

The appointment of this board has been the outcome of several pharmacopoeial conferences, held in New York during the past year, attended by vitamin experts in the United States, who have recommended a revised standard for the vitamin A and vitamin D potency of the official cod-liver oil. The same group has approved assay methods for both vitamins and these assay methods are proposed for official adoption.

Fifteen vitamin laboratories in the United States, one in London and one in Norway are now determining the vitamin A and vitamin D potency of a special "Reference Cod-Liver Oil," supplied by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries. This oil will be available in a few months for distribution by the United States Pharmacopoeial Vitamin Advisory Board. A nominal charge will be made for this "Reference Oil" which will have known vitamin A and vitamin D activity, expressed in International Units. This oil will be distributed through the office of the Chairman of the U. S. P. Vitamin Board to be addressed at 43d Street and Woodland Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa.

THE WASHINGTON MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

LEADERS of science and industry will address the eighty-fifth meeting of the American Chemical Society in Washington during the week beginning March 26. Seventeen of the professional divisions of the society, embracing every principal field of chemistry, will hold sessions. The history of chemistry will be traced in exhibits at the Library of Congress.

Researches presented by workers in the Federal Service will bring to the attention of the nation contributions to science made by the government departments. Numerous committees in the District of Columbia are making arrangements for an extensive program of inspection of federal laboratories and scientific services, the aim being to convey knowledge of the development of Washington as one of the great science centers of the world.

Many of the leading industries as well as universities, colleges and other institutions will send representatives. Dr. Irving Langmuir, associate director of the General Electric Company, will give a public address on "Surface Chemistry" in Constitution Hall, 18th and D Streets, N.W., on Wednesday, March 29, at 8:30 P. M.

The formal sessions will open with a general program on Monday, March 27, following a meeting of the directors of the society, at which Professor Arthur B. Lamb, of Harvard University, president, will preside. Speakers at this general session and their topics will include:

Charles F. Kettering, chief engineer of the General Motors Corporation, Detroit, "The Relation of Chemistry to the Individual"; Harry L. Derby, presi-

dent of the American Cyanamid Company, New York, "The Relation of Chemistry to the State"; C. M. A. Stine, vice-president of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, Inc., Wilmington, Delaware, "The Relation of Chemical to Other Industry"; Professor Hugh S. Taylor, head of the department of chemistry, Princeton University, "Chemistry—its Interrelations with Other Sciences."

Agriculture and food, petroleum, biological chemistry, chemical education, medicinal chemistry, rubber, sugar, dyes, industrial and engineering chemistry, organic, and physical and inorganic chemistry are among the general fields to be covered at sessions of the professional divisions. The Division of Chemical Education, of which Professor Lyman C. Newell, of Boston University, is chairman, plans a symposium on "Recent Developments in Various Chemical Industries." The purpose of this symposium is to acquaint the chemistry teachers of the country with industrial developments.

The Division of Biological Chemistry, of which Professor J. B. Brown, of the Ohio State University, is chairman, will hold a symposium on "Anemia"; the Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, headed by Professor H. A. Schuette, of the University of Wisconsin, one on "Insecticides."

The Division of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, of which Professor D. B. Keyes, of the University of Illinois, is chairman, will hold a symposium on "Glass" in conjunction with the Glass Division of the American Ceramic Society.

The Division of Physical and Inorganic Chemistry, of which Professor W. A. Noyes, Jr., of Brown University, is chairman, will hold six sessions, including a symposium on "Electrolytes," under the chairmanship of Professor Victor K. LaMer, of Columbia University, and a symposium on "Analytical Chemistry," under the chairmanship of Professor N. H. Furman, of Princeton University. The Division of Petroleum Chemistry, headed by F. W. Sullivan, of Whiting, Indiana, is arranging for two sessions, one being devoted to a symposium on "Properties of Hydrocarbon Mixtures." Other divisional meetings are scheduled.

A demonstration of dust explosions has been arranged by the Division of Chemical Engineering, Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, for Thursday, March 30, at Arlington Farm. The demonstration, which will be in charge of D. J. Price, will show in miniature what takes place when organic dusts explode under various conditions met in industry and how the hazards from these dusts can be largely minimized.

Special events include a visit to Edgewood Arsenal, called "the chemists' contribution to national defense." There will be a demonstration of chemical warfare weapons by the First Chemical Regiment and of airplane dispersion of smoke by officers of the Air Corps.