THE CHEMIST IN THREE WARS

By OTTO EISENSCHIML

PRESIDENT, SCIENTIFIC OIL COMPOUNDING COMPANY, CHICAGO

At the beginning of the Civil War chemistry was in its infancy. The chemical requirements of armies at that time were, of course, proportional to the world's contemporary scientific standards; they comprised in the main the procurement of a few basic materials such as iron, copper and salt peter; among manufactured products, gunpowder was the most important. Small as these demands appear when compared to those of modern fighting forces, they constituted problems of magnitude for the chemists and industrialists of the time.

The agricultural South, having built its economic structure on cotton, found itself in a precarious posi-

1 A paper read before the American Institute of Chemists at Chicago, September 18, 1942.