

## 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

gifts have been wedded to profound scientific knowledge and unflagging industry, Yale University confers upon you the degree of Doctor of Letters, admitting you to all its rights and privileges.

#### FRANK RATTRAY LILLIE

Professor Phelps—Zoologist. Born in Toronto, student of that university, he took his doctor's degree at the University of Chicago. Like several other million scholars, he was a member of the faculty of the University of Michigan, the foremost professorial training school in America. He is professor of embryology at the University of Chicago, dean of the School of Biological Science and Medicine, director of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole. He is a member of many learned societies in Europe and in America. He has to

an extraordinary degree combined executive management with individual research. His investigations in embryology, cytology and physiology have won for him an international reputation. The growth of the famous laboratory at Woods Hole is a monument to his scientific and administrative ability. He has taken a leading part in the organization of biological research, having trained a large number of young men, who are inspired both by his teaching and by his example.

President Angell—A distinguished biologist, a sound and fruitful investigator, a stimulating teacher and trainer of men, your long career has been marked by constant advance to larger and more important achievement. In recognition of your eminent services, Yale confers upon you the degree of Doctor of Science, and admits you to all its rights and privileges.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. EDWARD LAURENS MARK, Hersey professor of anatomy, emeritus, at Harvard University, attained his eighty-fifth birthday on May 30. In recognition of the event, his colleagues, friends and former students arranged in his honor a dinner which was held on the evening of May 27 at the Faculty Club. After dinner Professor H. W. Rand, of Harvard University, introduced speakers who made brief congratulatory and reminiscent addresses. Those who spoke were: Dr. C. B. Davenport, of the Carnegie Institution; Professors Ephraim Emerton, E. H. Hall and F. W. Taussig, of Harvard University; Dr. F. B. Lund, of Boston; Professor F. T. Lewis, of the Harvard Medical School; Professor H. V. Neal, of Tufts College; Professor R. P. Bigelow, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Professor J. F. Fulton, Jr., of the School of Medicine of Yale University. After the addresses Dr. Mark replied.

THE honorary degree of doctor of science was conferred by the University of Maryland on Dr. A. F. Woods, director of scientific work of the Department of Agriculture, at commencement on June 4. Dr. Woods was president of the University of Maryland from 1917 to 1926. In addition, the Alumni Association at its annual luncheon presented to the university a full-figure, life-size oil portrait of Dr. Woods, as a recognition of his accomplishments for the university during his presidency.

THE commencement exercises of the Johns Hopkins University included the presentation to the university of portraits of Dr. Hugh H. Young, clinical professor of urology, and Dr. Dean Lewis, professor of surgery.

THE doctorate of science has been conferred by Wesleyan University on Dr. Duncan S. Johnson, professor of botany and director of the Botanical Garden

at the Johns Hopkins University; on Dr. Alfred L. Loomis, the physicist, Tuxedo Park, New York, and on Dr. Henry S. White, professor of mathematics at Vassar College.

AT the one hundred and thirty-eighth commencement of Williams College, an honorary degree of doctor of science was conferred upon Dr. Chester N. Myers, the organic chemist, of New York City.

THE Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute conferred at commencement honorary degrees of doctor of engineering on Dr. William Lisperard Robb, head of the department of electrical engineering for the last thirty years, and on Clarence F. Hirshfeld, chief of the research department of the Detroit Edison Company.

THE Worcester Polytechnic Institute recently conferred the doctorate of engineering on Alfred D. Flinn, director of the Engineering Foundation, New York City.

THE degree of doctor of science was conferred on June 13 by the Michigan State College at Lansing upon Dr. Lyman J. Briggs, assistant director for research and testing of the National Bureau of Standards.

THE honorary degree of doctor of science was conferred on June 15 on William A. Hamor, of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, at the fifty-second commencement of Grove City College, Pennsylvania.

DR. CARL NEUBERG, director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Biochemistry, Berlin, has been elected an honorary member of the Danish Biological Society.

SIR HENRY WELLCOME, founder of the Wellcome Research Institution, has been elected an honorary