

the memory of the man who had discovered oxygen one hundred years before. In the account of the proceedings detailed in the *American Chemist* for 1874, we are told that a movement was there begun which led later to the establishment of the American Chemical Society.

And as the foundation of the American Chemical Society has been thus linked with the name of Joseph Priestley, it would seem proper that we should seek in some lasting way to commemorate his work as an investigator and philosopher and tireless searcher after truth.

It is earnestly hoped that the plans now proposed by the committee for a memorial will meet with approval and that we shall be able, by means of an adequate subscription fund, to render such honor as is due to the memory of John Priestley.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

A STRUCTURE POSSIBLY FAVORABLE FOR OIL UNDER THE CENTRAL GREAT PLAINS

IN consideration of the present great interest in oil prospects in the Great Plains region, the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, has prepared a report giving all available information regarding the structure of that region. No oil or gas has been found in most of this wide area, but it contains several anticlines and domes like those which yield oil and gas in central Kansas, Oklahoma and Colorado, so that the conditions are encouraging for exploratory borings. Wells have been drilled at a number of places, but most of them have either been sunk where the structure was not favorable to the occurrence of oil or gas or have not been drilled deep enough to test all the strata.

The structure of the Central Great Plains north of latitude 37° has been investigated by geologist N. H. Darton, who has prepared a map showing by contour lines the location and configuration of a number of promising anticlines and domes. One of these domes lies on the Nebraska-South Dakota line northeast of Chadron, its crest being on White River. It may continue southward under the great sand cover in Nebraska to join an anticline of moderate prominence which crosses the Republican Valley just above Cambridge, Nebr., and extends into the western part of Norton county, Kans.

A local dome of considerable height occurs in Hamilton county, Kans., its crest being 6 or 8 miles southwest of Syracuse. It is on the flank of the largest dome in the Central Great Plains, which arches up the strata in Baca, Las Animas, and Bent counties, Colo., and adjacent parts of northern New Mexico. Its crest is under the Mesa del Mayo, on the state line. A dike of igneous rock not far west of this place contains petroleum, which undoubtedly had its source in some of the uplifted strata.

A dome east of Fort Collins, into which a drill has penetrated 3,900 feet, also presents structure favorable for oil, and when the drill reaches the beds that yield oil near Boulder it may find in them a possible reservoir. There

are some anticlines and domes in eastern South Dakota, but the strata above the granite and quartzite in that area are not thick enough to offer encouraging prospects.

A prominent anticline in Converse county, Wyo., with its crest east of Old Woman Creek, lifts an extensive series of sedimentary rocks not far southwest of the Black Hills. Another arch occurs on the west slope of these hills a few miles northwest of Moorcroft, and on its sides are oil springs from some underground source.

MEDICAL STUDENTS AND CONSCRIPTION

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association has obtained information regarding the draft numbers and numerical order of call of medical students. There were all told 13,764 medical students enrolled during the last session, of whom 3,379 graduated, leaving 10,385, made up of 4,107 freshmen, 3,117 sophomores, 2,866 juniors, and 295 seniors who were not graduated. Tabulated statistics regarding 5,909 or 56.9 per cent. of all undergraduate medical students based on direct replies to a questionnaire are as follows:

Class	Total Replies	Total to be Drafted		First Call		Second Call		Later Calls		Age Exempt	Aliens	Enlisted
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%			
Freshmen.....	2,016	1,579	78.3	412	26.0	233	20.3	884	55.9	384	14	39
Sophomores..	1,935	1,697	87.7	460	27.1	347	20.4	890	52.4	204	11	23
Juniors.....	1,453	1,356	93.0	418	31.2	275	20.3	663	48.1	77	6	19
Seniors.....	201	193	96.0	77	39.8	40	20.7	76	39.3	7	1	...
Not stated....	299	228	72.9	99	43.8	34	14.9	95	41.6	57	...	14
Totals.....	5,909	5,053		1,466		979		2,608		729	32	95
Percentages.....		85.5		29.0		19.4		51.6		12.4	0.5	1.6

While the table represents only a little more than 56 per cent. of the whole, it gives those interested an opportunity to estimate the effect of the draft on the different classes. As shown in the table, 5,053, or 85.5 per cent. of the students who have already replied, are subject to the draft, and of these 29 per cent. are included in the first call; 19.4 per cent. in the second call and 51.6 per cent. in later calls; 12.4 per cent. are exempt on account of age, 0.5 per cent. are aliens, and 1.6 per cent. have already enlisted. As will be noticed, 729 are

exempt on account of age; of these 606 are under age, and 123 over the age limit. The *Journal* says that unless some arrangement is made, therefore, whereby these students are enabled to complete their medical training, classes in medical schools will be seriously depleted; the supply of physicians for the future will be seriously reduced, and this country will suffer from an error similar to that made in England and France where medical students were sent to the front. Furthermore, failure to exempt medical students from the draft will be a serious injustice to many, since a few months ago the Council of National Defense, with the apparent agreement of the War Department, urged medical students not to enlist in the Officers' Reserve Corps but to remain in college and complete their medical training. Had not that request been made, many students would have voluntarily enrolled in officers' training corps, where many of them would doubtless have been successful. Even though less than a third of the medical students of draft age will be included in the first call, a much larger proportion will be lost to the medical schools, since, in the absence of a definite understanding, many of the others will enlist voluntarily in the ranks, in ambulance corps or in officers' training corps. A definite decision on the part of the War Department relative to medical students is imperative. Unless such decision is made, not only will our civil hospitals lack adequate intern service, but the government will lose by the fact that those capable of skilled service will have been deflected to work which can be as well done by others.

PSYCHOPATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF RECRUITS

ACCORDING to a press bulletin men of the National Guards of the various states and of the new draft army will be subjected to thorough mental examinations by expert neurologists and psychopathologists at the concentration camps before sailing to France, to weed out the mentally and nervously unfit, whom the experience of France, Britain and Germany shows have proved useless and a burden at the