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-

can potash deposits and reserves. Great reserves of unrefined run-of-mine salts, readily available, will more than equal any deficit in the refined salts that may develop. The wartime contribution of the American potash industry will be described by Dr. John W. Turrentine, of Washington, D. C., president of the American Potash Institute, who has been appointed chairman of the symposium. Twelve other scientific papers to be presented will deal with soil reactions and trace potassium through its many chemical and biological functions from the soil solution to the harvested crop. These reports will discuss important crops as experimental material. Dr. H. L. Garrard, senior field agronomist of the American Potash Institute, will close the program with a motion picture in color of "Potash Production in America," showing the potash mines and refineries of New Mexico and California.

According to a statement made by Dr. Turrentine, the outstanding wartime contribution of the potash industry is to make possible the great expansion in certain specified lines of agricultural production called for by the government—the "production goals." Foremost is food for Americans, now in a position to enjoy three full meals a day, because of their full-time, lucrative employment. Superimposed is food for the United Nations, to be expanded to include food for the peoples of occupied countries now devastated by invading tyrants, to be supplied when freed from their oppressors.

Included are food crops susceptible of preserving and concentrating, horticultural crops grown intensively which if produced profitably must be scientifically fertilized. Meat and dairy products are emphasized which if produced with optimum efficiency call for high quality, nutritive herbage—legumes and grasses—which can best be grown on properly fertilized fields and pastures.

The major use of potash is as a plant food, essential to profitable agriculture and for which there is no substitute. It is to this fact that it owes its commercial and social importance. Approximately 90 per cent. of the potash here produced is so used, most of it reaching the consumer, the farmer, as a constituent of commercial fertilizers in ratios with other plant foods recommended by agronomists—recommendations based on experimental evidence of what is most profitable for specific crops growing on specific soil types.

In the chemical field, the wartime contribution of potash to national independence, security and comfort likewise has been marked with outstanding success. These chemicals and their derivatives enter into innumerable peacetime applications and every-day usage. Chlorates, for example, are essential constituents of the modern match. Expansion in production to supply these normal, peacetime requirements has had to be further increased to provide for military requirements. Many potassium compounds are officially listed as of military importance.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. ALFRED N. RICHARDS, professor of pharmacology at the University of Pennsylvania, has been elected a foreign member of the Royal Society of London. Other foreign associates elected are Dr. L. Ruzicka, professor of organic chemistry in the Federal Technical College, Zurich; Dr. N. V. Vavilov, of Leningrad and Moscow, and Professor I. M. Vinogradov, of Moscow.

THE Heberden Society has awarded the Heberden Medal for research in rheumatic diseases for 1942 to Dr. Philip S. Hench, of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, "in recognition of his distinguished contributions to the subject over a number of years, and particularly of his most recent work on the effect of jaundice on the course of rheumatoid arthritis."

DR. RAY LYMAN WILBUR will continue as chancellor of Stanford University through the academic year of 1942–43 at the request of the board of trustees because of the war emergency. Dr. Wilbur reached Stanford's retirement age in 1940, but was asked to stay on through 1941, the fiftieth anniversary year of Stanford and the twenty-fifth year of his presidency. This is the third extension of tenure since Dr. Wilbur's retirement.

ON the retirement of Dr. Reginald A. Daly from the Sturgis-Hooper research professorship of geology at Harvard University, he will be succeeded by Dr. L. C. Graton, since 1912 professor of mining geology.

DR. W. N. LOWRY, professor of physics at Bucknell University, has been appointed chairman of the department, of which he has been a member for twenty years.

AT the Michigan College of Mining and Technology, Harry E. Krumlauf, mining engineering; Dr. R. F. Makens, chemistry, and E. P. Wiedenhoefer, civil engineering, have been promoted to associate professorships, and Russell J. Smith has been made assistant professor of metallurgical engineering.

DR. MAX EDWIN BRITTON, instructor in the department of botany of Northwestern University, has been promoted to an assistant professorship.

DR. HENRY T. HEALD, president of the Illinois Institute of Technology, has been elected president of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education.