

of gas, to a gasoline fire or to all three, it is at least true that had helium been present there would have been no explosion.

The U. S. Government has a so-called helium program, whereby they have appropriated \$650,000 for the production of helium for use in the Army and Navy. The Helium Board, who have been investigating the possibilities of a more extended use of helium, have requested an appropriation of \$1,600,000. R. B. Moore, chief chemist of the Bureau of Mines, says: "For the price of one battleship, it would easily be possible to maintain and operate permanently, six of the most modern helium-filled dirigibles which the best talent of America could design."

Should the conference to consider disarmament (meeting in Washington at the time of writing) fail to arrive at satisfactory solutions of the problems under consideration; should the great nations, suspicious of each other, continue to increase their armaments, then another world war seems inevitable. Such being the case, our government would do well to follow the example of the republic to the south, and take steps to conserve the supply and increase the production of this gas, which will undoubtedly be an important factor in the next struggle of the nations for existence.

H. S. T. '22.