

term "professional chemist," the restriction to become effective on September 1, 1926. This act will not prevent others from practicing the profession of chemistry, so long as they do not endeavor to use the title "professional chemist." An amendment to the original bill provides that nothing in the new legislation shall be interpreted as affecting the rights and privileges granted to the members of the corporation of professional engineers of Quebec, those who hold diplomas issued by the Montreal Polytechnic School or by the faculty of applied science of McGill University, those who have a diploma of pharmacy or medicine, or members of the two latter professions who shall be allowed as in the past to practice chemistry under whatever name they wish, provided they do not take the title "professional chemist."

ACCORDING to the *Electrical World* the Swiss national committee of the World Power Conference, with the permission of the international executive conference, will hold a sectional meeting in Basle, Switzerland, this year from August 31 to September 12. European countries have been asked to participate in an organized way. Other countries have been invited to have representatives in attendance, and papers submitted through their national committees will be incorporated in the proceedings. O. C. Merrill, the chairman of the American national committee, has not determined as yet whether it will be possible to submit a national paper to this conference. The main subjects to be considered embrace railway electrification, electricity in agriculture, exchange of electrical energy between countries, utilization of water power and inland navigation, and the economic relation between electrical energy produced hydraulically and that produced thermally.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

It is announced that a chemistry building costing \$1,200,000 will be erected with a portion of the \$20,000,000 fund now being raised by Princeton University. The building will be in the collegiate Gothic style to harmonize with other buildings recently constructed.

CONSTRUCTION of the new chemistry building to be erected at the University of Maryland will begin almost immediately. The entire sum appropriated by the state legislature (\$210,000) will be employed in constructing the building itself. Sums necessary to equip the various laboratories have been donated by Dr. and Mrs. M. L. Turner, of Berwyn, Maryland; Dr. H. A. B. Dunning, of Hynson, Westcott and Dunning; Dr. Samuel W. Wiley, of Wiley and Co.

Inc., and the Alumni Association of the university. The new building will be ready for occupancy February 1, 1927.

A CAMPAIGN is in progress to raise an endowment fund for the Medical College of the State of South Carolina under the chairmanship of Dr. D. Lesesne Smith, Spartanburg. An organization is to be formed in every county in the state.

DR. WILLIAM LORENZO MOSS has been appointed acting dean for the first half of the year 1926-27 and assistant dean for the second half of the year in the school of public health at Harvard University.

DR. FREDERICK L. REICHERT, of the Johns Hopkins University Medical School, has been appointed associate professor of surgery in the Stanford University Medical School.

At Yale University Dr. John Spangler Nicholas, assistant professor of anatomy at the University of Pittsburgh, has been appointed assistant professor of biology and Dr. Arthur Edward Ruark, of the U. S. Bureau of Standards, assistant professor of physics.

ROBERT F. FIELD, instructor in physics at Harvard University, has been appointed assistant professor of applied physics.

DR. C. R. MEGEE has been appointed acting professor of agronomy in the college of agriculture of Rutgers University.

PROFESSOR JOHN A. FERGUSON, head of the department of forestry at Pennsylvania State College, has been named visiting professor of forestry at Yale University for 1926-27. Professor Ferguson will take over the work in forest management while Professor Herman H. Chapman is on leave to participate in a government investigation of forest taxation which is being conducted by Professor Fred R. Fairchild, of Yale.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

WHY THE TEMPERATURE OF THE AIR DECREASES WITH INCREASE OF HEIGHT

THE decrease of atmospheric temperature with increase of height is a phenomenon of unusual philosophic fascination, if one may so infer from the frequent explanations he sees of it, and from the further fact that nearly always these "explanations" are either utterly erroneous, or, at best, wholly inadequate. And the pity of it is that some of the worst of these come from high authorities, through hasty or heedless writing, for surely they know better.

One eminent scientist, in a great treatise now appearing, explains this decrease of temperature with