

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG CHEMISTS AND CHEMICAL ENGINEERS

Industrial and Engineering Chemistry urges federal subsidizing of research in universities by unemployed chemists. It asks support of a plan proposed by the New York Committee on Unemployment and Relief for Chemists and Chemical Engineers, whereby idle research chemists would be engaged in fundamental research in universities and scientific institutions, jointly subsidized by the federal government and the universities themselves.

The committee's proposal involves the application of some portion of public or semi-public relief funds, to salaries for unemployed research chemists who would be put to work under the supervision of the heads of the chemistry and chemical engineering departments in various universities, with the universities paying the full cost of laboratory materials and operating expenses.

Departmental heads of almost every university and technical institution in the metropolitan district of New York have approved the plan. The research projects to be undertaken would be directed toward the widening of fundamental knowledge and not toward the improvement of industrial processes.

By far the largest group among the 632 unemployed chemists and chemical engineers registered were formerly engaged in research. Indications are that several large industrial organizations have dismissed research staffs in recent months. It is partly to meet this situation that the committee has formulated its proposal. There are in all eighty-two fields represented by the registrants. One hundred and seventeen more than one sixth of the total, were research chemists. Many have pure research theories of great interest which they are eager to work out, but for which they lack the means.

The committee, which has since January placed 128 men and women, fifty-three in permanent and seventy-five in temporary positions, has made an appeal to members of the chemical profession for funds to carry it through the summer, original donations from the ten sponsoring societies being nearly exhausted. Complete registration of all unemployed chemists within fifty miles of the city is being sought.

Applicants, 60 of whom formerly earned over \$5,000 a year, include 123 who are completely destitute, 145 who are in need, 177 who have funds enough to hold out a short while longer, and 187 who do not need relief. There are thirty-two women chemists registered. Jobs obtained for applicants, it was estimated, have averaged in salary from \$35 to \$50 a week. Four have been secured at \$100 or more a week, and several very highly specialized jobs have been left unfilled because none of the registrants had

had experience in the particular fields required. The committee estimates that there are about 1,500 unemployed chemists in the district. Mr. Frank G. Breyer is executive chairman of the committee and R. T. Baldwin, treasurer.

HONORARY DEGREES AT HARVARD AND YALE

THE eleven honorary degrees conferred at the Harvard commencement exercises included doctorates of science on Professor R. A. Millikan and Professor Lawrence J. Henderson and a doctorate of laws on Professor John Dewey. President Lowell's citations were as follows:

ROBERT ANDREWS MILLIKAN: Eminent physicist, who with tireless zeal has studied the constitution of matter and the nature of interstellar space.

LAWRENCE JOSEPH HENDERSON: A prolific thinker who by chemistry, mathematics and philosophy has revealed the mechanism whereby blood makes possible the higher forms of life.

JOHN DEWEY: Most renowned of living American philosophers, we rejoice to add our sprig of laurel to his crown.

At Yale University ten honorary degrees were awarded of which two were on men of science. Professor Phelps presented the candidates and President Angell conferred the degrees as follows:

FIELDING HUDSON GARRISON

Professor Phelps—Librarian of the Institute of the History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Garrison belongs to that noble company from Sir Thomas Browne to Harvey Cushing who have combined the science of medicine with the art of literature. Lieutenant-Colonel of the Medical Corps in the United States Army, author of many scientific and biographical works, Dr. Garrison holds a unique position in America. His *Introduction to the "History of Medicine"* is the foremost reference book in English. In all phases of medical and biological history he is a master. While editing the Surgeon General's Catalogue and the *"Index Medicus"* he wrote the most accurate and readable *"Life of Josiah Willard Gibbs"* and in 1915 a *Memoir of John Shaw Billings*. Many specialists think of him mainly as the author of the *"History of Anatomic Illustration before Vesalius,"* but his friends know him as an excellent musician, and a competent authority on the history of music and the history of Spanish poetry. As a linguist, he is familiar with nearly all modern European languages, including Russian. His versatility is as remarkable as his accuracy. He is a rewarding mine of information. As a librarian, he distributes books wisely, for he has written many of them and read all the rest. He is a cheerful man; happy in himself, and the cause of happiness in others.

President Angell—Most eminent of American scholars in a difficult field, where your extraordinary literary