AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY PIN

Arrangements have been made for obtaining the Society pin at a cheaper price, one of 14 kt. gold of the same quality as the one now used, and one in rolled-gold which will have the same appearance, but will be cheaper. The pin will have a safety catch and will be of such length that the wearers will not be subject to being scratched. Members will please note the following:

- 1—The pins are ready for delivery.
- 2—The solid 14 kt. pin will be carried in stock at \$3.00, plus 3 per cent war tax—total, \$3.09.
- 3—The rolled-gold pin will be carried in stock at \$1.00, plus 3 per cent war tax—total, \$1.03.
- 4—To obtain pins members must be in good standing and obtain an order from the Secretary of the Society, to whom no money should be sent.
- 5—Orders obtained from the Secretary should be sent or delivered to the C. G. Braxmar Company, 10 Maiden Lane, New York City, together with cash, check or money order in payment of the pin, whereupon the pin will be delivered post-free.

The pin adopted by the Society is an unusually attractive emblem, and the Society's colors, cobalt-blue and gold, are now being worn by many of our members. It serves as a means of introduction and will frequently enable you to meet fellow chemists whom you might not otherwise know are in the same profession. It is important that the members of the American Chemical Society wear this insignia as regularly as the members of the engineering societies display their distinguishing emblem. Show that you are proud of your Society and its work. Write to the Secretary for an order. CHAS. L. PARSONS, *Secretary*

THE NICHOLS MEDAL AWARD

The Nichols Medal for 1917 will be conferred on Dr. Treat B. Johnson of the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University.

The Medal, founded by Dr. William H. Nichols in 1902, is awarded annually by the New York Section of the American Chemical Society on the merit of the original communications published in the journals of the Society.

The formal presentation to Dr. Johnson will be made on March 8, 1918, in Rumford Hall, Chemists' Club, New York City.

THE PERKIN MEDAL AWARD

The Perkin Medal for 1918 has been awarded to Dr. Auguste J. Rossi, Ph.D., of Niagara Falls, N. Y., for his work on titanium.

The Medal will be presented by Dr. W. H. Nichols at the regular meeting of the New York Section of the Society of Chemical Industry to be held at the Chemists' Club, January 18, 1918. Mr. F. A. J. FitzGerald, past-president of the American Electrochemical Society, will deliver an address on Dr. Rossi and his work. Owing to illness, Dr. C. F. Chandler will not be able to participate in the program.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By PAUL WOOTON, Metropolitan Bank Building, Washington, D. C.

Centralization of activities pertaining to chemicals, the lack of which has been so glaringly apparent for many months, is now being accomplished by the formation of a chemical section of the Raw Materials Division of the War Industries Board. This board, which consists of L. L. Summers, M. F. Chase, C. H. MacDowell and M. T. Bogert, is acting as a clearing house for all matters of chemical interest related to the war. This applies to the purchases of the allied governments as well as to domestic matters having a bearing on chemical supplies.

The chemical specialists attached to the War Industries Board are making no effort to occupy the anomalous position of representing the government and the industry at the same time. That such a plan is not feasible was shown in the collapse of the coöperative committee section of the Council of National Defense. Out of this experience, however, has grown the plan for war service committees representing each industry. These committees will form the point of contact with the government and will be representative of nearly 100 separate industries. The war service committees now are being formed through the medium of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. Every effort is being made to complete their organization, as the War Industries Board now is working at a considerable disadvantage through the lack of a unit organized to act for an industry.

The formation of a chemical section of the War Industries Board will in no way effect the research activities of the National Research Council. Dr. Bogert continues at the head of its Committee on Chemistry and will divide his time between his duties with that committee and with the War Industries Board. Mr. MacDowell severed his connection with Armour and Company, where he was in charge of fertilizers and other by-products, to aid the government. Mr. MacDowell refers to himself as a "layman" chemist. For many years he has specialized in potash. He was closely in touch with the development of the alunite deposits at Marysvale, Utah. Prior to the war, he made a careful study of the German potash deposits.

