

less definite word to this effect is received sufficiently prior to renewal of subscriptions for 1934, libraries cancel their subscriptions to the most expensive journals, except one library in each of 6 to 10 zones throughout the United States and Canada.

Miss Marjorie J. Darrach, secretary of the association, writes:

These resolutions were passed on the recommendations of the Committee on the Cost of Current Medical Periodicals, which has been studying this question intensively during the past year.

It is felt that these recommendations are advisable, as their fulfillment is essential to the efficient and economic administration of libraries; and it should be pointed out that they are not in any sense of national significance, nor do they in any way constitute an unfriendly gesture to any group of scientists. They are strictly of an economic nature, and are designed to meet certain unfortunate existing conditions which constitute a hindrance to the free interchange of scientific thought.

It is understood that conferences in regard to this situation are to take place in Europe this summer, and there have been unofficial promises made that the conditions complained of will be remedied in the near future. In order, therefore, to give editors and publishers a reasonable amount of time to cooperate, the recommendations cited above do not become effective until it has been demonstrated whether the results of these conferences and negotiations have failed. Therefore, decisions regarding subscriptions for 1934 are being postponed until November 1, 1933, pending the outcome of negotiations.

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

It is reported by Science Service that the proposed twenty-five per cent. reduction in funds for the extension service and experiment stations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and the funds for land grant colleges and vocational education has been again deferred by executive order of President Roosevelt. This time the effective date is deferred until sixty days after the opening of the next session of the Congress, which will be about March 1, 1934. This order probably saves \$3,917,000 for education and research, particularly in agriculture.

Officials of the Department of Agriculture are not yet certain of the proper interpretation of the order. The effective date now occurs after all payments for the extension service have been made for the present fiscal year, and all but one of the payments for the experiment stations. If the cut is to apply to the whole of the fiscal year it will mean that a refund must be made.

The personnel of the Department of Agriculture has been greatly reduced, as shown by a tabulation of dismissals, furloughs and positions abolished, compiled by Dr. W. W. Stockberger, of the department.

More than a thousand persons have been separated from the different bureaus since the first of March. With the additional separations that it is estimated were made during the month of July the total number will reach 1,530. Of these, 233 were engaged in scientific research, including 42 in the professional grades.

During the past year in cases where resignations or vacancies have occurred positions have been left unfilled. Such positions to the number of 407 were abolished at the beginning of the fiscal year.

The work of the department will also be curtailed through furloughs. It is estimated that during the present fiscal year 2,141 persons will be furloughed for periods ranging from one week to a year. The total number dismissed, furloughed or whose positions have been abolished amounts to over 4,000. A considerable number, however, has been given employment in connection with the new recovery agencies under the control of the department.

THE CHICAGO MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

SCIENTIFIC men of America and Europe will unite in an international tribute to Dr. Richard Willstätter, of Munich, at the eighty-sixth meeting of the American Chemical Society. The meeting, under the presidency of Professor Arthur B. Lamb, of Harvard University, will be held in Chicago in connection with the Century of Progress Exposition from September 10 to 15.

More than 3,000 men and women of science, said to be the largest number ever to attend a convention of the society, are expected to participate. Addresses will be delivered by Dr. Willstätter; Professor George Barger, of the University of Edinburgh; Professor J. N. Brønsted, of the University of Copenhagen, and Dr. Paul Karrer, of Zurich. Practically every professional division of the society will be represented. The fields to be covered include industry, agriculture and food, medicine, gas and fuel, public health, education, petroleum, dyes, rubber, sugar, water, sewage and sanitation.

The central event will be the presentation on Wednesday evening, September 13, of the Willard Gibbs Medal to Dr. Willstätter, who was Nobel Prize Laureate in chemistry in 1925. This is one of the highest honors in American chemical science, and is awarded annually by the Chicago section. At the medal ceremony Dr. Willstätter, dealing with popular aspects of chemistry, will speak on "One Chemist's Retrospects and Prospects." He will deliver the formal medal address on Thursday afternoon, September 14, at a symposium before the sections of organic chemistry, biochemistry and medicinal chemistry, on "Recent Advances in the Nature of En-