the great medical teaching and research centers of Europe. Even were these centers still operating, access to them by North and South Americans alike is unattainable. As a result, an ever-increasing rapprochement is developing between the scientists of the Western Hemisphere. For the first time, perhaps, many of us are becoming acquainted, exchanging ideas, knowledge and culture.

To further these ends the Bureau of Clinical Information of the academy has made provisions to welcome medical visitors from the American countries and to extend to them the facilities it possesses for the pursuit of knowledge. A Spanish physician who can converse in Spanish, Portuguese and English will be available to the medical visitors from the Republics of Central and South America.

This bureau provides information regarding opportunities for post-graduate medical study in New York or other medical centers of the United States, and particularly publishes a *Daily Bulletin* of clinics, meetings, lectures, conferences, hospital rounds and other interesting medical activities in New York which are freely open to medical visitors.

At the academy itself, many lectures and conferences are held to which visiting physicians are welcomed. The library is one of the largest of its kind in the United States. Its files of American and foreign periodicals are very complete. A bibliographic and photostat service is available for visitors at the usual library rates. The library itself is open to the public every week day from 9 to 5 o'clock.

THE SHORTAGE OF TECHNICALLY TRAINED CHEMISTS

THE American Chemical Society has made public a survey of one hundred and eighteen colleges and twenty-nine chemical corporations and has issued a statement to the effect that present and impending shortages of technically trained men in the army of production threaten to hamper the war effort of the nation.

The survey was conducted by the Defense Committee of the society, consisting of Professor Roger Adams, head of the department of chemistry at the University of Illinois, *chairman;* Dr. James B. Conant, president of Harvard University; Professor Warren K. Lewis, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Dr. Thomas Midgley, Jr., of Worthington, Ohio, vice-president of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation; Dr. Edward R. Weidlein, director of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, Pittsburgh; Dr. Robert E. Wilson, president of Pan American Petroleum and Transport Company, New York; and Dr. Charles L. Parsons, of Washington, D. C., secretary of the society.

It is reported by the committee that many chemical companies complained that production is falling off, and that future production is jeopardized by the withdrawal of trained chemists and chemical engineers from industry. An "appalling shortage" of trained individuals in chemistry and chemical engineering is shown by the colleges, which reported almost without exception that chemical or chemical engineering alumni are all employed and that current demands can not be supplied. Harvard University disclosed that the present shortage of trained chemists is the most serious in its experience.

That essential industry needs in 1942 from 2,000 to 3,000 more chemists and chemical engineers than will be graduated or are otherwise available, and "no one knows whence they are to come," was the situation brought out by a canvass of corporations representing a cross-section of the chemical industry. It is pointed out that "magnesium, aluminum, transparent plastics, rubber, explosives, medicinals and innumerable minor but essential supplies needed by the Army, Navy, Signal, Sanitary and Medical Corps, can be produced only under the guidance of trained engineering and chemical personnel."

The official statement, which is signed by Dr. Charles L. Parsons, secretary of the society, reads:

> The Army and Navy are deeply concerned. Investigations made by this organization prove that trained personnel to produce this material is lacking. Not only the finished product but also the raw material going into smokeless powder, rubber, etc., can be produced only under the active control of experienced chemists and chemical engineers. There is far greater immediate danger to the ultimate outcome of the war from shortages of such man power than there is from any lack of officers and men in the combat force. Without production of essential materials the war will be lost, since the combat forces can not exist without material.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE John Scott Medals and Premiums of the City of Philadelphia were presented on February 13 at the midwinter meeting of the American Philosophical Society to Major Edwin H. Armstrong, professor of electrical engineering at Columbia University, for his work in frequency modulation in radio and to Dr. Robert R. Williams, chemical director of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, for his work on thiamin (vitamin B_1).

THE Edison Medal of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers was presented at the annual meeting to Dr. J. B. Whitehead, professor of electrical