

indebted to the Carborundum Company of America for the gift of the slides and samples for illustration, and are very appreciative of their interest in the organization.

After Professor Kyser's address Dr. Frank C. Vilbrandt, associate professor of chemistry, spoke on the "Chemical Industries of North Carolina." He stated that a survey of the industries of the State shows that a large number are chemical and that these industries grouped as a whole are next to cotton and tobacco in capital invested, estimated plant valuation, yearly production values, payroll and wage earners. Dr. Vilbrandt further said, "In valuation, production, and investment the chemical industries are a close second to tobacco, in which industry North Carolina excels the world. The 361 plants have a capital investment of \$119,646,000, an estimated

plant valuation of \$87,770,000, an annual production value of \$206,640,000 with 11,338 wage earners drawing a yearly payroll of \$10,589,000. The industries included in this survey are fertilizer, cottonseed oil, tanning, paper and pulp, ceramics, ice, dyeing and mercerizing, chemical ore production, drugs, rubber, pine products, and gas and coal tars. Data from the Aluminum Company of America at Badcn, N. C., and the municipal water filtration plants were not available. The cotton mills applying chemical treatment to their products such as the bleacheries, printing and dyeing plants in connection with the big cotton mills include these data in the cotton mill data. If all the chemical data could be grouped together the chemical industry would show itself second only to cotton."

C. R. WHITEHEAD, *Secretary*.

#### AN IMPROVED METHOD FOR THE ASSAY OF MERCURIAL OINTMENT U. S. P. AND BLUE OINTMENT U. S. P.

By D. M. COPLEY.

The present official method, while accurate and reliable in itself, is not well suited for use in a Control Laboratory, where time is an important factor and where several lots may be held in process awaiting a chemist's report. The author therefore developed a more rapid method which proved to be equally accurate. He replaces petroleum benzine by anhydrous ether and xylol which leave a practically fat-free mercury residue and render the treatment with dilute hydrochloric acid unnecessary.

#### NARCOTICS MISSING FROM ARMY STOCKS.

Simultaneously with an investigation into affairs of the United States Veterans' Bureau which has brought out charges that Col. Charles R. Forbes while head of the bureau had suggested "trafficking in narcotics" stored at the bureau's supply depot at Perryville, Md., it is reported that the Bureau of Internal Revenue has launched an inquiry into the whereabouts of large quantities of narcotic drugs, \$5,000,000 worth of which were stored there during the Forbes administration but now reported to have disappeared.

Discussion in connection with the investigation recalls that large quantities of narcotics were reported stored at Perryville some time ago, when it was said that members of

the Federal Narcotics Control Board held the theory that those stocks would constitute a reserve from which narcotics could be drawn in case of a future emergency in the United States which could thus be met without authorizing largely increased imports of narcotics into this country. Representatives of the drug trades say frankly they would like to know whether the Perryville stocks were disposed of through sale, disappearance or otherwise. The fact might have a bearing on the situation as regards supply, license and imports, for the country, it is suggested.—*Oil, Paint & Drug Reporter*.

#### DIETHYLPHTHALATE II.

By J. A. HANDY AND L. F. HOYT.

The authors present in this paper additional data on the properties of diethylphthalate and the results of a careful study of the methods recommended for its detection.

Among other results they found that diethylphthalate has a restraining influence on the growth of bacteria, while the disinfecting power of the ester is comparatively small. In the pharmacological experiments they administered *per ora* about 75 milligrams of the pure ester per kilo of body weight to an adult cat, and repeated this dose twice at intervals of 48 hours.

No appreciable physiological disturbance was noted, the only effects being to somewhat diminish the appetite and increase the sluggishness of the animal, which became, however, entirely normal within 3 to 4 days after the last dose was administered.