

At the meeting on April 7, Dr. A. S. Langsdorf, of Washington University, delivered an address on Electric Waves, the explanations being illustrated by experiments, including some of the phenomena of self-induction, absorption, reflection and resonance.

Dr. H. von Schrenk exhibited a sample of the impregnated wooden paving blocks used on some of the streets of London and Paris.

One person was elected to active membership.

WILLIAM TRELEASE,
Recording Secretary.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

SECTION D, MECHANICAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

THE next meeting of the American Association occurs at Pittsburg, June 28-July 3, of this year.

The various Carnegie and Westinghouse industries and a host of others in and about Pittsburg make this locality probably the most interesting in engineering lines in America. Admission to some of these plants is, under ordinary circumstances, difficult to secure. But strong local committees of influential men will do all that can be done to give visitors entrance wherever desired on the important occasion of the coming meeting. Local conditions, therefore, should make Section D, devoted to 'Mechanical Science and Engineering,' the most prominent of the Association.

It will have the active cooperation of the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania—a powerful organization of 404 members. Prominent investigators in various parts of the country have already signified their intention to participate.

The order for the week will be short, crisp, pithy papers for the morning sessions and carefully planned educational excursions under competent local leadership for the afternoons.

This notice is sent out to engineers everywhere and a cordial invitation is extended to them to send to the secretary as soon as convenient titles and abstracts for the morning programs.

The American Association opens at Pittsburg on Saturday, June 28. On Thursday,

Friday and Saturday of the same week the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education will also meet in the same city. A rare series of meetings is in store, therefore, for those who attend, and it is hoped that very many engineers will put Pittsburg on their summer schedule. Please remember to send titles and abstracts very soon to the secretary.

J. J. FLATHER, *Chairman*,
C. A. WALDO, *Secretary*.

LAFAYETTE, INDIANA.

SECTION A, MATHEMATICS AND ASTRONOMY.

Members of the Association who will have papers to present before Section A at the Pittsburg meeting, June 28-July 3 next, are requested to send the titles of such papers as soon as possible to the Secretary of the Section.

EDWIN S. CRAWLEY.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

CENTRAL CONTROL OF THE EXPERIMENTAL STATIONS.

THE article on the above subject by H. F. Roberts, in a late issue of SCIENCE, urges a point of view in some respects plausible, but not, I think, in accord with the best interests of either the scientific or the practical aspects of the station work; unless it be from the standpoint of the trite saying that the best government would be that of a wise and benevolent despot. And surely, if it is bad for the West to have stations established ten or seventy miles apart, it is worse for the East, where the stations, *e. g.*, of the New England states, and of Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey, are located so closely together within a remarkably uniform climatic region, while similar distances on the Pacific slope will often involve the most startling climatic contrasts. By parity of reasoning, the central authority called for ought to abolish and redistribute a dozen of these stations of the Atlantic coast region; and logically, the abolition of 'Little Rhody' and similarly small states, which are exceeded in area by many single counties in the West, should follow in due course, the political preponderance given them at present being clearly unfair.

Robert's fundamental idea, that stations should be located so as to represent climatic