

## THE COLLECTION OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION.

Special forms have been prepared by the Survey which are submitted to the proprietors of each industry in the state that has to do with the natural resources. Questions are asked in these forms regarding the amount and value of the materials produced, in order that a complete tabulated statement may be prepared from time to time showing the development of the various industries. This information, which is intended for incorporation in the economic reports of the survey, will be held strictly confidential, so far as it relates to the private business of any company or individual, but will be used in making up the state and county totals. If only one or two plants are found in a single county the returns will be grouped so that there can be no possible disclosure of the private affairs of any industry. Such information is annually sought by the U. S. Geological Survey for publication in the "Mineral Industries of the United States," and it is desirable that the industries of Maryland should be adequately represented. Many private individuals also desire to know the actual commercial value of our economic products, and complete records of this data should always be available. Furthermore such information is valuable to our own citizens in showing the status of those enterprises which are based upon our mineral wealth. The State Survey particularly requests the co-operation of the various industries of the state in order that the best possible showing may be made annually of our products.

## THE PREPARATION OF FINAL REPORTS.

After all the investigations outlined in the previous pages have been made, it will then be possible to publish a final and general report concerning the physical features of Maryland, in which the physiography, geology and mineral resources will be comprehensively treated. Such a statement regarding our natural wealth, in which constant references shall be given to the special reports earlier published, will be of inestimable value in presenting both to our own citizens and those of other portions of the country not only the developed but the undeveloped wealth in the rocks of the state, while