Organizations of various industries interested in commodities which require import licenses have been called upon by the War Trade Board to select committees to coöperate with it in securing an equitable distribution of certain imported commodities. These committees are given no authority in the granting or refusing of import licenses or in determining who shall import the commodities requiring licenses. The representatives of the industry are to act as consignees and will release commodities as instructed by the War Trade Board. The committee is to obtain from importers such guarantees and agreements as the War Trade Board may require. Each committee will keep itself informed

as to the use and disposition of the imports and will keep full records of all the shipments received. A few of these committees have been announced already, but the majority of them are still to be selected. Two of the most important committees will be those which will coöperate with the War Trade Board in the importation of manganese ores and iron pyrites. Other imports of chemical interest which require license are antimony, asbestos, chrome, cobalt, all ferro-alloys, iridium, molybdenum, emery, sodium, potassium and calcium nitrates, platinum, scheelite, titanium, tungsten and vanadium.

Exports of sulfuric acid during 1917 will not fall as far behind those of 1916 as had been anticipated earlier in the year. An increase of more than 1,000,000 lbs. took place in the exports of October. November figures are not available but even a more substantial gain is known to have taken place during that month. According to the Department of Commerce, there were exported in October 4,492,200 lbs. of sulfuric acid, as compared with 3,466,818 lbs. in October of 1916. During the first ten months of 1917, 53,487,786 lbs. of sulfuric acid were sent out of the country. This compares with 57,386,036 lbs. for the first ten months of 1916. That such a good showing is being made this year with the tremendous increase of domestic requirements is a source of much favorable comment among chemists here.

Dr. C. L. Parsons, chief chemist of the Bureau of Mines, called together the chemical advisory committee of that bureau on December 17th and went carefully over the war work under his direction. Dr. Parsons, owing to the increased amount of war work being done by the Bureau of Mines, has been forced to turn over to others the direction of the work being done on other chemical matters. Dr. Parsons has submitted his report on the method used in the oxidation of ammonia which was developed at the Semet-Solvay plant at Syracuse, N. Y. This work was done under a coöperative agreement between the Semet-Solvay Company and the Bureau of Mines.

An important and timely report on the sulfuric acid situation has been prepared by A. E. Wells, of the Bureau of Mines staff. Mr. Wells is working in close coöperation with Dr. Parsons and M. F. Chase, of the War Industries Board, in his survey of the sulfuric acid situation.

Important developments in the manganese and pyrite situations, which will have a bearing on all imported minerals, are expected within the very near future. The point has been reached where unusual steps must be taken to stimulate domestic produc-

tion of manganese, pyrite and other products. Precedents will be broken, in all probability, in the legislation which will be proposed to provide means to secure increased domestic production, so as to save shipping.

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Changes which will alter permanently conditions of international competition in the chemical industries and which will have a direct bearing on the volume of foreign trade in chemicals are to be the subjects of a special investigation just begun by the United States Tariff Commission. The developments that have taken place in the chemical industries since the passage of the tariff act in 1913 are to be studied closely. The scope of the inquiry is set forth by the Tariff Commission as follows:

1—The manufacture within the United States of articles formerly unavailable or obtained exclusively by importation; for example, phosphate.

2—In the case of industries previously established in the United States, the erection of new plants or increase in capacity of existing plants; for example, the increase in capacity of existing plants for making caustic soda and chlorine and the installation of such plants at textile and paper mills.

3—The future of industries or establishments newly created, or in which productive capacity has been greatly increased to meet a direct war demand. How can these plants be utilized when the war demand disappears? For example, the acetone industry.

4—Any general or significant differences in the prevailing method of manufacture in the United States and abroad, such as the relatively small use of the carbureted water-gas process in England compared to its use in the United States.

5—Differences in the organization of the industry in the United States and abroad.

6—The development or invention in the United States or abroad of new or improved processes which are likely to influence the conditions of international competition; for example, the hydrogenation of fatty oils or the flotation process for concentrating ores.

7—Significant changes in the conditions of international competition caused by the recent law-making patents owned by citizens of enemy countries available to American manufacturers; for example, the patents on salvarsan.

8—Industries which have been seriously hampered in their normal operations or in their development by difficulty in securing materials or supplies formerly imported; for example, the lack of potash for fertilizer or glass. If these difficulties have been met by the introduction of substi-

tutes, is it expected that there will be a return to the old materials and methods when foreign supplies again become available, or will the changes be permanent?

9—Developments or changes in other industries which have created a new or greatly increased demand for chemical products; for example, the manufacture of new varieties of glass in the United States.

10—The discovery of new uses of materials, creating a new demand or furnishing a market for materials formerly wasted; for example, the use of aniline as an accelerator in the vulcanization of rubber.

11—Any governmental hindrances in the United States or abroad, either in manufacture or commerce; such as the export duty on nitrate from Chile.

