

Detroit, Mich. Mr. William P. Blair, secretary of the National Paving Brick Manufacturers' Association, gave a very interesting talk dealing with present-day requirements for both art and utility in all kinds of brick construction. The program closed with an illustrated talk by Mr. E. P. Poste, Elyria Enamelled Products Co., Elyria, Ohio, on "The Manufacture of Enamelled Ware."

INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL COUNCIL

At an organization meeting of the International Chemical Council, held in London on April 18, provisional organization for the interim was formed as follows: Honorary Presidents, Haller and Le Chatelier; Secretary, Gerard; Executive Committee—for America, Zanetti and Cottrell; for France, Kastner and Moureu; for Great Britain, Sir William Pope and Henry Louis; for Italy, Patterno and Parodidelsino; for Belgium, Chavane and Crismer.

It was decided that the Chemical Council should cover the whole field of chemistry, including both technological and non-technological chemistry, and one of the first activities in which the Council will engage will be the matter of documentation.

The permanent organization will be formed at a meeting to be held in London in the middle of July. The International Chemical Council will affiliate with the International Research Council as soon as that organization is completed.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF MINING AND METALLURGICAL ENGINEERS

The American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers will hold its convention in Chicago, September 22 to 26, 1919.

This meeting promises to be one of decided importance to the industry, as subjects of vital concern to modern metallurgy will be under discussion.

In addition to the technical talks, an elaborate social program is being arranged and excursions by the Institute as a body are planned to many points of interest in the vicinity, including the steel mills at Gary, the oil refineries at Whiting, metallurgical plants at East Chicago and North Chicago, and the LaSalle district, where the cement, coal, and zinc industries are represented.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

American Society of Mechanical Engineers—Spring Meeting, Detroit, Mich., June 16 to 19, 1919.

American Institute of Chemical Engineers—Summer Meeting, Boston, Mass., June 18 to 21, 1919.

American Society for Testing Materials—Twenty-second (Annual) Meeting, Atlantic City, N. J., June 24 to 27, 1919.

Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education—Twenty-seventh (Annual) Meeting, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., June 25 to 28, 1919.

Society of Chemical Industry—Annual Meeting, London, July 15 to 18, 1919.

American Chemical Society—Fifty-eighth (Annual) Meeting, Philadelphia, Pa., September 2 to 6, 1919.

American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers—Chicago, Ill., September 22 to 26, 1919.

National Exposition of Chemical Industries (Fifth)—Coliseum, Chicago, Ill., September 22 to 27, 1919.

NOTES AND CORRESPONDENCE

CHEMICAL WARFARE SERVICE OVERSEAS

COL. EDWARD N. JOHNSTON,
Chief of Chemical Warfare Service,
American E. F., Tours

My dear Colonel Johnston:

Now that active operations have ceased and many of the personnel of the Chemical Warfare Service are returning to the United States, I desire to express to you and through you to all of your officers and enlisted men my appreciation of the valuable assistance they have rendered to the American Expeditionary Forces.

Upon our entry into the war we were faced with the problem of a new service in the organization of which the experience of our Allies was so new and so limited that there were few precedents to follow. The best brains and experience among our students and teachers of chemistry were called into service, and by rapid establishment of gas schools and the aid of specially trained personnel, all combat troops were instructed in the necessary defensive measures against poisonous gas. The first gas regiment was trained and equipped, and rendered good service in the two American offensives of St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne.

Due to the energetic coöperation of all ranks, much was accomplished in a very short time, for which it gives me great pleasure to extend to you all the thanks of your comrades of the American Expeditionary Forces. Will you convey this especially to Brigadier General Fries, whose enthusiasm and energy were such great factors in the successful organization and development of the service.

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
March 2, 1919

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) JOHN J. PERSHING

LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF UPSALA BY THE PRESIDENT OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

To the Rector of the University of Upsala, Sweden:

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter addressed to Columbia University in the City of New York, bearing date February 1, 1919, sent in the name of the Senate of the University of Upsala.

You were good enough to transmit therewith a copy of an open letter from the Rector and Senate of the University of Leipzig, addressed to the Universities of Switzerland, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway under date of December 23, 1918, together with a copy of a letter dated December 30, 1918, testifying that the University of Heidelberg and the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences wished to associate themselves with the University of Leipzig in forwarding the open letter just mentioned.

The open letter from the University of Leipzig complains to the universities in neutral lands of the outrageous action (das unerhörte Vorgehen) of the French High Command toward the German scholars and men of science in Strasbourg. It is alleged that these scholars and men of science have been compelled to leave the University of Strasbourg on twenty-four hours' notice, in many cases to the grave damage of the studies and investigations which they had under way. Such treatment is made the ground of sharp protest in the name of science, and the universities in neutral lands, to whom the letter of the University of Leipzig is addressed, are asked that the facts laid before them be spread abroad in the press and brought immediately to the attention of the universities and academies of France, England, and America.

Whether or not German scholars and scientists formerly resi-

dent in Strasbourg have been harshly treated by the French High Command we do not know. We should wish to have some more convincing evidence than the mere allegation of the Rector and Senate of the University of Leipzig.

