

THE AMERICAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON CORROSION

THE fifth annual meeting of the American Coordinating Committee on Corrosion was held on April 10 in Pittsburgh, coincident with a one-day symposium on corrosion problems sponsored by the Corrosion Division of the Electrochemical Society, meeting in Pittsburgh on April 8, 9 and 10. Dr. R. B. Mears was elected committee chairman for 1943-44, F. L. LaQue was named vice-chairman and Dr. G. H. Young was re-elected secretary-treasurer. The headquarters are at the Mellon Institute in Pittsburgh.

The committee was organized five years ago to coordinate research activities in this field, and is patterned after similar organizations abroad. As its first contribution, it undertook to survey existing corrosion investigations in this country. Information report forms were submitted to some 600 individuals and companies, through the executive offices of the member organizations of the committee. From the data thus accumulated there was issued in 1940 a confidential Directory of Corrosion Investigators and a classified list of subjects, which was sent to all persons officially listed in the directory. This directory has since been expanded to include additional investigators and to broaden its subject classification. A new revision is planned for 1943.

The committee is at present composed of official delegates from the American Foundrymen's Association, the American Gas Association, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Society for Metals, the American Society of Refrigerating Engineers, the American Society for Testing Materials, the American Water Works Association, the American Welding Society, the Armour Research Foundation, the Battelle Memorial Institute, the Electrochemical Society, the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, the National Bureau of Standards, the National District Heating Association, the National Research Council and the Society of Automotive Engineers. In addition, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Canadian National Research Council were elected to membership.

THE BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

THE thirty-second annual report of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, just published, records the fact that almost every activity of the garden during 1942 has been determined or modified by the attack on Pearl Harbor and the events that followed. Several pages of the report are devoted to the wartime activities of the garden and its many cooperations with national, state and local agencies. These include extensive victory garden work, with classes and lectures, the main-

tenance of a model victory garden, wide-spread service through the bureau of public information and the publication and distribution of leaflets on vegetable gardening. More than 125 trees and shrubs and quantities of herbaceous material have been contributed for planting at army camps, nearly 230 books were contributed for the libraries maintained by the United Service Organizations and other agencies, and nearly \$5,000 of war stamps and bonds have been purchased by 60 employees. Members of the Kings County War Savings Staff were given permits to sell stamps and bonds in the garden, and the Office of Civilian Defense, with a permit for a table in the garden, enrolled volunteers in twelve different war services, including blood donors, nurses' aids, etc.

Flowers were sent weekly to the Naval Hospital near the Brooklyn Navy Yard; Camp Upton, L. I., was supplied with more than 2,000 ornamental plants for the camp gardens, ornamental plants were supplied to the Service Club Library at Fort Hamilton, about two tons of scrap metal were turned in, and the Office of War Information was given information on the proposed utilization for food of native wild plants of various European countries.

The report includes records of progress in investigation in plant diseases, plant breeding and other aspects of botany, the distribution to more than 600 schools, in every borough of Greater New York, of nearly 1,316,000 packets of seeds to children for planting in school and home gardens, and the attendance of more than 59,500 at classes and lectures during the year, with a registration of nearly 1,300 adults. The registered attendance at the garden for the year 1942 was 1,660,046.

THE RADCLIFFE CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF THE SIGMA XI

THE establishment of a Radcliffe Chapter of the Society of the Sigma Xi has met with some delay because of the unique conditions prevalent in the college. Although its administration is separate from that of Harvard University, all instructors and professors are members of the Harvard faculty and many are members of the Harvard Chapter.

Fifty-nine science instructors and professors teaching at both institutions signed the petition for the chapter on March 24, 1942. It was granted at the forty-third annual convention of the national organization on December 29. Formal installation at Radcliffe College took place on April 15.

Professor Harlow Shapley, national president, and Professor Edward Ellery, past-president and president at the time the petition was granted, were the installing officers. The ceremonies were less formal than is usual on such occasions. Following a tea in Byerly Hall, the science building, the petitioners and

delegates assembled in the Ghirlandajo Room of Agassiz House, where the installing officers spoke briefly on the significance of the society and its major activities, especially of its national lectureships and publications.