The Commission will publish only general statements or summaries, which will not reveal the operation or plans of individual companies.

The Tariff Commission is preparing for a systematic census of the production of the following coal-tar products: intermediates, dyes, medicinals, flavors, photographic chemicals and synthetic phenolic resins.

Issuance of licenses for the manufacture and sale of salvarsan has been begun by the Federal Trade Commission. It is expected that the price per dose will be lowered to \$1.50, as a result of this action.

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Without the necessity of roll call, the House of Representatives on December 15th passed a joint resolution "for the purpose of promoting efficiency, for the utilization of the resources and industries of the United States, for lessening the expenses of the war, and restoring the loss caused by the war by providing for the employment of a discovery or invention called the 'Garabed,' claiming to make possible the utilization of free energy." It required a special rule to get the matter before the House but the Committee on Rules promptly supplied this deficiency. Practically the entire day was taken up in the discussion of cosmic forces and other matters related to the device of Garabed T. K. Giragossian, interspersed with parliamentary wrangles and squabbles over amendments. Despite the fact that Mr. Giragossian refused to show his device or its operation to any member of the Committee on Patents or to any committee that would be appointed by the House, most of the members of that body were dissuaded from voting against the resolution by the idea expressed in this question put by Representative Garrett: "Why is it that gentlemen so much fear to ascertain whether we really have some new blessing for mankind?"

PERSONAL NOTES

Mr. R. S. Banks, instructor in analytical chemistry at Iowa State College, has been appointed a member of the Inspecting Department of the Picatinny Arsenal, Dover, New Jersey.

Mr. L. A. Rumsey, former instructor in organic chemistry at Iowa State College, has been appointed head of the department of chemistry at Denison University, Granville, Ohio.

Mr. A. J. Wuertz, former research chemist of the Experiment Station of the agricultural and biological department of the University of Minnesota, is at present instructor in organic chemistry at Iowa State College.

Mr. William H. Kerr, assistant treasurer of the General Chemical Company, and manager of the Philadelphia offices of the company, has been elected a director to succeed Mr. Edward H. Rising, deceased.

Mr. Frederick Pope, of Moses, Pope and Messer, Inc., consulting engineers of New York, has been commissioned a captain in the Engineer Officers' Reserve Corps, Gas and Flame Division (Thirtieth Engineers).

Mr. A. Gordon Spencer, formerly chief chemist of the Canadian Inspection and Testing Laboratories of Montreal, has severed his connection with that company and is opening an office at 617 Transportation Building, Montreal, Canada, as a consulting chemist and metallurgist.

The United States Bureau of Mines has broadened the scope of its station at Urbana, Ill., to include work in coal and metal mining and the metallurgical industries of the Middle West. The present safety work will be continued and all work will be conducted under a cooperative agreement with the mining department of the University of Illinois. The Bureau staff is under the superintendence of E. A. Holbrook, supervising mining engineer and metallurgist. Other members are W. B. Plank, in charge of mine safety, and F. K. Ovitiz, chemist.

Mr. Lester Yoder has been appointed as assistant chemist for the chemical section of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Iowa State College.

Mr. H. B. Underwood has severed his connection with the Buffalo Foundry and Machine Company and has identified himself with the Hewitt Rubber Company, Buffalo, N. Y.

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, in March, 1918, will start work on extensive additions to be made to the laboratories of the department of chemistry. Entirely new and complete laboratories will be constructed for quantitative analysis, organic chemistry, and physical chemistry. The food analysis and gas analysis laboratories will be materially enlarged, and new space will be assigned for lecture and recitation rooms. The great increase in the number of students entering for the course of chemical engineering has made these changes imperative.

Dr. J. Stieglitz has appointed the following Committee on the supply of organic chemicals for research during the war: E. Emmet Reid, *Chairman*, Roger Adams, H. L. Fisher, J. W. E. Glattfeld, W. J. Hale.

Mr. James H. Ellis, research associate in physical chemistry at Throop College of Technology, Pasadena, Cal., has become a member of the physics department of the college as instructor in electrical measurements.

Mr. Howard B. Bishop has severed his connection with the General Chemical Co., at Easton, to accept a position with the National Aniline and Chemical Co.

Mr. C. A. Mace has been appointed head of the textile department of Marden, Orth and Hastings Corporation, succeeding Mr. H. Gardner McKerrow. Mr. Mace has been for eight years with the Badische organization at the head of their Chicago offices. He is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.