

the Yale Forest School in cooperation with the Firestone Plantations Company, which is establishing extensive rubber plantations in that republic. The clearing of large tracts of virgin timber afforded an opportunity for the study of the forest conditions which has never before been presented in West Africa.

Numerous sample areas were carefully laid out and all the trees were listed and measured. Hundreds of wood specimens were obtained together with leaves, flowers and fruits of the trees for botanical identification. Logs of 130 different species were hewed out and will later be tested for strength and other properties in the forest school laboratory. These logs represent every degree of hardness and color from white and punky "Corkwood" to the flinty "Red Ironbark." Boards of native manufacture will be tried out for their carpentry and furniture value. Since the Liberian forest is in many ways typical of the conditions found for hundreds of miles eastward the results will have a practical bearing on a vast region which is just on the threshold of unprecedented exploitation of tropical forests.

So little is known in America about the flora of West Africa that arrangements were made by Professor Samuel J. Record, who has charge of the tropical work at Yale University, to have the trees and other plants identified at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England. Three sets of herbarium samples have accordingly been shipped to England, one for Kew, one for the Natural History Museum in London and one for the Imperial Institute at Oxford.

The expedition also collected a series of birds from the tropical evergreen forest for Peabody Museum at Yale University. Mr. Cooper was assisted in this phase of the work by Mr. Rupert H. Drinkwater, of India, who is now in the British Camaroons continuing his ornithological investigations. As many of the birds have the same native names as the trees in which they live or whose fruit and seeds they eat, it is often a great help in locating the tree when the bird is seen in the bush.

A collection of the forest insects, mostly butterflies and beetles, is now at Peabody Museum awaiting study and classification. Dried barks, leaves, and fruits from 75 of the important trees used in native medicine and witchcraft are to be studied and analyzed by pharmaceutical chemists. Some of these plants contain very powerful and even deadly alkaloids which are used as poisons by the natives.

The Liberian wood specimens bring the total in the Yale collections to 16,000, representing 1,650 genera of 170 natural families. This is by far the most extensive assortment of woods in the world and nearly

every country of the earth is represented. More than 2,000 samples, many very rare, have been added since the first of the year from the West Indies, Mexico, Central and South America, Japan, Siam, Java, New Caledonia, Papua, New Guinea, Norfolk Island, Australia, and all parts of Africa. Yale is cooperating with Oxford in an exploration of the forests of the Peruvian Amazon. The specimens are being systematically studied at the university and selected lots are sent to foreign institutions for special investigation.

THE PROFESSION OF ENGINEERING

THE American Engineering Council has appointed a committee on engineering and allied technical professions. The chairman is H. C. Morris, retired mining engineer, of Washington, D. C. Other members are: A. B. McDaniels, of Washington, representing the American Society of Civil Engineers; Conrad N. Lauer, of Philadelphia, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers; H. A. Kidder, of New York, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers; L. W. Wallace, of Washington, executive secretary of the American Engineering Council.

Committees from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the Washington, D. C., Society of Engineers will work with the committee, whose findings, it is expected, will enable the council, organized ten years ago under the headship of Mr. Hoover, to enter upon a program of professional advancement. The announcement says:

The committee will collect, tabulate, analyze and disseminate information concerning earnings of engineers. Such information will be so classified as to give a clear conception of the earnings of engineers in the several branches of the profession and also in various lines of endeavor, such as federal, state and municipal employment.

For the purpose of suitable comparisons information will be obtained in so far as possible relating to the earnings of other professional men. The status of the profession as measured by appropriate standards will be ascertained, and the major trends of the profession determined. Dissemination of the facts revealed will be directed toward both engineers and the public.

There will be classifications showing in which each type of engineer belongs, and a statement of the qualifications requisite to each classification. This is particularly needed in the federal government service.

Registration of engineers prevails in some twenty states. This movement has had no guidance on the part of any major fraction of the profession. However, because of existing registration law, no adequate plan can be projected relating to the economic and professional status of the engineer without giving due consideration to the influences and trends of registration.