Officers were elected as follows: *President*, Dr. Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin; *Vice-president*, Dr. Elizabeth Deichmann; *Member of the Executive Committee*, Dr. Ytte Muus, and *Secretary-Treasurer*, Dr. Dorrit Hoffleit, all members of the Harvard Chapter. Professors F. M. Carpenter, Grinnell Jones, E. A. Hooton, H. R. Mimno and D. S. Whittlesey were elected members of the committee on membership of the Radcliffe Chapter. The charter was then presented by National President Shapley to Chapter President Payne-Gaposchkin.

In the evening over a hundred members, delegates and guests of the chapter, including Radcliffe graduate students in scientific fields, were entertained at the college. Dr. F. L. Hisaw acted as toastmaster. Dr. Shapley pointed out that this year marks several important scientific anniversaries—the one hundredth anniversary of Harvard College Observatory, the two hundredth of the birth of Thomas Jefferson, the three hundredth of Newton's and the four hundredth of the death of Copernicus. He spoke mainly on various activities for the promotion of science.

The principal address of the evening was given by Dr. Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin, who spoke on "The Scholar and the World."

DORRIT HOFFLEIT,
Secretary-Treasurer

POSITIONS WITH THE NAVY

THE Navy needs capable men for staff duties in the administration of occupied areas of foreign lands. Candidates with a background of education and experience in government administration may qualify.

Foreign travel, particularly in the Far East and Southwest Pacific region, is desirable; also a knowledge of the customs, language and character of the people in these areas. Applicants with similar experience and knowledge of other foreign areas will be considered if they meet one or more of the following qualifications:

Administrative experience of an important nature, domestic or foreign, involving government, business, foundations, schools of public administration, etc.

Educational experience in State and Federal governments, university administrators; also teachers in fields of geography, economic and international relations.

Engineering experience: construction of public works, shipping, public utilities, transportation, etc.

Legal training and experience of an important nature indicated by relative importance of position in profession or related field, preferably public service.

Candidates must be in good physical condition and be capable of absorbing intensive instruction in a one-year course in government. Commissions in the U. S. Naval Reserve will be granted immediately and applicants who qualify will be on an active duty status. All educational expenses will be paid by the Navy. Service of these officers will extend beyond the expiration of the war.

Qualified candidates should apply to the nearest Naval Office of Officer Procurement. These offices are located in all major cities.

THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY AND THE KILGORE BILL

IN accordance with information received from the American Chemical Society the directors of the society oppose the establishment of an Office of War Mobilization as proposed in Senator Kilgore's bill. Dr. Charles L. Parsons, secretary of the society, reports that

In the opinion of the directors there is no necessity for the enactment of such legislation now. Their objections can be summarized briefly by stating that these bills confer totalitarian powers that should be entrusted to no human being, and require an omniscience for their intelligent execution which is not to be found on this earth.

The directors believe that the enactment of these bills into law at this time would serve no good purpose in so far as the mobilization of technical resources in the field of chemistry is concerned. The Government now has at its command every resource in the fields of chemistry and chemical engineering.

In support of the position taken by the directors, Dr. Parsons points out that the membership of the society, which includes practically all the leading chemists and chemical engineers of the country organized into 101 local sections, varying in size from 30 to 2,500 each, is solidly behind the war effort. Its publications are described as "a complete key to all that is new in chemical discovery and development." They go to all agencies of the Government engaged in the war effort and in addition they go to all war plants engaged in the war effort which in any way deal with the field of chemistry, and they go to practically all the research laboratories in the United States as well as to all educational institutions with chemical departments.

The chief of the Chemicals and Allied Products Branch of the War Production Board is reported to have stated that "without the publications of the society, the laboratories of our colleges, of our Government and of our industries could not efficiently function. These journals are a contribution to the