

VI. A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF METHODS AND MATERIALS

Valuable work has been done by committees of the Society who have given their labor and time ungrudgingly in order to work out methods or examine materials. I mention this here because I believe that a more comprehensive survey of methods and material would be of great value. In biological problems we cannot hope for the minute exactness of the chemist, but the chemist has his standard and authorized methods, which he dare not depart from. When a method is being improved or a new one instituted a committee and official referee is appointed, and a thorough test, often extending over years, is given. It seems that such methods would be helpful in bacteriological technique and help to ward aside many criticisms that are at present levelled at us. The Society might add to the committees already at work, and assign more problems to be worked out for the common good.

VII. BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT

The Chemists Club of New York city has managed an employment agency since 1913 with marked success. I have frequently availed myself of its services with satisfaction to all concerned, and I suggest that our society might organize and run a similar bureau. If this employment bureau were incorporated as a "membership corporation" no person could benefit by the profits but any such accruing would go to the Society. Such an organization, if carefully organized and conservatively run, should be of great service to those in administrative positions, or heads of departments desiring to obtain assistance, not to mention those aspirants to bacteriological fame who desire to place a foot on the first rung of the ladder of employment opportunity. Certain large employers of trained bacteriologists, such as the health departments of large cities, could file their specific needs with the bureau, and these organizations could be kept informed of any men coming on the list who were specially fitted for their particular line of work.