Such a survey as is contemplated will not fail to bring to light certain corollary questions, which will of necessity have to be pursued to some degree in order to get that breadth of comprehension necessary to an inclusive judgment and action.

On the basis of the information comprehended in this statement of aims, there should be opportunity to set up certain forward-looking and comprehensive objectives for the profession. Engineers are presumed to be analyzers and planners. It is therefore logical to believe that by analyzing the profession they would be able to formulate some major objectives for the profession to endeavor to realize in the years ahead.

ENROLMENT IN THE MEDICAL SCHOOLS

THE U. S. Bureau of Education has issued a statement in regard to enrolment in the medical schools throughout the United States, according to which an investigation made in the fall of 1926 showed that the 8,500 individual applicants made altogether 20,093 applications, or each applicant on the average had applied to two and one half medical schools. Of the applications received 6,420 were accepted, but when the session began, only 5,020 students were actually enrolled, indicating that 1,400 students had applied and had been accepted by two or more medical schools. Thus, at the beginning of the college year 1926-27, there were 1,400 vacancies still existing, or one fourth of the entire first-year capacity. Fortu-

nately, the medical schools had waiting lists, so that 989 of these vacancies were filled, as later reports showed that 6,009 students had been admitted. The report of the investigation stated also that of the 3,480 not accepted, 2,622 were rejected because of unsatisfactory qualifications.

The number of students graduating from medical schools during the past two years has increased from 3,962 to 4,262, an increase of 300 in the two years.

For the students who graduated in 1928, a special tabulation was prepared which gave the average age at graduation from the four-year medical course as 26.8 years. Or, counting the fifth year of hospital internship, the average age was 27.8.

Greatly enlarged plants at Columbia University and the University of Colorado medical schools have been completed within the past two years, as have also new buildings at Howard University and the State Universities of Iowa, Kansas and Tennessee and at the Johns Hopkins. Thus the capacity of medical schools is continually being increased, which is making it possible to enroll increasing numbers of medical students.

The United States has 149,521 physicians to its 118,127,645 population; this is a greater percentage (126.59 per 100,000 population) than that of any other country. However, this is a smaller number to each 100 square miles than in 18 other countries, but a larger number than in 22 other countries.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE William H. Welch Medical Library of the Johns Hopkins University and the Department of the History of Medicine are being dedicated on Thursday and Friday of the present week. The principal addresses are by Dr. Harvey Cushing, Moseley professor of surgery in the Harvard Medical School and surgeon-in-chief at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, and Dr. Karl Sudhoff, emeritus professor of the history of medicine at the University of Leipzig.

ON Tuesday and Wednesday of this week the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute of the Johns Hopkins University was dedicated. According to the program, it was expected that addresses would be made by Mr. Hubert L. Satterlee, president of the William Holland Wilmer Foundation, and by Mrs. Henry Breckenridge. In connection with the dedication, lectures were arranged by Professor Ernst Fuchs, of the University of Vienna; by Dr. George E. de Schweinitz, of the University of Pennsylvania, and by Sir John Herbert Parsons, of the University of London.

THE Francis P. Garvan chair of chemical education at the Johns Hopkins University was dedicated

on October 11 when in addition to President Ames and Mr. Garvan the speakers were Dr. John J. Abel, of the Johns Hopkins Medical School, and Dr. Irving Langmuir, of the General Electric Company, president of the American Chemical Society.

THE Institute of Pathology of Western Reserve University was dedicated on October 7. The building is the gift of the General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation. The dedication program began at 1:30 P. M. with inspection of the building. Formal dedication was held at five o'clock in the Florence Harkness Memorial Chapel with the address by Dr. Henry R. Dean, professor of pathology of the University of Cambridge. At seven o'clock Dr. Robert E. Vinson, president, was the host at a dinner in Hayden Hall to delegates of universities and learned societies and to trustees of the university and of the university hospitals. Honor guests of the occasion beside Dr. Dean were Dr. William T. Councilman, of Harvard University; Dr. Ludvig Hektoen, of the University of Chicago, and Dr. Simon Flexner, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. Dr. Howard T. Karsner is director of the institute.