American Friends of the Hebrew University report the scientific work being carried forward at the university as follows:

Industrial Research. Imports of materials required in industry having been reduced to minimal proportions, the manufacturers of Palestine are seeking to substitute such materials with local products. Many manufacturers have turned to the university for advice. A large number of factories are now using processes worked out for them in university laboratories.

Hormones and Vitamins. A recent instance of assistance to manufacturers is that of preparations of hormones and vitamins, previously imported, which have been developed from local substances in the laboratory of physiology. Several of these preparations are now being produced in commercial quantities. In this way a shortage of important drugs has been relieved and a stimulus given to the young pharmaceutical industry of Palestine.

Insulating Material. Inventors of a new insulating material made of papyrus from the Huleh swamps in Upper Galilee are receiving help from the department of physics in working out the technical manufacturing processes.

Chemical Research. Possibilities of developing basic chemical industries in Palestine are being closely studied in the university laboratories, and small model plants have been erected where graduate students of the university participate in the research work. One of these plants is being used by the department of inorganic and analytical chemistry in the production of sulfuric acid, an essential element of production which was imported before the war.

Scientific Apparatus. Still another way in which Palestinian industry is served by the university is in the construction of precision scientific apparatus and instruments which were imported before the war and which are now being made nowhere in the Middle East except in the laboratories and workshops of the university. The university participated in the Palestine Industrial Exhibition in Cairo last summer so that the manufacturers of other Middle Eastern countries might become aware of its industrial services. In a broadcast from Jerusalem on December 8 D. de Betherl, officer in charge of the Cairo Exhibit, lauded the "astonishing scientific and technical resources of Palestine, and particularly of the Hebrew University and its research institutes."

Nutrition. The department of hygiene and bacteriology has assumed as one of its chief tasks the creation of minimal wartime diets. The department also gives close scrutiny to foodstuffs offered for sale in wartime and to advising the Palestine population in regard to diets suited to local conditions of climate. Professor I. J. Kligler, head of the department, is chairman of the Nutrition Committee of the Jewish Agency's Economic Research Institute.

Courses for Physicians. Intensive courses for Palestinian physicians and for physicians of the military troops stationed in Palestine are being given under the joint auspices of the Hebrew University Medical School and the Rothschild Hadassah University Hospital. Professor Saul Adler, head of the department of parasitology, has lectured on the diagnosis of malaria; Dr. Dov Ashbel, head of the meteorological laboratory, on the influence of climate on health; Dr. E. Wertheimer, professor of pathological physiology, on recent developments in biochemistry; Professor Dybowski, of the department of parasitology, and Dr. G. Witenberg, lecturer in helminthology, on tropical diseases; Dr. I. Leibowitz, acting head of the department of chemistry in the Cancer Research Institute, on nutrition. Clinical lectures were given by Professor A. Feigenbaum on diseases of the eye; by Dr. J. Kleeberg and Dr. M. Rachmilewitz on endemic diseases, and Dr. B. Gruenfelder on children's diseases.

New School of Pharmacology. The Hadassah University Pharmacological Institute, opened in May, is meeting war needs and is supplementing shrinking drug supplies threatening to create health hazards in Palestine. The institute has launched a program of clinical research laboratory work in the extraction of vitamins, hormones and allied substances. Established by Hadassah, the new institute is staffed by investigators associated with the Hebrew University and the Rothschild Hadassah University Hospital.

Agriculture. At the beginning of the winter term, eighteen students of agriculture, who had taken the required courses in natural science for two years, were placed in several settlements for a year's practical training on the land. The year of practical work will be followed by two years' study of agricultural science in Rehovoth.

THE HANDBOOK OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SOCIETIES AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

THE National Research Council has recently issued the fourth edition of a "Handbook of Scientific and Technical Societies and Institutions of the United States and Canada" (National Research Council *Bulletin* No. 106, January, 1942; 389 pages). The United States section contains information on 1,269 societies, associations and similar organizations in the natural sciences and related fields that contribute to the advancement of knowledge through their meetings, publications and other resources. There are also included a number of more general organizations and special institutions supporting scientific research, as well as the constituent or affiliated societies of the three other national research councils of the United States—the American Council of Learned Societies, the American Council on Education and the Social Science Research Council. The Canadian section, compiled through the cooperation of the National Research Council of Canada, contains information concerning 143 organizations.