Meanwhile we invite attention to the fact that it is an established principle in England and the United States that anyone who comes into a court of equity seeking relief must come with clean hands. Before the Rector and Senate of the University of Leipzig can expect the court of public opinion to sympathize with their allegations, the people of France, England, and the United States will certainly wish to know what measure of protest, if any, the Rector and Senate of the University of Leipzig recorded against the cruel and inhuman treatment in 1914, by the German High Command, of the scholars associated with the University of Louvain and against the wanton and barbarous destruction of the library of that University. They will also wish to know what measure of protest, if any, the Rector and Senate of the University of Leipzig have recorded against any or all of the following thirty-one kinds of offense which it has been proved on indisputable evidence, gathered formally by national and international commissions, were committed by German armies and German agents and their allies in one or more of the countries invaded by them during the war whose issues are now in process of settlement:

- Massacre of civilians
- Putting to death of hostages
- Torture of civilians
- Starvation of civilians
- Rape
- Abduction of girls and women for the purpose of enforced prostitution
- Deportation of civilians
- Internment of civilians under brutal conditions
- Forced labor of civilians in connection with military operations of the enemy
- Usurpation of sovereignty during military occupation
- Compulsory enlistment as soldiers among the inhabitants of occupied territory
- Pillage
- Confiscation of property
- Exaction of illegitimate or exorbitant contributions and requisitions
- Debasement of currency
- Issue of spurious currency
- Imposition of collective penalties
- Wanton devastation and destruction of property
- Bombardment of undefended places
- Wanton destruction of religious, charitable, educational and historic buildings and monuments
- Destruction of merchant ships and passenger vessels without examination or without warning
- Destruction of fishing boats and a relief ship
- Bombardment of hospitals
- Attack on and destruction of hospital ships
- Breach of other rules relating to the Red Cross
- Use of deleterious and asphyxiating gases
- Use of exploding and expanding bullets
- Directions to give no quarter
- Ill-treatment of prisoners
- Misuse of flags of truce
- Poisoning of wells

The Rector and Senate of the ancient University of Upsala might render great service, not only to science and to scholarship, but to the cause of civilization itself, if they would bring to the attention of the Rector and Senate of the University of Leipzig, as well as to that of the proper authorities of the University of Heidelberg and the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences, the fact that acknowledgment of wrong-doing on the part of the German government, the German armies and the German people, and contrition for that wrong-doing, are the first and necessary steps in the rehabilitation before the world of German scholarship and German science. It is probably within the truth to say that the universities of France, England, and the United States are awaiting, with deep interest and no small measure of anxiety, some sign that German scholars and men of science realize the enormity of the offenses, public and private, that have been committed by Germans and in the name of Germany during the war now ending, and some evidence that these scholars and men of science feel sincere regret for them.

We have not forgotten the amazing prostitution of scholarship and science to national lust marked by the formal appeal to the civilized world made by German professors in September 1914. That appeal was an unmingled mass of untruths, and the stain

which it placed upon the intellectual and moral integrity of German scholars and men of science will forever remain one of the most deplorable and discouraging events of the war which German militarism and Prussian autocracy forced upon the peaceful and liberty-loving nations of the world.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER

President of Columbia University

NEW YORK CITY
April 15, 1919

POLARISCOPES AND INTERNATIONAL SACCHARIMETRIC SCALE

Editor of the Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry:

We have read with much interest the recent article by Dr. C. A. Browne in *THIS JOURNAL*, 10 (1918), 916, on polariscopes.

We are in entire agreement with the French makers in their protest against adopting the German scale and we would further advise that German instruments should not be copied either in design or in arrangement of optical parts. It would perhaps be well to remember that the present high quality of the German polariscopes is due to the forty years' work which has been spent in perfecting a particular arrangement of optical parts, the Nicol prisms and the wedges for instance being brought to a state of perfection to suit their standard optical train after no doubt considerable labor and expense.

No new polariscope has been introduced for some considerable time with the exception of the Bates instrument, but even this we believe has the German optical arrangement. We would venture to suggest that if the Allies wish to produce an instrument which shall compete with the German and eventually surpass it in sensitiveness and accuracy it will be absolutely necessary to produce one of new design.

From our own experience with sugar solutions we believe that special optical tests other than those of polarization could with advantage be applied, for it is doubtful if the actual accuracy of measurement found in practice justifies the excessive care which has been taken in making the instrument read to the accuracy claimed. Concerning the possibility of producing a polariscope built on new lines, this firm has been carrying out experiments over a number of years and our investigations in search of a more perfect instrument may be of interest to you and are as follows:

1.—To eliminate the errors due to want of homogeneity in the long quartz compensation wedge.

Quartz is a most unsatisfactory material as far as its optical properties are concerned and although we have examined a large quantity of quartz we have not yet seen a slab which is perfect enough when properly examined with suitable optical means to cut wedges of the length of those employed in the German type of instrument, that is, if such an accuracy is desired as can be reached with a high-class polarimeter. Our experience has been fully confirmed by Dr. Lowry in his long researches on the optical rotatory power of quartz.

2.—To improve the figure of the optical surfaces of the wedge.

One of the most difficult examples of optical working is the production of thin plates or wedges of either glass or quartz owing to the absence of any suitable support. The wedges may be increased in thickness but errors due to want of homogeneity would be increased.

3.—To design an instrument in which the scale length could be set finally at an independent testing station such as the National Physical Laboratory or the Bureau of Standards against a standard so that all instruments would read alike.

We have realized the importance of this for some considerable time and were gratified to see pointed out the advantage that would accrue if such an adjustment could be adopted.