construction has been based on this group of reports. Sixty-one of the reports relate to substitution and conservation and this group has served as a basis of many substitution and conservation orders of the War Production Board.

Reports of general interest which are not secret or confidential have been mimeographed for general distribution and copies may be obtained from Ernst Hergenroether, Room 3116, Railroad Retirement Building, Washington, D. C. The academy assumes the responsibility of selecting the members of the technological committees both from within and without its own membership. C. K. Leith, of the University of Wisconsin, acts as the agent of the War Production Board for the transmission of requests to the academy.

(2) The War Production Board has made extensive use of the services of the Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey. In fact, it has helped in securing extra funds from Congress for this purpose and has advised on a large part of the work of these two organizations in the field and laboratory since 1940.

(3) The War Production Board has used the Bureau of Standards for research and testing on several commodities.

(4) The branches of the War Production Board have instigated and utilized researches in many industrial laboratories. For instance, the Bureau of Industrial Conservation has used the research facilities of the American Bell Telephone Company, General Motors, Westinghouse, General Electric, Chrysler, the Battelle Institute, the Mellon Institute, the California Institute of Technology and others.

(5) The Inventors Council transmits to the War Production Board such reports of inventions as it thinks should have further attention. These go to Ernst Hergenroether, Bureau of Industrial Conservation, who passes them on the branches of the War Production Board concerned. Two new specialists are being appointed to help in this work.

In all the work above outlined, the principal object has been to mobilize existing technical information in the least possible time, and to do only such laboratory work as would yield results in time to be used in the war emergency. This necessarily has eliminated many researches which would be highly desirable from a longer range point of view.

The following additional steps are now being taken:

(1) A review is being made of the activities of divisions and branches of the War Production Board to make sure they are utilizing to best advantage all available opportunities for research. With the creation of new divisions and the turnover in personnel, we believe that even the existing facilities for research in some branches are not being fully utilized. Instances have come to our attention where there seemed to be no knowledge of the existing facilities.

(2) An effort is being made to improve the dissemination of the research reports through the various parts of the War Production Board, to insure wider publicity and to follow up the recommendations of these reports to see that they are actually used in the various administrative activities of the War Production Board.

(3) To make wider use of research facilities in the United States not now engaged in the war effort, the War Production Board has requested the National Research Council to appoint a committee to make recommendations to the board as to the most effective grouping of research facilities, by regions or by adaptation to classes of projects; as to desirable form of organization of these groups; and as to procedure to establish a two-way flow of ideas and projects between the War Production Board and the research groups that may be set up.

SYNTHETIC RUBBER

IT is stated in the *National Geographic News Bulletin* that as a center of synthetic rubber production, Voronezh, Russia, "anchor" of the northern Don front, is of special interest to Americans now concerned with their own manufacture of this material.

Voronezh normally is one of the Soviet Union's leading sources of rubber made from alcohol that has been processed from potatoes. Other important sources of this type of rubber are still out of range of immediate German attack; for example, Yaroslavl, northeast of Moscow, and Kazan, some 500 miles northeast of Voronezh.

Before the outbreak of the war, Soviet authorities claimed that their country was the world's largest producer of artificial or synthetic rubber. Moreover, its high quality was demonstrated as far back as 1933, when tires of such rubber were used in the extensive motor races across the Kara Kum Desert, in Central Asia.

With its expanding rubber and other industries, Voronezh was one of the fastest growing of Soviet Russia's industrial centers. In 1926, the city had a population of less than 125,000; by 1939, it had passed the 326,000 mark, including nearly 90,000 workers in factories and locomotive and other repair shops. It had a dozen colleges and universities, in which some ten thousand students were reported in training for the chemical, engineering, teaching and medical professions, as well as for agricultural and veterinarian work.

In addition to synthetic rubber, Voronezh specialized in manufactured food products, in vegetable oil from sunflower seeds, in turning out radio equipment, Diesel engines, tractor parts, machinery and machine tools. Like other rising industrial towns of the region, it drew fuel and raw materials from the rich coal and

iron deposits of the Don basin and from the fertile fields of the surrounding country of the central Black Soil area.

