was included in the program for the initial meeting of the society.

At the opening session, February 24, following the address of welcome by President Charles R. Van Hise, was a presentation of the scope of the highway work of the State Geological Survey, by W. O. Hotchkiss, highway engineer for the survey. A. R. Hirst, also of the state highway department, spoke on the use of tar, oils and emulsions on macadam and earth roads. The discussion on pavements was led by McClelland Dodge, city engineer of Appleton, and participated in by P. H. Connelly, city engineer of Racine; W. G. Kirchoffer, consulting engineer, Madison, and others. City Engineer C. V. Kerch, of Janesville, spoke on the construction of the Court Street bridge in that city.

Interest in the discussion of the conservation of forests and water resources of Wisconsin, a subject presented by State Forester E. M. Griffith, waxed so keen that the paper on "The Water-power Resources of the State," by Professor L. S. Smith, who is engineer for both the state and national geological surveys, was postponed to the following evening. The conservation discussion was led by Senator T. W. Brazeau, and Senator E. E. Brown, Assemblyman J. R. Jones and Professor D. W. Mead also spoke on the subject.

Professor W. D. Pence, who is engineer for the Wisconsin Railroad Commission, opened the second day's program with a description of the organization of the commission's engineering staff. The new problem of standards of gas and electric service was discussed by Professor C. F. Burgess, of the department of applied electrochemistry at the university, who has done important work in enabling the state railroad commission to prescribe a standard for fuel and illuminating gas.

The electric interurban roads of Wisconsin were made the subject of an address by F. G. Simmons, superintendent of construction and maintenance of way for the Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company. The day circuit for small towns was discussed by Professor J. W. Shuster, and new forms of arc lamps by W. E. Wickenden, also of the electrical engineering department. Dean Turneaure took the members of the society through the engineering experimental laboratories, explaining the work that is being done there in many lines of research.

The second night was given to a discussion of water powers, W. G. Kirchoffer describing the water supply of the city of Marshfield, and Professor D. W. Mead the subject of hydraulic and hydroelectric power development. Papers on "The Waterproofing of Concrete," by F. M. McCullogh, city engineer of Stoughton; "Municipal Engineering in the Orient and in Porto Rico," by J. T. Hurd and Edwin Wray; "Gas Producers and Small Power Stations," by V. E. McMullen, Beloit, and C. T. Atkinson; and "Madison's Concrete Storm Sewer System," by City Engineer John F. Icke, concluded the convention program.

THE DARWIN CENTENARY

To commemorate the centenary of the birth of Charles Darwin, Professor Vines, Professor Poulton and Professor Bourne gave an "At Home" to the university in the Examination Schools, Oxford, on February 12. There was a large and distinguished gathering, including four of Charles Darwin's sons—Mr. William Darwin, Sir George Darwin, Mr. Francis Darwin and Major Leonard Darwin. Books, letters, etc., of Charles Darwin were shown by Mr. R. W. T. Günther (Magdalen), and Professor Poulton made an address on "Fifty Years of Darwinism." Sir George Darwin and Mr. Francis Darwin briefly addressed the gathering.

THE Darwin centenary was celebrated at Shrewsbury, his birthplace, under the auspices of the Shropshire Natural History Society. Dr. Cosmo Melvill presided, and Dr. Hoyle, of Manchester University, gave an address on Darwin.

THE special business of the meeting of the Academy of Natural Sciences, of Philadelphia, held February 16, was the commemoration of the centenary of the birth of Charles Darwin and of the fiftieth year of the publication of the "Origin of Species." The president, Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, spoke of the in-

fluence of the doctrines of natural selection and evolution on the development of thought and the progress of humanity. Dr. Arthur Erwin Brown, one of the vice-presidents, referred to the fact that the academy had been the first society in America to recognize the importance of Darwin's work and quoted from his letter to Lyell, of May 8, 1860,in which he says: "This morning I got a letter from the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, announcing that I am elected a correspondent. . . . It shows that some naturalists there do not think me such a scientific profligate as many think me here." Dr. Brown also read a letter addressed by Darwin to Dr. Joseph Leidy, under date of March 4, 1860, acknowledging receipt of publications, expressing appreciation of Dr. Leidy's work and returning thanks for his support of the doctrine of natural selection. Dr. Edwin G. Conklin, also vice-president, then read a memoir of Darwin dwelling on the importance of his work in science and on the relation of the doctrine of natural selection to modern thought. A collection of Darwin's works and his letter of acknowledgment of election as correspondent of the academy were exhibited.

The biological and botanical departments of Brown University held a meeting commemorative of the Charles Darwin Centennial on February 12. The program was:

Introductory remarks with exhibition of portraits of Darwin and his contemporaries, by A. D. Mead.

"Darwin's Relation to Theories of Heredity," by Professor W. E. Castle, of Harvard University.

"Darwin's Influence on Practical Breeding in the Work of Luther Burbank," by Dr. George H. Shull, of the Carnegie Institution, Station for Experimental Evolution.

The State University of Iowa celebrated the Darwin Centennial by two addresses at the assembly of all colleges. Professor C. C. Nutting spoke upon the personal traits of Darwin, and Professor T. H. Macbride upon his contributions to botany. The Baconian Club devoted its evening program to the memory of Darwin and addresses were made on his contributions to zoology, botany and psychology by Professors G. L. Houser, B. F. Shimek and C. E. Seashore, respectively.

The Society of Arts held a meeting in commemoration of the birth of Charles Darwin at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Addresses were made by Professor William T. Sedgwick, of the biological department, and Professor Percival Lowell, non-resident professor of astronomy at the institute and director of the Lowell Observatory at Flagstaff, Ariz.

THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF TEACHING

Two special recommendations have been made by the executive committee of the Carnegie Foundation to the board of trustees and, having been adopted by the board, have been incorporated in the rules of the foundation. By one of these recommendations the maximum amount of a retiring allowance is raised from $3,000 to $4,000, and by the other the executive committee is directed to grant a pension to the widow of a professor in an accepted institution who has been for ten years married to the professor, the pension to be one half of what the husband would have been entitled to receive. Heretofore the pensions to widows have been only permissory. They have now been raised from discretionary ones to a certain provision by the adoption of the following rule:

Any person who has been for ten years the wife of a professor either in receipt of a pension or entitled to receive one shall receive during her widowhood one half of the allowance to which her husband was entitled.

The rules for the granting of retiring allowances in force January 4, 1909, are as follows:

A normal retiring allowance is considered to be one awarded to a professor in an accepted college, university or technical school, on the ground either of age or of length of service. The term professor, as here used, is understood to include presidents, deans, professors, associate professors and assistant professors in such institutions of higher learning.

In reckoning the amount of the retiring allowance the average salary for the last five