THE Industrial Alcohol Manufacturers Association has founded an Industrial Fellowship in the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research of the University of Pittsburgh, for the purpose of studying denaturants, in order to find an ideal one, if possible. This would be a substance possessing such properties and physiological action that it would render ethyl alcohol undrinkable, but could not be separated in any way from the alcohol and would not injure it for technical uses.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY has received a grant of $230,000 for an aeronautical engineering building made by the trustees of the Daniel Guggenheim Fund for the Promotion of Aeronautics. The gift will provide a building to house the present personnel and equipment and marks the first step in a program of expansion which, with new apparatus and additional room, will give the institute unexcelled facilities for instruction and research in aeronautics.

A GIFT of $11,450 has been made to the Harvard Medical School to be known as the Henry Ehrlich Memorial Fund, the income to be used for the assistance of needy or worthy students.

PRESIDENT JOHN A. COUSENS has announced that the proposal to move the Tufts Medical School from Boston to Medford has received the approval of the college trustees and is now before the alumni for action.

A GIFT of £74,000 from the International Education Board, New York, to the University of Edinburgh is to be applied toward the cost of a new department of zoology, which is to be created at the King's buildings of the university. Of the total sum £38,000 is for buildings, £10,000 for equipment and £26,000 for endowment.

THE University of St. Andrews, Dundee, will benefit to the extent of £25,000 under the will of the late William Gibson, Dundee. This sum becomes payable on the death of the testator's two sisters, and is to be used to build and equip a laboratory for study and research in pathology and bacteriology.

DR. OWEN L. SHINN, professor of applied chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania, has been appointed director *pro tempore* of the John Harrison laboratory of chemistry at the university. This appointment follows the action of the university's trustees in acceding to the request of Dr. Walter T. Taggart, present director of the laboratory, to be relieved of administrative duties.

AT Cornell University, Professor W. A. Hurwitz has been made chairman of the department of mathematics.

DR. E. W. TSCHUDI, formerly of the Nela Research Laboratory, Cleveland, Ohio, has been appointed head of the department of physics at Winthrop College, S. C.

DR. JOSEPH CHANDLER, formerly associate professor of chemistry at Boston University School of Medicine, has been appointed associate professor of chemistry at Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia.

DR. F. C. HARRISON has resigned as principal of Macdonald College to devote his entire time to research and the training of graduate students. Dr. W. H. Brittain, professor of entomology at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and provincial entomologist for Nova Scotia, has been appointed professor of entomology in the college.

DR. EGON SCHWEIDLER has been appointed professor of experimental physics at the University of Vienna.

QUOTATIONS

CHILE AND THE CHEMISTS

CHILE faces an economic crisis. She must decide whether to reduce or even abolish her nitrate export tax, from which she has long derived 40 per cent. of her revenue and out of which she has built ports, railways and other permanent improvements. Her nitrate production has declined from 377,000 long tons (in terms of pure nitrogen) in 1925 to 290,000 in 1926. According to *The Wall Street Journal,* the shares of five great nitrate companies have fallen on the London Stock Exchange from an aggregate quoted value of £3,578,000 on January 1, 1926, to £1,634,000 on December 31, 1926.

It might be concluded that Chile's nitrate beds are rapidly nearing exhaustion. But turn to a report of the Inspector General of Nitrate Deposits for 1923. There we are assured that Chile's saltpeter resources could supply the world with the raw material of fertilizers and explosives for at least two centuries, even at the annually increasing rate of consumption that prevailed until recently. But *The Wall Street Journal* calls attention to the increased production of "synthetic nitrogen." That explains everything. It is our irrepressible and resourceful friend, the research chemist, who is responsible for Chile's plight. For a generation he has been struggling with that obstinate gas, nitrogen, to make it assume a substantial and usable form. He built electric furnaces, burnt the oxygen out of the air, and in this way obtained a cer-