

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

RESEARCH IN THE DYE INDUSTRY

Of the 209 firms engaged in the manufacture of dyes and other coal-tar chemicals, 67 had separately organized research laboratories for the solution of technical problems and for the development or discovery of new products, according to the U. S. Tariff Commission's recent "Census of Dyes and Other Synthetic Organic Chemicals," as reported in *Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering*. The net operating expenses of these laboratories, together with research work done in the laboratories not separately organized for research, were \$2,172,508. This includes salaries, apparatus and materials, after deducting the value of salable products made in the research laboratories. The figure for 1922 shows a decrease of \$2,074,160 compared with that of 1921. This figure is doubtless an understatement of the real cost of experimental work, since it does not include, in all cases, the cost of research done as a part of manufacturing operations and not shown on the books of the companies as a charge against research.

The coal-tar chemical industry in the United States has expended \$21,545,915 in research work alone, according to reports to the Tariff Commission, during the last five years (1917-1922); with the exception of the year 1917 this is net, and does not include the value of salable products made in the experimental department. The energetic and extensive investigations into the manufacture of dyes have been greater probably than in any other field of chemical research. The achievements of this period, 1917-1922—namely, the establishment of a large dye and synthetic organic chemical industry, with its early progress and development—must be attributed in no small part to the enormous expenditures in research.

The expenditures for research decreased during 1921, and still more so in 1922, because many concerns were obliged to retrench when business conditions were poor. While this no doubt retarded the progress of the industry to some extent, there were nevertheless advances made during that period and progress may be expected in the report for 1923.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ON MEDICAL LICENSURE

At the meeting of the executive committee of the Board of Trustees of the American Medical Association held on December 12, it was decided to issue a statement for the public on the position of the American Medical Association relative to the recent scandal in medical licensure. In accordance with this action, the committee has issued the following statement to the press:

For more than twenty years, the attention of the public has been regularly directed, in official publications of the association, to the evils from which the present scandal arose. The existence of low grade medical schools which refused to raise their standards, which refused to permit inspection and which refused even to submit lists of their students has been regularly noted. The dangers of multiple licensing boards in certain states which issued permits to practice to men who could not qualify for or successfully pass the regular boards have also been made the subject of warning statements. Since 1918, the *Journal* of the American Medical Association has published annually the fact that the Connecticut and Arkansas eclectic licensing boards were apparently serving as clearing houses for low grade institutions in Missouri. In 1920, the *Journal* pointed out that Connecticut, through its eclectic board, was licensing men who had not studied in eclectic medical schools, and even worse, was licensing some men who apparently had not completed a medical course in any school. The American Medical Association is a body which has no punitive powers. It could not arrest and prosecute; it could only point out to state officials the festering evils which required their official attention. Nevertheless, public officials have consistently disregarded these announcements until the sensational publicity accorded an exposé by a St. Louis newspaper forced the matter on their attention.

The statement of a man under indictment in connection with diploma frauds in Missouri that there are more than 25,000 physicians in the United States practicing with false credentials has been made the subject of numerous editorials, in which the medical profession has been urged to keep these impostors from deluding the public. At the headquarters of the American Medical Association is a card index which contains a card for every man licensed to practice medicine in the United States. Through this card index, and through its records of the men who attend medical schools, the association is able to say positively that the number of medical impostors and poorly qualified physicians does not even approximate 25,000. During the past eight years, not more than 2,500 men, who have been given diplomas by low grade medical schools, have received state licenses.

There are to-day five medical schools in the United States which are not up to the high standard of the remaining seventy-six. If these schools are forced to raise their requirements or else to discontinue, the public will be assured that no men will be graduated in medicine who are not qualified to appear for licensure. If the state licensing boards will then admit to their examinations only those who are qualified, the public will have assurance that any man who can present the license of the state examining board is a properly qualified physician. The existence of multiple licensing boards in certain states, which permit men not qualified for the regular board to pass certain special boards, is a constant menace. Finally, the public will not be safe from the medical impostor until the police power of the state is ever alert to search out and prosecute the man who is practicing medicine without a license.