

has been made to twenty engineering schools, including all those of first importance in the country.

Prizes of \$50 will be awarded to members of the 1915 classes of each of the leading educational institutions maintaining engineering courses. All papers must be in our hands by June 1, 1915, and no paper can be considered that exceeds 3,000 words in length. If as many as five papers should not be received from the students of any one school the right is reserved not to award a prize to the student of such school. The amount of original thought and investigation shown will be given especial consideration in arriving at conclusions as to the relative merit of papers.

Other subjects than the following or variations of these subjects will be freely permitted, provided that such variations do not go outside of the general subject of Asphaltic Highway Construction.

1—Comparative values of various approved forms of street pavements and roads as regards first cost, cost per year of life, ease of traction, ease of cleaning, noiselessness, dustlessness, etc., etc.

2—A general plan for street and road improvement for a city of 25,000 population, considering traffic in different sections of the city, first cost, cost of maintenance, attractiveness, availability and other factors bearing upon the proper selection of type of construction and materials.

3—Should specifications be drawn so as to admit under the same classification materials of different character, as, for instance, natural asphalts and those made from petroleum?

4—Which is preferable from the viewpoint of the public interest, separate specifications for different classes of material under which the municipality will know exactly what it is getting and pay accordingly; or a single general specification which attempts to cover all grades of materials, and results in making it possible for the contractor who gets the work at the lowest price to use the cheapest materials?

5—Relative value, advantages and disadvantages of laboratory and service tests as applied to the selection of asphaltic materials for highway construction.

6—Field study of an asphalt construction and repair plant, giving organization, output, and cost.

Several of these topics lend themselves especially well to original investigation. A study may be made, for example, of the detailed first cost and cost of maintenance of an actual group of pavements, or the actual paving or highway experience of some community may be studied.

BARBER ASPHALT PAVING COMPANY

LAND TITLE BUILDING, PHILADELPHIA  
December 3, 1914

Per D. G. PIERCE

### THE PRESENT POTASH SITUATION

*Editor of the Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry:*

Judging by the numerous inquiries received, we believe that a statement of the potash situation may be of interest to your readers.

At the outbreak of the war the shipping season for potash from Germany was at its height, but since then the shipments have been made only in limited quantities. The prospect, however, is that they will increase as time goes on. Potash is not contraband of war and none of the nations at war objects to its movement in neutral ships. There is, however, great difficulty in securing railway and river facilities to move it from the mines and storehouses to the coast.

The mines are in good condition and enough workmen not subject to military service are available to keep them in operation.

Most of the leading fertilizer manufacturers have agreed to utilize their present supplies of potash in the effort to produce fertilizers with at least 2 or 3 per cent of potash next spring and the supplies on hand at the outbreak of the war were said to be sufficient for this purpose. There is therefore no reason why farmers should not secure some potash in their goods, although the usual 5 to 10 per cent may not be obtained.

42 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY  
December 1, 1914

H. A. HUSTON

### ANOTHER PLATINUM THEFT

*Editor of the Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry:*

On the night of December 15th our laboratory was entered and platinum to the value of \$100 taken.

Suspicion points to a young man who had made two calls at our laboratory asking for information on water, with particular reference to condenser trouble on marine work. The young man had a good knowledge of marine as well as electrical engineering and was familiar with the work on naval training.

He was a neat appearing young man with one exception, that being the stain of tobacco at the corners of his mouth. He was about 35 years of age, stood about 5 ft. 5 in. or 5 ft. 6 in. high, had sandy hair and a reddish face, was freckled, weighed in the neighborhood of 150 lbs. and was undoubtedly of Jewish descent, although he spoke with almost an English accent. He was dressed at the time in a blue chinchilla overcoat, brown soft hat, tan shoes, and dark suit. He also wore a Masonic pin and Chapter charm.

While here he made inquiries regarding other laboratories in this vicinity and we think it possible he intends working around this part of the country.

Thinking you could reach a larger field through THIS JOURNAL than we could in any way, we are writing you that you may communicate this to the chemists at large and thus avoid further losses at the hands of this person.

BRIDGEPORT HYDRAULIC COMPANY

BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT  
December 18, 1914

F. C. BARROWS, *Chemist*

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CHEMISTS' CLUB

The annual meeting of The Chemists' Club, New York, was held in Rumford Hall on December 9th. The meeting was called to order by President McKenna and the reports of the various committees for the past year were submitted for consideration and action by the membership of the club. The committee appointed to canvass the ballots for the election of officers for the coming year reported the results of the vote, which were announced by the Chair as follows: *President*, M. C. Whitaker; *Resident Vice-President*, B. C. Hesse; *Non-resident Vice-President*, E. R. Grasselli, of Cleveland; *Treasurer*, Albert Plaut; *Secretary*, Reston Stevenson; *Trustees*, T. R. Duggan and P. C. McIlhiney.

As a result of the careful analysis of the operation of the Club for the three years during which it has been in the new clubhouse, the membership unanimously authorized an increase in dues, in order to strengthen the financial position of the organization and at the same time to wipe out the deficits which have accumulated as a result of its greatly enlarged policy. The new scale of dues thus established is \$50 per year for resident members, \$12.50 for non-resident members, and \$15 for junior members.

The balance sheet of the treasurer's report shows a most healthy financial condition of the Club, with a large asset balance. Notably substantial increases in the equipment of the Library were reported, and the close of the present fiscal year leaves the Club in a highly satisfactory condition.