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In order to get such information as could be obtained as to the benefits that have been derived from the school by those who have taken work in it, in May a questionnaire was addressed by Director Woods to all the 766 former students of the school. The returns from the questionnaire indicate that the benefits gained by students have in many instances been quite tangible. Many of the former students reported that the certificates earned were valuable to them in their progress toward collegiate degrees, from the bachelor's to the doctor's. Many others reported their belief that they had made professional advancement in their work in the government service as a result of a heightening and broadening of individual efficiency and usefulness.

Fifty-eight persons reported that they had received credit in universities for their certificates earned in the graduate school, and a tabulation of the data in this respect follows:

George Washington University.....	26
American University	11
University of Maryland.....	7
University of Minnesota.....	3
Ohio State University, University of Wisconsin, each	2
Yale University, University of Chicago, The Johns Hopkins University, Louisiana State University, University of North Dakota, Washington State University, Cornell University, each	1

Certificates of the graduate school have been presented and accepted in credit toward collegiate degrees as follows:

Doctor of philosophy.....	22
Master of arts.....	7
Master of science	14
Bachelor of arts.....	6
Bachelor of science	9

One of the outstanding features of the returns from the questionnaire is the deep interest in the graduate school and almost unanimous high regard for it expressed by those who have taken work in it.

The present plan is to send a similar questionnaire out next May to the students of the 1928-29 school year, and to do so each succeeding year, so that an adequate record of the school may be maintained.

For the mutual benefit of administrative officers of the department and the students who have endeavored to increase their value to the government service and themselves by availing themselves of the advantages of the school, Director Woods plans to furnish the chief of each branch of the department a list of those persons of his staff who have taken a course or courses since the beginning of the school year 1926-1927, together with titles of courses and grades received, and to furnish such a list after the close of each future school year.

In the 1928-29 school year 15 courses were offered and 11 conducted—7 graduate and 4 undergraduate. The total number of students enrolled was 226, as compared with 218 in the year 1927-28, and 111 in the year 1926-27.

The first semester of the 1929-30 school year will open the week of October 21.

FORMAL OPENING OF THE CHEMICAL LABORATORY OF PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

THE exercises formally opening the Princeton Chemical Laboratory will take place at 12:30 o'clock (Daylight Saving Time) on the terrace of the laboratory at Princeton University on Thursday, September 26. The university has invited a number of foreign chemists as well as delegates from the universities, colleges and learned societies of this country. The academic procession will leave Nassau Hall at 12:15 p. m., and proceed to the laboratory. Academic costume will be worn. After the exercises luncheon will be served to delegates, invited guests and the members of the department of chemistry. The laboratory will be open for inspection during the afternoon. At 4:00 p. m. tea will be served in the library of the laboratory by the ladies of the department. At 8:30 p. m. a public lecture will be given by Professor F. G. Donnan, C.B.E., F.R.S., of the University of London, on "The Application of Physical Chemistry to Chemical Industry with especial reference to Catalysis."

The exercises will be succeeded on Friday and on Saturday morning, September 27 and 28, by a symposium on "Catalysis and the Mechanism of Chemical Reactions." It is hoped to summarize the main aspects of the problem of chemical reactivity as at present developed. Many of the invited delegates will remain for this symposium. No general invitation has been issued to this discussion, owing to a severe restriction of housing accommodation in Princeton at this time of the year. Those desirous of attending the meetings on Friday and Saturday would greatly oblige the Princeton authorities if they

would signify in advance their intention to be present. While every effort would be made to find such, no accommodations can be guaranteed for overnight visitors other than for the delegates and invited guests. The program of the symposium is as follows:

Friday Morning, 10:00 A. M. (D. S. T.)

- (1) Dr. Irving Langmuir: "Chemical and Electrical Properties of Adsorbed Films on Tungsten."
- (2) Professor Max Bodenstein: "The Mechanism of the Catalytic Oxidation of Ammonia."