THE NATIONAL REGISTRY OF RARE CHEMICALS AT THE ARMOUR RESEARCH FOUNDATION

IN principle, the Registry of Rare Chemicals consists of a central file of information, through which a scientific worker can learn the location of a small or large amount of some urgently needed rare chemical.

1. Only chemicals not listed in the commonly available catalogues should be considered rare chemicals. However, newly developed chemicals should be reported as soon as possible even if cataloguing in the near future is anticipated. Small amounts on hand are important.

2. Information received on sources of chemicals will be filed. If a chemical is known under more than one name, this information will be helpful in identifying the compound when a request for it is received by the registry. Wherever possible the amount available should be given. In special cases, where individuals or organizations, for reasons of policy, wish to remain anonymous as sources of certain rare chemicals, the registry agrees to transmit actual chemicals without revealing the identity of the source.

3. Replies to requests for sources of chemicals will be made on post cards with attached return card. The return card serves the twofold purpose of acknowledging receipt of the information, and submitting data on new chemicals which may have become available. Telegraphic requests will be answered by wire collect.

4. If the registry inadvertently omits a source of chemicals when several are known, this oversight should not be interpreted as an expression of preference. Since the registry does not handle chemicals except as stated under (2) above, arrangements for any financial compensation for chemicals must be made between the owner and recipient of such chemicals.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

IT is stated in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that the Public Health Institute of the City of New York., Inc., will receive $100,000 a year for ten years for its researches on public health. The city and the institute, a non-profit scientific institution, have entered into a contract which went into effect on July 1 and is automatically renewable for similar periods of ten years unless previously abrogated. The money is to be used by the institute to carry on fundamental medical research by a staff of competent investigators under the direction of a research council composed of authorities in the fields of medicine, biology, physiology, nutrition, public health and related fields. The contract was signed after the legislature passed a bill authorizing cities to enter into such contracts with non-profit scientific institutions to carry on "research into matters pertaining to public health." Under the contract, the services to be rendered by the institute include the following:

> Research and investigation into the control of diseases such as influenza, poliomyelitis, arthritis, degenerative diseases and general physiologic problems such as nutrition.
>
> Generally to engage in laboratory experimentation and research in order to develop better and more economical biological products and improved technical procedures for use in combating diseases and epidemics.
>
> To aid and assist the director of the bureau of laboratories of the department of health in matters involving public health research.

The city, on its part, agrees "to permit the institute to use and to make available for such use part of the premises now occupied by the bureau of laboratories of the department of health at the William Hallock Park Laboratory, or any other building or premises owned, leased or controlled by the city suitable or proper for laboratory investigation and research, during the term of this agreement or its renewal, without any charge for rent, water, heat, light, janitorial services and maintenance. The annual payments of $100,000 for the ten-year period will be paid in quarter annual payments each year. The results of the institute's research "shall be the property of the city." Any discoveries of products or methods shall belong to the city as soon as made, for which there shall be no compensation. All patents issued to the city or to any of its employees shall be assigned immediately to the city, for which there shall be no compensation. David M. Heyman is president of the board of directors of the institute. Other members include the mayor, the controller, Health Commissioner John L. Rice; David Rockefeller, *vice-president;* Edwin F. Chinlund, *treasurer,* and David Morse, *secretary.* The research council, in charge of all scientific programs, will be directed by Dr. Thomas M. Rivers, of the Rockefeller Hospital. Other members are Dr. Eugene L. Opie, Dr. Henry L. Sherman, Dr. George Baehr, Dr. Michael Heidelberger and Dr. Ralph S. Muckenfuss, director of the bureau of laboratories.

SYMPOSIUM ON POTASH AT THE BUFFALO MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

AGRICULTURAL authorities of the United States and the Hawaiian Islands will make addresses in a symposium on "Potash" at the one hundred and fourth national meeting of the American Chemical Society to be held in Buffalo from September 7 to 11. It will be sponsored by the Division of Fertilizer Chemistry, of which Dr. H. B. Siems, of Swift and Company, Chicago, is chairman.

Dr. G. R. Mansfield, of the U. S. Geological Survey, will open the symposium with a discussion of Ameri-