

ists' Unemployment Committee, was formed in the winter of 1931 and began to function actively in the early part of 1932. It is sponsored by the following technical societies in the Greater Metropolitan area: American Chemical Society (New York and North Jersey Sections), American Gas Association, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, American Institute of Chemists, Association of Consulting Chemists and Chemical Engineers, Inc., Association of Municipal Chemists of the City of New York, Compressed Gas Manufacturers Association, Electrochemical Society, Société de Chimie Industrielle (American Section), Society of Chemical Industry (American Section), Technical Association of Pulp and Paper Industry and the Chemists' Club.

It is acting under the guidance and advice of representatives of the above societies, together with leaders in the chemical profession:

First: The committee aims to do what it can to provide positions for those unemployed qualified applicants who register with it. Positions will in general be one of the following classes: Chemical work, either temporary or permanent; temporary non-chemical work, and temporary relief work.

Second: The committee tries to secure a proportionate share of city, state and federal funds devoted to unemployed relief and make them available for qualified registrants or suggest useful chemical projects which these agencies may authorize.

Third: The committee undertakes to raise funds to carry on this work and to supplement them with the assistance that can be obtained from other organizations.

When the committee began its work in 1931, it was faced with an unusual number of those in dire need and distress. Due to the limited funds available at its disposal, it had to seek assistance from organizations financed by public funds, such as the Gibson Committee, Bliss Committee, etc., and when these organizations went out of existence, it sought help from city, state and federal bureaus which took over the work. Due to the assistance received from these agencies, supplemented by the funds contributed by the profession, the committee has successfully eliminated destitution and distress among those registered.

The circumstances of those on the present active file, as determined from our November 1, 1935, canvass, show that more than two hundred are willing to accept any useful work, such as jobs on WPA projects, technical or non-technical jobs, but none is willing to go through the routine established by the Home Relief Bureau. However, there are a few cases still applying for financial aid, which is given in the form of "made-work," loans, food, clothing, etc.

The committee's work is financed from funds contributed by individuals in the profession. Since 1932

1,278 donors have responded to calls for help. Thirty-nine companies voluntarily contributed. Chemists and chemical engineers employed in sixteen laboratories, representing 199 persons, sent in group contributions from their respective laboratories. A total sum of \$47,210 has been received as a result of these appeals. Through the courtesy of prominent chemical companies, office space and equipment needed for the office have been donated. The advisory and executive bodies have given their services without compensation. In expending the funds contributed the committee observes the strictest economy in its routine.

PRESENTATION OF THE WILLIAM H. NICHOLS MEDAL TO DR. CLARK

FOR researches "of incalculable value to human welfare" the William H. Nichols Medal of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society for 1936 was presented on March 6 to Dr. William Mansfield Clark, Delmar professor of physiological chemistry in the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, at a dinner given by the section at the Hotel Pennsylvania.

Professor A. Baird Hastings, of the Harvard University Medical School, in describing Dr. Clark's work said:

The investigation of the problems of oxidation and reduction, involving balances in the exchange of electrons, or electrons and protons, between substances, are being prosecuted with profit in all fields of science and industry. Wherever such investigations are under way, the contributions of Dr. Clark and his collaborators constitute the foundation of the work.

In a series of classic papers Dr. Clark clearly developed the meaning of pH, its place in biological problems, and a description of accurate methods for its determination. He reported in detail the preparation and characteristics of that beautiful series of acid-base indicators which are to be found in almost every laboratory the world over.

His scientific studies have found their way into the hands of bacteriologists, biological chemists, analytical chemists, physiologists, pathologists, pharmacologists, clinicians and engineers, to name but a few. His work has found its uses in the leather, the bread, the brewing, the paper, the sugar, the cement, the rubber and the dairy industries, and countless other fields of scientific activity.

Professor A. W. Hixson, of Columbia University, chairman of the Nichols Medal Jury of Award, presented the medal to Dr. Clark. Dr. Donald D. Van Slyke, of the Rockefeller Institute, spoke on "The Medalist's Personal Career." Dr. Lawrence W. Bass, of the Borden Company, chairman of the New York section, presided. Professor Clark's medal address was entitled, "A Little of the Perspective of Acid-Base and Oxidation-Reduction Equilibria."

Professor Clark is a member of the editorial board of *The Journal of Biological Chemistry*, president of

the Johns Hopkins Medical Society, and non-resident vice-president of the Washington Academy of Sciences. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi, a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a past president of the Society of American Bacteriologists and the American Society of Biological Chemists. He has served as chairman of the Washington and Maryland Sections of the American Chemical Society. He is a member of the Cosmos Club of Washington.

