

buted by the societies. It houses seventeen engineering organizations with a total membership of almost 60,000.

Engineering Societies Library was created by bringing together into the new building, in rooms specially designed for a large library, the separate collections of books belonging to the three Founder Societies. To this collection, the American Society of Civil Engineers later added its large library, after eliminating duplicates. Growing continually, Engineering Societies Library now contains nearly 160,000 books and pamphlets. It is the largest engineering library on the western hemisphere and one of the most important in the world. It is managed by a board of twenty-one members, five from each of the four Founder Societies and the director of the library. This library is more than a collection of books. It is a technical information bureau serving hundreds of persons at a distance, as well as those who can visit its rooms. Through its service bureau searches are made in response to mail or wire inquiries, and bibliographies, photostat and other copies, translations and abstracts are supplied at the cost for doing the work. Orders are received from even the remotest countries. Last year they totalled more than 1,700, and this year's total bids fair to be much greater. An index of current technical literature is being prepared monthly by the library in co-operation with the Founder Societies and printed in their publications and those of some other societies, in whole or part. Projects for further extension of the library's usefulness are in hand and will go forward as resources permit.

Engineering Foundation

"For the furtherance of research in science and engineering, or for the advancement in any other manner of the profession of engineering and the good of mankind," in 1915, Ambrose Swasey gave \$200,000 as a nucleus of an endowment fund for the Engineering Foundation. This he supplemented in 1918 with another \$100,000, and further gifts to the endowment from other sources are now assured. Early in 1916, President Wilson requested the National Academy of Sciences to establish the National Research Council for the promotion of science and industry and preparedness for national defense. This research council when first organized was without funds and headquarters. Engineering Foundation provided both for the first year and has since continued to co-operate with the work of the Council, which during the war has been of great importance. Engineering Foundation has also financed several small investigations in connection with the war and with the peace activity of engineering. Its business is administered by a board of sixteen, made up of three members each from the four Founder Societies, three members at large, and the president of the United Engineering Society ex officio.

As the great societies were thus being drawn together by being housed in the same building, by becoming interested in Engineering Foundation, by merging their libraries, and by establishing the John Fritz Medal, the need became more and more evident for an organization which could deal with "matters of common concern to engineers as well as those of public welfare in which the profession is interested, in order that united action might be made possible." Appreciation of this necessity resulted in 1917 in the modification by the Founder Societies, of the by-laws of United Engineering Society to provide for a new department to be known as Engineering Council. On this Council each Founder Society has five representatives, and United Engineering Society is represented by four of its trustees, one from each Founder Society, and the American Society for Testing Materials has one representative. Other national engineering or technical societies may be admitted to membership. Early this year the American Society for Testing Materials became the fifth member of Engineering Council.

Engineering Council's Activities

Engineering Council held its organization meeting June 27, 1917. Until November, 1918, a large proportion of its efforts were naturally devoted to activities directly or indirectly connected with the war. Nevertheless, much progress was made meanwhile in defining the normal field of activity of Council, developing its organization and determining its methods of operation.

Its War Committee of Technical Societies embraced representatives of eleven technical organizations and was closely associated with the naval consulting board and the inventions section of the Army General Staff. Of both these governmental bodies the chairman of the committee was a member. This committee assisted in reviewing 135,000 suggestions for military and naval devices and in stimulating the solution of war problems.

American Engineering Service devoted its energies chiefly to aiding some thirty major and subordinate governmental departments in securing personnel. In response to approximately 200 requisitions and other requests, the names of about 4,000 engineers, carefully selected, were furnished the government from lists of many thousands which had been compiled with the assistance of a number of engineering societies. Incidentally, many engineers and opportunities for engagements in civilian work were brought together.

The Fuel Conservation Committee co-operated with the Fuel Administration and the Bureau of Mines in economizing the use of fuel during the war, and in continuing its work for the benefit of industry and the public at large in peace times.

Committee Studies Compensation Problem

Through its Public Affairs Committee, its Executive Committee and some special committees, Council gave consideration to other war activities. It also took up with the Railway Wage Commission a plea for better compensation to engineers in the railway service and has pursued this matter to the present time. A special committee is now being organized to study carefully and take action upon the whole matter of classification and compensation of engineers, especially those in governmental and railroad employment.

Immediately after the signing of the armistice, Engineering Council supplanted its American Engineering Service by the Engineering Societies Employment Bureau. The secretaries of the four Founder Societies were made a board of directors and the manager and staff of American Engineering Service were engaged as the nucleus for the new work. This work has been enlarged steadily and since the first of December, approximately 1,500 engineers, many of them returning from war service at home and abroad, have been registered. Positions have been found for about 300, and as the work develops and the industries of the country are being readjusted, a larger proportion will be placed. No charge is made for this service, and it is open not only to members of the societies, but to non-members introduced by members. The service is appreciated, especially because of the discrimination and intelligence with which it is managed. Requests for men for many important engagements are coming to this office as well as those for minor positions.

Council some months ago created a Patents Committee, which has co-operated with a similar committee of the National Research Council upon working out and recommending important changes in the organization and practice of the Patent Office. These may be stated as follows:—

1. Establishment of a single Court of Patent Appeals;
2. Separation of Patent Office from Department of Interior;
3. Increase in force and salaries of Patent Office;
4. Modification of that section of the law granting compensation for infringement of patents.

Water Conservation, Licensing, Etc.

A Water Conservation Committee has been created to deal broadly with questions concerning utilization and control of water in all parts of the country for municipal supply, power development, navigation, irrigation, sewage disposal, flood control and other purposes; to promote such consideration of water resources by Congress and legislatures as will result in conservation rather than unintelligent appropriation to a narrow use at the expense of some more important use, also to encourage wise development.

A Committee on Licensing of Engineers was created at the beginning of the year after long efforts to secure a proper membership. The committee has thirteen members in as many different states: its chairman being in Chicago. The country has been divided into districts, one assigned