the privately owned timber would in all probability be exhausted in the next twenty-five to thirty years. Since the government and the state can not supply on a sustained yield basis more than a fraction of the present annual cut, a serious slump in the lumber industry is inevitable.

Professor C. Edward Behre presented a series of lantern slides showing conditions in the Western White Pine and Western Yellow Pine stands of Idaho during and after logging operations, illustrating how these forests could be kept continuously productive if cut under national forest regulations and protected from the ravages of fire. The slides presented demonstrated the futility of the broadcast burning of logging slash as a permanent protective measure in the white pine forests and showed the tremendous waste in destruction of advance young growth which broadcast burning caused in both the white and yellow pine types. The need for research in forestry was emphasized by pointing out the various problems arising in providing for future forest growth.

Dr. Henry Schmitz spoke on the "Trend of research in forest products." The point was emphasized that the United States is annually consuming over four times as much timber as is produced by the forest areas and that this state of affairs can not go on indefinitely. The problem can partly be solved by increasing the yield of the various products made from wood. The place of research in this connection was discussed at some length particularly as applying to wood preservation, wood distillation, the manufacture of paper pulp and kiln drying.

SYMPOSIUM ON COLLOID CHEMISTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

The University of Wisconsin announces a public symposium on Colloid Chemistry, to be held at Madison from June 12 to 15, 1923, in-