

EDITORIALS

THE VICTORY MEETING

"Put me off at Buffalo," that familiar slogan of by-gone exposition days, will be revived next week by chemists assembling for the Victory Meeting of the AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY, which will be held in that hospitable city April 7-11. The very combination of dates is suggestive of a merry occasion.

News from the various committees in charge of the meeting locally gives assurance of delightful entertainment. The list of speakers at the general meetings (see page 369, this issue) promises a real contribution to constructive thought regarding many important problems of the reconstruction period.

To get the pleasure of the entertainments and the full inspiration of the addresses actual bodily presence is required, "so pack up your—", never mind the rest of the quotation—just ride, ride, ride.

Unquestionably this Buffalo meeting promises to be one of the most important ever held by the Society. The Council meeting last December, a record breaker in point of attendance, resolved itself largely into a sorting establishment for the classification of the many admirable suggestions made for furthering the work of the Society and increasing the usefulness of the chemist. The material was referred to various committees for digest and report at the Spring Meeting. The committees have been active. Your opinion of the results of their labors is needed. Buffalo is the place to express it.

POST-DOCTORATE FELLOWSHIPS

Just before going to press the following announcement was received from the Chairman of the National Research Council. Its importance as indicative of a new era in chemistry, that of the post-doctorate fellowship, has justified a complete last-minute change of the make-up of the editorial section.

NATIONAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS IN PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY, SUPPORTED BY THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

The National Research Council has been entrusted by the Rockefeller Foundation with the expenditure of an appropriation of \$500,000 within a period of five years for promoting fundamental research in physics and chemistry in educational institutions in the United States.

The primary feature of the project is the initiation and maintenance of a system of National Research Fellowships, which are to be awarded by the National Research Council to persons who have demonstrated a high order of ability in research, for the purpose of enabling them to conduct investigations at educational institutions which make adequate provision for effective prosecution of research in physics or chemistry. The plan will include such supplementary features as may promote the broad purpose of the project and increase its efficiency.

Among the important results which are expected to follow from the execution of the plan may be mentioned:

- 1—Opening of a scientific career to a larger number of able investigators and their more thorough training in research, thus meeting an urgent need of our universities and industries.
- 2—Increase of knowledge in regard to the fundamental principles of physics and chemistry, upon which the progress of all the sciences and the development of industry depend.
- 3—Creation of more favorable conditions for research in the educational institutions of this country.

The project will be administered by the Research Fellowship Board of the National Research Council. This Board consists

of six members appointed for terms of five years and of the chairmen *ex officio* of the Division of Physical Science and the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Technology of the National Research Council. The members of the Board are:

HENRY A. BUMSTEAD, Professor of Physics, Yale University
 SIMON FLEXNER, Director of the Rockefeller Medical Institute
 GEORGE E. HALE, Director of Mount Wilson Observatory
 ELMER P. KOHLER, Professor of Chemistry, Harvard University
 ROBERT A. MILLIKAN, Professor of Physics, University of Chicago
 ARTHUR A. NOYES, Director of the Research Laboratory of Physical Chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 WILDER D. BANCROFT, Professor of Physical Chemistry, Cornell University.
 Chairman of the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Technology

_____, Chairman of the Division of Physical Science

The appointments of National Research Fellows will be made only after careful consideration of the scientific attainments of all candidates, not only of those who apply on their own initiative, but also of those who are brought to the attention of the Fellowship Board by professors in educational institutions and by other investigators throughout the country.

The Research Fellowships will for the most part be awarded to persons who have had training at an American university or scientific school equivalent to that represented by the doctor's degree. The salary will ordinarily be \$1500 for the first year. The Research Fellowship Board will not, however, be bound by rigid rules of procedure. Thus it may offer larger salaries to those of exceptional attainment or wider experience, and may give appointments to competent investigators who have had training other than that represented by the doctor's degree.

The Research Fellows will be appointed for one year, but they will be eligible for successive reappointments, ordinarily with increase of salary.

It is expected that fifteen to twenty Research Fellowships will be available during the coming year, and that the number will be increased in subsequent years.

Applications for the Fellowships should be made on the form provided for the purpose, and should be sent to the Secretary of the Research Fellowship Board, National Research Council, 1023 Sixteenth St., Washington, D. C. Applications will be received up to September 1, 1919, for Fellowships available during the next academic year; but a limited number of appointments will be made on the basis of the applications received before April 20, 1919.

AS OTHERS SEE US

Testimony increases in value in proportion to its disinterestedness. For this reason the tribute paid to the chemical industries by Judge A. Mitchell Palmer, formerly Alien Property Custodian and now Attorney General of the United States, will be particularly appreciated by all who have labored in the upbuilding of this industry. Not even the soft impeachment of flattery can be laid at Judge Palmer's door, for the quotation below is from an address delivered not to a gathering of chemists but to the New York City Bar Association on December 10, 1918.

Chemistry more than any other science is the very foundation of a far-flung line of industry. You have but to look about you, for example, at the tremendous part which colors play in all the necessities, comforts, and luxuries of life, to realize the grip which the control of the dyestuff industry has upon the people. Its by-products touch alike the health, the well-being, the very life of the people. In peace, and even more in war, chemistry paints the whole picture of progress. America's social and economic, possibly even her political, independence is not safe unless the industries dependent upon the development of the science of chemistry are open to American genius and energy.

I cannot too forcefully repeat that the German industrial penetration of America has not been a mere friendly desire to trade and do business with the world. It has been a knife at the throat of America. In the days before the war and during the war most of the great German-owned industrial establishments were spy centers filled with the agents of Germany long