

the output of the country's minerals which will prove of value in winning the war. The American Institute of Mining Engineers now numbers more than 6,000 members in every part of the country and in many parts of the world and representatives will be present of all the principal American mining centers. The program calls for several days' sessions in and around St. Louis and an inspection tour to the rich mineral Joplin-Miami district and the oil fields of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The engineers will be guests of the St. Louis section of the institute, the chairmen of committees including H. A. Buehler, state geologist of Missouri; F. W. De Wolf, Illinois, past president of the Association of State Geologists; James E. Caselton, St. Louis; A. H. Wheeler, St. Louis; E. F. Goltra, St. Louis. Philip N. Moore, of St. Louis, is president of the American Institute of Mining Engineers.

THE Société de Chimie Industrielle has been founded in Paris to promote the science of chemistry as applied to industry. We learn from a statement in *Nature* that local provincial branches will be formed which, while being self-governing, will keep in touch with the parent society. The society will institute research work with the view of assisting manufacturers and agriculturists. An institute and library are in contemplation which will contain a complete collection of French and foreign periodicals devoted to industrial chemistry, and the society hopes to arrange for meetings, exhibitions, etc., to stimulate activity. A review—the first number of which is expected to be published shortly—will keep manufacturers posted in the latest developments at home and abroad, describe inventions and processes, and, generally, fill a want that has been long felt in France. The first council of the society contains many names prominent in the scientific and industrial world.

THE War Council of the American Red Cross has established a Bureau of Sanitary Service under the direction of Dr. W. H. Frost. An appropriation of \$800,000 has been made for the use of the bureau. This step has been taken in order to meet the new conditions which will arise as a consequence of

bringing together so many men as will be mobilized throughout the country. The Bureau of Sanitary Service will supervise and aid in such operations as will tend to make health conditions about the camps as nearly ideal as possible. Increased forces will be provided for milk inspection, war will be made on malaria-carrying mosquitoes, and a radius of from fifteen to sixty square miles outside of the camps will be policed for the protection of the health of the men. Sanitary units will be furnished to the areas upon the request of the civil authorities.

THE council of the British Medical Association has reported that the only possible method of placing the health administration of the country on a sound basis was by the creation of a Ministry of Health. Their recommendations are as follows:

That a ministry of health should be created to take over from existing government departments such duties as are concerned with the health of the community, and to deal with those duties only; that the administrative functions of the ministry should be carried out by a board presided over by a minister of Cabinet rank; that the country be divided into suitable administrative areas under local administrative health centers consisting of representatives (*a*) of the rating authorities; (*b*) of the education authorities; (*c*) of the persons contributing to a scheme of health insurance (including employers of labor); (*d*) the medical profession; (*e*) public hospitals; (*f*) dentists; (*g*) pharmacists, and (*h*) nurses; that the principal medical officers of each center should be two, of equal status, one representing the clinical side (chief clinical officer) and the other the preventive side of medicine (medical officer of health); that for each area, hospitals, clinics, or treatment centers should be recognized or established at which persons entitled to treatment under the public scheme should be able to obtain institutional, consultative or specialist services on the recommendation of their medical attendant.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

For the Oklahoma College and Station a science building to cost \$100,000 was authorized by the last legislature.

By the will of the late Sir Charles Holcroft a bequest of £5,000 is made to the University

of Birmingham, to establish a Charles Holfcroft Research Fund.

FUNDS for the new chemical laboratories at University College, London, have been raised by a committee, of which Prince Arthur of Connaught is president and Captain the Hon. Rupert Guinness chairman and treasurer. The cost of the site, building and equipment will be £120,000. £100,000 has already been raised, leaving £20,000 to be found. In order to facilitate the immediate provision of this, Sir Ralph C. Forster, who has already subscribed generously to the cost of the laboratories, has promised £5,000 on condition that the remaining £15,000 is raised speedily.

A SCHOOL of Mines has been organized at Washington State College at Pullman. Under the new plan, the department of mining becomes one of the eight schools or colleges that comprise this state institution, and Professor Francis A. Thompson, head of the department, becomes dean of the School of Mines. Full facilities will be available for instruction in, and treating ores by, all standard forms of treatment, including leaching, amalgamation, concentration, roasting and smelting. A special laboratory will be devoted to the flotation process.

A. B. MCDANIEL, former assistant professor of civil engineering, University of Illinois, has been given administrative charge of the general engineering department of Union College, Schenectady, N. Y.

H. B. ELLENBERGER, Ph.D. (Cornell), has been appointed associate professor of animal and dairy husbandry at the College of Agriculture of the University of Vermont.

PROFESSOR HENRI ROGER has been appointed dean of the school of medicine of the University of Paris, to succeed the late Professor Landouzy.

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#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE TEACHING CHEMISTRY AND TEACHING CHEMISTS

LOOKING over the lists of chemistry courses offered in the various colleges and universities, one is impressed by the thoroughness with which the field has been covered. To suggest

additions to the already long lists may seem, at first thought, uncalled for. There is a group of courses so obviously essential that we find them taught in every university, and there is a pretty clear understanding of what courses belong to this group. Supplementing this basic group are numerous courses extending and amplifying it in various directions determined by local influences, traditions and training of the staff members. The scheme has one serious defect, which is that there is seldom to be found in the whole list of courses, a single one designed to give the would-be chemist an intelligent and comprehensive idea of the science of chemistry, its history, literature, and rôle in a modern civilized world. A man who diligently pursues the courses offered will undoubtedly attain to a considerable knowledge of the laws, facts and theories of chemistry. Will he then be a chemist?

The writer was recently called upon to grade the examination papers of contestants for the Alpha Chi Sigma Scholarship Medal. There were eighteen contestants, representing ten prominent universities or colleges. Contestants were all in the second semester of the junior year and, since they undertook to compete in a scholarship examination, may be considered as somewhat more alert than their classmates. That grades attained would differ widely was to be expected. The sequence of courses is not the same in the schools represented, and various other factors contribute to make it difficult to get an adequate measure of the relative standing of students; but, allowing for all these, there was clearly shown a striking lack of information and of view point whenever the questions of the examination passed beyond the field of strictly chemical facts, laws and theories. A few examples will illustrate the point: Of the eighteen contestants, eight were unable to name a single American journal of chemistry, eleven were unable to name an English journal, thirteen could not name a French journal, and eight could not name a German journal. Of the eighteen contestants, only five could name a general treatise on inorganic chemistry; only nine could name such a work on organic