SUMMARY OF THE PRODUCTION OF POTASH IN THE UNITED STATES, JANUARY TO JUNE (INCLUSIVE), 1917

Source	Available Potash (K_2O)	Value at Point of Shipment
Natural salts or brines ...	7,749	$2,808,240
Alunite and dust from cement mills and blast furnaces	1,867	746,576
Kelp	2,143	1,348,095
Distillery slop, wool washings and miscellaneous industrial wastes	2,153	876,714
Wood ashes	111[1]	84,414
	14,023	$5,864,039

The production from Searles Lake, Calif., would undoubtedly be materially assisted by passage of the legislation now before the House of Representatives dealing with the leasing of potash-bearing lands. Continued uncertainty as to the status of titles to this property has hampered development of this important deposit.

No production is reported from feldspar or other silicate rocks, but considerable quantities of potash salts and potash-bearing fertilizers were obtained from the dusts in cement mills and blast furnaces.

The production from kelp was about 15 per cent. of the total, as it was in 1916.

Potash from distillery slop and other organic sources made 15 per cent. or more of the total.

The production of potash from wood ashes, including "first sorts," "pearlash" and other grades, is supposed to have been much greater than it was in 1916, but reports from these producers have been much delayed and the figures obtained thus far are probably not representative. The potash made from wood ashes thus far reported amounted to 222 tons, which is assumed to average at least 50 per cent. K_2O. This is perhaps too low, but definite information as to the grade of this material is difficult to obtain.

The prices quoted range from $3.50 to $6 a unit, a unit meaning 1 per cent. of potash (K_2O) in a ton of the material as marketed—that is, a product carrying 25 per cent. K_2O may be sold at $4 a unit, which would be $100 a ton for the material marketed.

The figures given seem to indicate that the production for 1917 will exceed 25,000 tons of potash (K_2O) or two and one half times that made in 1916. This is about 10 per cent. of the average normal yearly consumption of the country before the war, showing the need of further stimulating domestic production of potash.

[1] Only 25 reports of production from wood ashes have come in, some of the larger producers not having made returns.

THE MUSEUM OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

THE annual report of the Conservator of the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, as abstracted in the *British Medical Journal*, contains a review of work done in the museum. Professor Keith states that besides routine investigations carried on by the staff, Dr. Colin Mackenzie had not only continued his inquiries into the anatomy and physiology of Australian mammals, but acting also as a member of the honorary staff at the Military Orthopedic Hospital, Shepherd's Bush, had found it advantageous to combine his work at the hospital with a research, bearing on his cases, in the workrooms of the College. The comparative anatomy of the muscles of the forearm appears to throw much light on their exact significance in man which may prove of value in surgery. The specimens of bone grafts which accompanied Major E. W. Hey Groves's Jacksonian Prize Essay are distinguished in the report as of particular merit. Many preparations of value have been added to the pathological, teratological, and particularly to the anthropological series; the latter include prehistoric human bones unearthed during trenching operations, not only in home drill but also at the front. The four complete skeletons of gorillas, each representing a different stage of growth, collected in the German Cameroons, and generously purchased and presented to the museum by Sir John Bland-Sutton, will provide an opportunity of illustrating various stages in the growth of that anthropoid which, in a structural sense, is man's nearest relation. Among drawings ac-

quired by the museum is a sketch made for John Hunter representing a duck which had partially assumed the plumage of a drake, a subject in which he was greatly interested. Lastly, we may add that the executors of Dr. Robert Roxburgh have presented the original mechanical spray apparatus which Lord Lister employed in the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, and exhibited at the Plymouth meeting of the British Medical Association in 1871 during the course of his address in surgery. It had two nozzles attached to independent caoutchouc tubes, furnishing large clouds of spray, that could be directed, if necessary, to opposite sides of the part operated on. Dr Roxburgh was Lister's last house-surgeon at the Royal Infirmary. Lister went to King's College, London, to fill the chair of clinical surgery in succession to Sir William Fergusson in 1877.

THE MAYO FOUNDATION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

The board of regents of the University of Minnesota have ratified by unanimous vote the permanent agreement making the Mayo Foundation at Rochester the absolute property of the university, to be used perpetually for higher medical education and research. Securities totaling $1,650,345, representing the fortunes of Drs. William J. and Charles Mayo, were turned over to the university.

"We turn over to the regents the bulk of our savings of a generation as an outright gift," said Dr. William J. Mayo, who is a member of the board of regents, but who did not vote on the proposal. "The money came from the people, and we feel it should return to the people—a continuing fund that shall serve this state for generations to come."

Expenses of the foundation will be paid by the Drs. Mayo until a fund of $2,000,000 has accumulated. Thereafter the income from the fund will maintain it.

The foundation has been affiliated with the university for two years, which was agreed upon as a trial period. Under the final agreement the headquarters of the foundation can be moved from Rochester to another point in the state after twenty-eight years. Ten per cent. of the yearly income may be expended outside the state and another ten per cent. may be used to investigate epidemics inside and outside the state.

It was announced that one of the Mayos would go to France with recruits next year and that they would take turns there until the end of the war.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

M. Paul Painlevé has been chosen to be premier of the French Republic. M. Painlevé has been professor of mathematics in the University of Paris and of mechanics at the Paris Polytechnic School.

M. G. Fayet, assistant director of the Nice Observatory, has been appointed director in succession to the late General Bassot.

Dr. R. W. Wood, professor of physics in the Johns Hopkins University, is now in France engaged in scientific research in cooperation with members of the Paris Academy of Sciences. Dr. Wood left about three weeks ago, following the receipt of a cablegram from Premier Ribot offering him the tentative ranking of major in the French army.

Dr. Raymond Pearl, biologist and head of the department of biology of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, has been granted leave of absence from that institution for the duration of the war, to take charge of the statistical department of the United States Food Administration. He left the experiment station for Washington early in June, accompanied by Dr. Frank M. Surface, biologist of the Maine Station, who was also granted leave of absence for the same work. The following are associated, for the duration of the war, with Dr. Pearl in the statistical work of the Food Administration:

Dr. H. S. Jennings, The Johns Hopkins University.
Dr. W. E. Kellicott, Goucher College.
Dr. H. R. Willard, University of Maine.
Mr. John Rice Miner, Maine Agricultural Experiment Station.

Dr. A. W. Dox, for the past seven years chief of the section of chemistry of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, has been granted leave of absence to accept a commis-