Friday Afternoon, 2:00 P. M. (D. S. T.)

- (3) Dr. Francis Perrin: "Fluorescence and the Problem of Negative Catalysis."

- (4) Mr. C. N. Hinshelwood, F.R.S.: "Trace Catalysis and Chain Reactions."
- (5) Professor M. Polanyi: "Atomic Reactions and Luminescence in Highly Dilute Flames."

Saturday Morning, 9:30 A. M. (D. S. T.)

- (6) Dr. K. F. Bonhoeffer: "Parahydrogen, Atomic Hydrogen and the Mechanism of Flame Reactions."
- (7) Drs. A. Mittasch and Frankenburg: "The Historical Development and Theory of Ammonia Synthesis."¹
- (8) Drs. H. Mark, Dohse and Kälberer: "Kinetics and Adsorption at Contact Surfaces."¹

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE regular fall meeting of the executive committee of the council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will occur in Washington on Sunday, October 20. All matters of business and policy that are to be brought before the council at the annual meeting in Des Moines should come before the executive committee at this fall meeting, in so far as that is possible. Communications to be presented to the executive committee should be in the hands of the permanent secretary, Dr. Burton E. Livingston, The Smithsonian Institution Building, by October 15 to make sure that they get properly placed on the order of business and properly presented.

THE Academy of Sciences of Saxony has elected as corresponding members Dr. Graham Lusk, head of the department of physiology of the Cornell Medical College; Dr. A. V. Hill, professor of physiology in the University of London; Dr. Max Planck, professor of physics in the University of Berlin, and Dr. David Hilbert, professor of mathematics in the University of Göttingen.

DR. N. L. BRITTON has been elected honorary president of the recently organized "Cactus and Succulent Society of America," of which Dr. A. D. Houghton is president and Mr. R. E. Willis, of Los Angeles, California, is secretary. The first issue of the *Journal* of the new society, published in July, 1929, records a membership of 350, widely distributed.

AT the Minneapolis meeting of the American Chemical Society the Priestley medal was presented to Mr. Francis P. Garvan, of New York, former alien property custodian, for distinguished services to chemistry. Mr. Garvan gave an address on "Random Thoughts of a Lay Chemist."

W. L. McATEE, senior biologist, in charge of the division of food habits research, U. S. Biological Survey, has been made a corresponding member of the

Royal Hungarian Ornithological Institution "in recognition of his merits in the field of ornithology."

THE first research committee of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists in 1928 planned a memorial to one of the founders and the first secretary-treasurer of the society by the institution of the Ward Burdick Research Award in the form of a gold medal bearing a profile image of the late Dr. Burdick on one side and the society seal and name of the recipient on the reverse. At the eighth annual convention held in Portland, Oregon, the first medal was awarded upon decision of the research committee by the president on the evening of the annual banquet to Walter Malcolm Simpson for his original studies on the subject of tularemia. At the 1928 meeting of the American Medical Association in Minneapolis, Dr. Simpson was awarded a gold medal for his "exhibit of the gross and microscopic changes in tularemia and for excellence of presentation."

DR. F. B. HURT, associate professor of poultry husbandry in the University of Minnesota, has been awarded the first "Poultry Science Research Prize." This prize of \$100 will be awarded annually to the member of the Poultry Science Association who has published the most significant contribution to the field of poultry research. The article upon which the award was based appeared in *Poultry Science*, May 1, 1929, its title being "Sex Dimorphism and Variability in the Appendicular Skeleton of the Leghorn Fowl." Honorable mention was given Dr. Sylvia L. Parker, associate professor of poultry husbandry, University of California, for her article appearing in *Hilgardia*, March, 1929, entitled "Effects of Early Handicaps on Chickens Measured by Yolk Absorption and Body Weight to 20 Weeks."

¹ Papers 7 and 8 will be presented on behalf of the authors by Professor Hugh S. Taylor.