The Nichols Medal, on original research in chemistry, was established in 1903 by the late Dr. William H. Nichols, who was chairman of the Board of the Allied Chemical and Dye Corporation.

Previous recipients of the medal have been Irving

Langmuir, General Electric Company; James Bryant Conant, president of Harvard University; Roger Adams, University of Illinois; Thomas Midgley, Jr., vice-president, Ethyl Gasoline Corporation; Samuel Colville Lind, University of Minnesota; Edward Curtis Franklin, Stanford University; Charles A. Kraus, Brown University; Henry C. Sherman, Columbia University; Samuel Edward Sheppard, Eastman Kodak Company; John A. Wilson, Milwaukee, Wis., and Father Julius A. Nieuwland, Notre Dame University.

Members of the 1936 Jury of Award, in addition to Professor Hixson, are Dr. D. P. Morgan, of Scudder, Stevens and Clark; Professor Victor K. LaMer, of Columbia University; Dr. Walter S. Landis, vice-president of the American Cyanamid Company, and Dr. J. M. Weiss, of Weiss and Downs.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. RUDOLPH MATAS, professor emeritus of surgery at the Medical School of Tulane University, has been elected president of the International Congress of Surgeons and will preside at the 1938 congress in Vienna, which will probably be held during the summer.

THE International Society of the History of Medicine, which held its tenth congress at Madrid last fall, has elected the following officers for the next triennium: *Founder-President*, Tricot-Royer (Antwerp); *Honorary President*, Giordano (Venice); *Active President*, Gomoiu (Bucharest); *Vice-presidents*, Singer (London), de Lint (Leyden), Capparoni (Rome), Laignel-Lavastine (Paris), Diepgen (Berlin); *Secretary General*, Guiart (Lyons); *Assistant Secretary*, Van Schevensteen (Antwerp); *Archivist*, Fosseyeux (Paris); *Treasurer*, Boulanger-Dausse (Paris). The eleventh congress will be held in September, 1938, at Athens, Istanbul, Sophia and Zagreb. The chief subjects for discussion will be the religious origins of Hippocratic medicine; the Hippocratic idea in modern medicine, and medical folklore.

A. M. MACCUTCHEON, engineering vice-president of the Reliance Electric and Engineering Company, at Cleveland, Ohio, has been nominated to the presidency of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

At the twenty-third recent annual meeting in New York City of the American Society for the Control of Cancer, the new officers elected were Dr. Robert B. Greenough, of Boston, *president*; Dr. E. B. Wilson, of Boston, *vice-president*; Dr. Frank E. Adair, of New York, *secretary*, and Calvert Brewer, of New York, *treasurer*. Dr. James Ewing, of New York, was elected chairman of the board.

A DINNER in honor of Dr. Moses Gomberg, professor of organic chemistry and head of the department at the University of Michigan, was tendered to him on February 8. Dr. Gomberg, now seventy years of age, retired from active teaching recently, after having been a member of the faculty since 1893. A bound volume of birthday greetings was presented to him together with a framed portrait, by Phi Lambda Epsilon, honorary chemistry society, and a scholarship fund of \$5,000, to be known as the Gomberg scholarship fund, will be turned over to the university. A. H. White and E. C. Sullivan spoke for his old associates in studying and teaching. F. W. Sullivan, Jr., as toastmaster, read the numerous telegrams of good wishes that came from institutions and individuals throughout the country and from Europe. In accordance with the wish of Dr. Gomberg the scholarship fund will be used for promising undergraduate students who are in need of financial assistance.

A TESTIMONIAL dinner was recently given in honor of Dr. Huntington Williams, health commissioner of Baltimore, by more than 200 Baltimore physicians and officers of the Baltimore Association of Commerce. Dr. John M. T. Finney, professor emeritus of surgery of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, was toastmaster. Speakers at the dinner included Mayor Jackson, Drs. Thomas S. Cullen, who was honorary chairman; Charles C. W. Judd, Allen W. Freeman, Baltimore, and Reginald M. Atwater, New York, secretary of the American Public Health Association. Dr. Williams has been commissioner of health of Baltimore since 1932, when he succeeded the late Dr. C. Hampson Jones. He resigned as secretary of the New York State Department of Health, Albany, to become director of health of Baltimore.