

eminently fitted for the important office, but one who, though personally quite irreproachable, was totally ignorant of the operations of the great organization which he was called upon to direct and whose previous training and experience are such as to leave little hope that he will ever be able to acquire more than a very superficial knowledge of these operations.

The incident, with others of a similar character recently brought into public notice, serves to illustrate the folly of making appointments to places in the government demanding special qualifications for either personal or political reasons. Happily the practise is becoming more infrequent as administrations come and go and the more the people realize its costly and disastrous consequences the sooner it will disappear entirely.

R.

THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING

IN view of the critical importance of the issues pending before the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, it is important that a general expression of views by college and university professors be available. The issues relate to the privileges of retirement and the proposed provisions for insurance and annuities which the foundation has offered in their place. The report of the Committee on Pensions of the American Association of University Professors will soon be available. A group of influential universities have published replies to the proposals of the foundation. The undersigned has published in *School and Society* (October 7, 1916) a general review of the ten years of activity of the foundation with special reference to the pending issues. These several expressions indicate a general and emphatic opposition to the steps proposed by the foundation; they enter into detailed consideration of the grounds upon which such opposition is based. Upon the basis of these documents individual opinions are desired indicating how far and in what respects the contentions are approved. Statements of general approval and disapproval as well as of specific positions approved or disapproved will be helpful in reaching a fair indication of

the judgment of those interested. Communications should be made promptly.

JOSEPH JASTROW

MADISON, WIS.

QUOTATIONS

THE BRITISH COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

THE report of the Committee of the Privy Council for Scientific and Industrial Research for the year 1915-16 has recently been issued. The sum at its disposal for the financial year 1915-16 was £25,000, out of which £4,250 was granted to the Royal Society. For the current financial year 1916-17 the vote was £40,000, and at the close of the academic year a sum not exceeding £8,000 will have been granted to a number of individual research workers, students and others. In an appendix is the first annual report of the advisory council. It consists of Sir William S. McCormick (chairman), Lord Rayleigh, Sir George T. Beilby, Mr. W. Duddell, Professor J. A. McClelland, the Hon. Sir Charles A. Parsons, Professor J. F. Thorpe and Mr. Richard Threlfall. There are three standing committees—on engineering, metallurgy, and mining, respectively. A sketch is given of government action in the present century previous to May, 1915, when the presidents of the boards of trade and education received a deputation from the royal and other learned societies, urging the need for government assistance for scientific research for industrial purposes, and the establishment of closer relations between the manufacturers and scientific workers and teachers. The government scheme was issued a couple of months later, and the special committee of the privy council and the advisory council itself were thereupon set up. The object of both committee and council was to be the establishment of "a permanent organization for the promotion of industrial scientific research." Thus was recognized the necessity for organizing the national brain power in the interests of the nation at peace. War has remained as much an art as ever, but its instruments are now not only forged by the man of science, but they need a scientific training for their effect-