The handbook gives, in most cases, the president and secretary of the organization; the history, object,

membership, meetings, research funds and serial publications. A subject index to each section (United States and Canadian) includes a classification of the activities, funds, periodicals and changes of name as reported in the history. The fourth edition has a personnel index also for each section.

The information for the fourth edition was furnished by the organizations during the period from July 1, 1941, to January 15, 1942.

THE REORGANIZATION OF THE BUREAU OF MINES

Chemical and Engineering News gives an account of the reorganization of the essential operating structure of the U. S. Bureau of Mines to speed the expanded program of providing strategic and critical minerals for the nation's war needs. Three regional offices are being established at Salt Lake City, Utah, for the western states; at Rolla, Mo., for the central states, and at College Park, Md., for the eastern and southern states. Each office will be headed by a regional engineer and an assistant regional engineer, whose functions will be to supervise, initiate and execute approved investigations leading to the more rapid use of mineral resources in the region under their supervision. Under jurisdiction of the regional engineers will be district engineers assigned to states or districts within the respective regions, project engineers, other technologists and scientists and clerical and laboratory help. The regional engineers, under terms of the order, will take over all the functions and duties in the field previously assigned to the Mining, Metallurgical and Nonmetals Divisions of the Technologic Branch, which are now abolished. To advise the office of the director and to perform fact-finding functions and handle reports from the regional engineers, a Resources and Laboratories Service, containing a Mineral Processes Division, a Mining Division and a Laboratories Planning Division, has been established with a small staff in Washington.

The order also provides for the establishment of a Fuel and Explosives Service within the bureau, which will take over the Coal Division, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Division and the Explosives Division, all of which were part of the abolished Technologic Branch. Operation of the helium plant at Amarillo will be under the jurisdiction of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Division, as formerly. All laboratories working exclusively on petroleum or exclusively on coal will also operate under the chief of the Fuels and Explosives Service, as will sections of other laboratories devoted to petroleum, gas or coal. Other laboratories are transferred to the appropriate regional offices.

The Health and Safety Service of the bureau remains unchanged and will continue to include the Health, Safety, Coal Mine Inspection, Explosives Control and Mineral Production Security Divisions.

It is also reported in *Chemical and Engineering News* that a $500,000 electro-development laboratory, where U. S. Bureau of Mines metallurgists plan to study the recovery and processing of minerals from the Pacific Northwest with electrical energy from Bonneville and Grand Coulee Dams, will be established in that region within the near future. With part of the funds appropriated by Congress for the Interior Department, the bureau proposes to build and operate the new laboratory somewhere within a reasonable distance of the two government power plants to provide a long-term and diversified market for large supplies of energy. As soon as a location is selected—probably within a radius of 200 miles of the Bonneville and Grand Coulee Dams on the Columbia River—erection of the laboratory will be started.

The new station will be known as the Northwest Electro-Development Laboratory and will be staffed by 40 or 50 metallurgists and assistants. It will be equipped with electric furnaces and electrolytic cells of various types, ore-crushing and concentrating machinery, chemical laboratory and machine shop equipment and other miscellaneous installations. Operation of the completed laboratory will be in charge of R. S. Dean, assistant director of the bureau, with headquarters in Washington, D. C.

Investigations will be directed, among other things, toward improving existing or developing new methods of recovering magnesium metal from magnesite deposits. Production of aluminum from the abundant clays and alunite of that region will be probed thoroughly, as will methods to produce ferroalloys from tungsten, vanadium, manganese and chromium ores.

THE AMERICAN STANDARDS ASSOCIATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF WAR STANDARDS

THE Federal Government has entered into a contract with the American Standards Association for the use of the facilities of the association in the development of emergency or "war" standards for the War Production Board and the Office of Price Administration. The contract is being executed by the Office of Emergency Management on behalf of the War Production Board and the Office of Price Administration. Under it the American Standards Association is to provide services in creating standards which include one or more of the following items, and any other assignments or projects which may be requested by the Government which come within the scope of the association.

Nomenclature

Uniformity in dimensions to provide for interchange-