

- Arthur, J. C. M72, F83, E24.
 †Beal, Wm. James. M68, F80, E17, D24.
 Bethune, Rev. Charles J. S. M69, F75, E20.
 Burgess, Thomas J. W. M89, F99, E18.
 †Calkins, Marshall. M80, E18, D24.
 Chamberlin, Thomas C. M72, F77, E23.
 †Chandler, Charles F. M70, F75, E19, D25.
 †Clark, John E. M68, F75, E21, D21.
 Clarke, Frank W. M69, F74, E17.
 Dall, William H. M69, F74, E17.
 Dana, Edward Salisbury. M74, F75, E25.
 Dimmock, George. M73, F74, E24.
 Emerson, Benjamin K. M70, F77, E22.
 †Fernald, Charles H. M06, F13, E18, D21.
 Hervey, Alpheus B. M73, F79, E24.
 †Hilgard, Eugene W. M57, F84, E16, D16.
 Mees, Carl Leo. M75, F76, E26.
 †Mendenhall, Thomas C. M71, F74, E15, D24.
 †Morley, Edward Williams. M69, F76, E19, D23.
 †Morse, Edward S. M69, F74, E15, D25.
 †Paine, Cyrus Fay. M58, F74, E17, D21.
 †Peck, Charles Horton. M02, F06, E15, D17.
 Perkins, George Henry. M69, F82, E20.
 Remsen, Ira. M73, F75, E25.
 Rice, William North. M69, F74, E19.
 Richards, Robert H. M73, F75, E18.
 Smith, Eugene Allen. M71, F77, E22.
 †Smock, John Conover. M74, F79, E26, D26.
 †Stockwell, John N. M69, F75, E21, D20.
 Tuttle, Albert Henry. M68, F74, E19.
 †Wilbur, Albert B. M74, F74, E26, D26.
 Wiley, Harvey W. M72, F74, E23.
 Wurtele, Rev. Louis C. M57, F75, E16.
 Yarrow, H. C. M74, F74, E25.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

NEW METHODS IN THE MANUFACTURE OF RUBBER

THE *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* reports the announcement from Akron, Ohio, that rubber experts predict revolutionary changes in the industry as a result of the development of a new process for the manufacture of rubber goods based on the electrodeposition of rubber.

Last year, Dr. S. E. Sheppard, of the Eastman laboratories, published the first announcement of his success in the electrodeposition of rubber. His was a painstaking piece of research undertaken primarily for the sake of establishing certain scientific facts. It is now stated that this work—as is so often the case—is about to yield very practical and profitable results. On October 28 there was formed at Akron the American Anode, Inc., by the B. F. Goodrich Co., the Eastman Kodak Co., and Anode Rubber

Company, Ltd., of Great Britain, for the purpose of manufacturing rubber articles by a method different from any used by the industry heretofore.

The new organization backed by the large resources of the three parent companies has for its purpose the manufacture in America of rubber goods under processes patented by Dr. Paul Klein, of Budapest, and Dr. S. E. Sheppard and Dr. L. W. Eberlin, of the Eastman laboratories. The processes involve methods of compounding, milling and vulcanizing rubber.

"Under the new processes," one expert said, "the principle involved is the deposition of rubber on the anode of an electric circuit, the anode serving as a mold or form. Methods of suspending compounded ingredients in the latex electrolytic solution also have been perfected and patented as well as means for maintaining a constant concentration of the mixture."

It now is possible actually to rubber-plate molds of any shape with rubber of tissue paper thinness to several inches thick, Goodrich experts say. Arrangements already are being made with insulated wire makers to use the new process in insulating electric wires more speedily and with a far stronger coating.

Rubber bands no thicker than a thread have been manufactured here under the new process and have been found to be so much stronger than ordinary bands as to defy breaking by the bare hand. Other articles, such as silken thin tobacco pouches, bathing caps, gloves, and hot water bottles, similarly have been found to possess far greater strength and resiliency.

PLANS FOR THE MEDICAL SCHOOL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

IN making the announcement of a gift of \$3,385,000 from the General Education Board for the new medical school at the University of Chicago, already recorded in *SCIENCE*, President Max Mason called attention to the magnitude of the medical program which the university is about to inaugurate with the opening of its beautiful Gothic medical buildings covering two square blocks on the Midway. The new medical school, one of the most modern and complete in America, will provide hospital and clinic as well as facilities for medical study on a large scale in close proximity to the established scientific departments of the university.

The present gift, conditioned on the raising of \$2,000,000 more for endowment, makes possible one of the most significant programs of medical education and research ever attempted in the United States. This program will be partially supported by assets brought up to \$20,000,000 by the present gift.