

and in at least 53 they are handled every time the covers of the species they represent are taken out, even for routine determination, filing, etc. Over a period of years this handling inevitably results in breakage.

Considering that types are irreplaceable and that they are one of the basic assets of the science of botany, the complacency of American botanists is indeed remarkable. That many European scientific

institutions have been severely damaged by bombs is an indisputable fact. Yet apparently only three institutions in the United States are taking steps during the war to get their types out of bombing range. This is almost beyond belief, considering the magnitude of steps taken in other aspects of civilian defense throughout the nation.

F. R. FOSBERG

FALLS CHURCH, VA.

## QUOTATIONS

### THE PITTSBURGH MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE<sup>1</sup>

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR  
THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE:

WHEN the American Association for the Advancement of Science and all similar societies planned their winter meetings, the present situation could not have been foreseen. We had not even entered the war, and did not dream of a congestion of transportation such as now exists. When the present situation had developed, it was (in the opinion of a majority of the committee having power) too late to postpone our meeting.

Transportation is now so greatly overtaxed that necessities of life can barely be carried; the railways should be spared every extra burden. Great simultaneous pilgrimages on important trunk lines are especially to be avoided, since they demand extra trains, needing extra locomotives and coal, and causing much confusion. Therefore, in my opinion it behooves every patriotic and unselfish member to consider very seriously whether he can really serve his country by attending the meeting, or whether he can not better serve in this fateful time by staying at home, especially during a period of highly congested travel, when many of our soldiers may wish to take

leave of their families before departing for the front. I believe that only those persons bringing really important contributions to the problems of the war should attend such meetings now. All others, in my opinion, should conserve their money for Liberty bonds and for those in distress, and should save their strength for action in this time of extraordinary crisis. For these reasons, with great regret, I have decided not to attend the meeting at Pittsburgh.

So far as I have been able to ascertain, all the responsible authorities at Washington concerned with transportation agree with me as to the importance of avoiding unnecessary journeys in such a crisis.

The very great usefulness of the American Association for the Advancement of Science is not dependent upon the unbroken continuity of its social meetings.

Science is incalculably important, indeed indispensable, in this world-wide cataclysm. The excellent work of the association in the past is now bearing fruit; but this moment demands action rather than general discussion. We must devote all our energies to winning the war. Let us all make every endeavor to apply our knowledge and strength in our country's noble cause.

THEODORE W. RICHARDS,  
*President of the Association*

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.,  
DECEMBER 15, 1917.

## SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

### CHEMISTRY

*The Chemistry of Organic Medicinal Products.* By GLENN L. JENKINS and WALTER H. HARTUNG. xii + 457 pp. Planographed by John S. Swift Co., Inc., St. Louis. 1941. 6½ × 9½ in. \$3.00. Bound in stiff paper.

THIS book, by the dean of the Purdue University School of Pharmacy and the professor of pharmaceutical chemistry of the School of Pharmacy of the University of Maryland, has been written primarily

<sup>1</sup> SCIENCE, December 28, 1917, p. 638.

as a text-book for those advanced students in pharmacy who have had the requisite training in chemistry, particularly organic chemistry, but should prove useful also to the organic chemist interested in this field and to the medical practitioner who wishes to know something more about the chemistry of the drugs he is prescribing.

The classification of the subject-matter is strictly chemical, although not following entirely the customary division into the major groups of I. Acyclic (or Aliphatic), II. Isocyclic, and III. Heterocyclic.