

time until 1912, when impaired health compelled him to retire from active work, although he was retained on the faculty as advisory dean. Last year he was granted a retiring allowance by the Carnegie Foundation.

It may be truthfully said that Dean Marvin devoted his life to the cause of engineering education. He worked and wrote for its advancement. In 1901 he was elected president of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education. He was one of the charter members, and the first president of the Kansas chapter of the Society of the Sigma Xi, one of the earliest chapters of this organization established. He was honored with the presidency of the national organization, and did much to shape the policy and raise the standard of this society.

As an active member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (vice-president in 1896); of the American Society of Civil Engineers; of the Society on Testing Materials; Kansas Academy of Science; and as advisory member of the Kansas State Board of Health, he took an active part in the work for the encouragement of research and the advancement of scientific knowledge.

His colleagues in the university and the thousands of students who have been under his instruction, feel that a friend has gone. In the words of one of Dean Marvin's former students:

He was further qualified for his work by his culture and refinement. No man was better fitted than Frank Marvin to plant in his boys the desire for the fine things of life. He was a reader, a student, an artist. Through all the busy years of striving and building, of creating great properties, or of humble service in some of the quieter places in life, Frank Marvin's boys look back to the school days of long ago and recall the quiet cultured gentleman who gave them so many ideals and who in his own life so lived these ideals.

The University of Kansas has honored the name of the first dean of its engineering school by naming the new engineering building "Marvin Hall," and the former students and friends are about to place in the building a bronze bust to commemorate his name.

LAWRENCE, KANS.

E. H. S. BAILEY

#### THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY IN GREAT BRITAIN

THE position and prospects of the British dye industry were discussed by Dr. W. H. Perkin, Waynflete professor of chemistry, Oxford, in his presidential address delivered on March 25 at the annual general meeting of the Chemical Society, London. Dr. Perkin is the son of the late Sir William Perkin, F.R.S., the discoverer of aniline dyes. "The Position of the Organic Chemical Industry" was the title of the lecture, and Dr. Perkin according to an abstract in the London *Times* at the outset expressed his conviction that the causes of the decadence of the industry in this country were still imperfectly understood. One of the main reasons for our present position was that we, as a nation, and our manufacturers in particular, had failed to understand the extreme complexity of the scientific basis of organic chemical industry. The decadence of the coal-tar industry and its gradual transference to Germany began during the period from 1870 to 1875. It was in 1874 that the works of Perkin and Sons at Greenford Green were sold to the firm of Brooke, Simpson and Spiller, and these works were then much in advance of anything that existed in Germany. One reason for the sale, Dr. Perkin said, was his father's natural dislike to an industrial career, and his desire to devote himself entirely to pure chemistry.

There was, however, a much more weighty consideration. It was recognized that the works could not be carried on successfully in competition with the rising industry in Germany unless a number of first-rate chemists could be obtained and employed in developing the existing processes, and more particularly in the all-important work of making new discoveries. Inquiries were made at many of the British universities in the hope of discovering young men trained in the methods of organic chemistry, but in vain.

The value of the coloring matter consumed in the United Kingdom was £2,000,000 per annum, and these dyes were essential to textile industries representing at least £200,000,000 a year and employing 1½ millions of workers, and

to many other industries such as the wall-paper, printing and paint industries requiring lakes and pigments.

In 1870, the time when this industry commenced to be transferred to Germany, organic chemistry was not recognized by our older universities, and the newer universities, which since then had done so much for the progress of science, did not exist. Many of our universities and particularly those of Oxford and Cambridge, and those in Scotland, contributed practically nothing to the advancement of organic chemistry in the latter part of last century, and even now their output of research was far less than it should be. In Germany, as soon as the importance of the subject became apparent, schools specially devoted to the subject were founded by such teachers as Liebig, Wöhler, Kekulé and Baeyer.

The president then dealt with the deficiency of dyes in this country, and referred to the schemes proposed by the government to ascertain the best means of obtaining sufficient supplies of chemical products. The grant of £100,000 which the government proposed to make to the company for research purposes would be better employed in subsidizing the research laboratories of those universities and colleges which were willing to specialize in organic chemistry, and to train a certain number of students with a view to their entering the services of the company. The existing dye works in this country compared very unfavorably, he said, with those in Germany, where experience had been in favor of building large works and against spreading manufacturing operations over small works situated in different parts of the country. Moreover, in the manufacture of any substance, by-products resulted which must be either recovered or used in the manufacture of other saleable products, and in order that these by-products might be used to the best advantage the dovetailing operations should be carried out on the same site, and thus save transporting the by-products from one works to another—an operation that must entail loss. The proposal of the government, therefore, to take over the existing works in this country appeared a doubtful policy.

#### *INTERSTATE CONFERENCE ON CEREAL INVESTIGATIONS*

THE undersigned committee on arrangements respectfully announce that on May 25-28, 1915, an Interstate Conference on Investigations of Cereals will be held in California. This proposed conference is the outgrowth of suggestion and expressed desires on the part of many investigators for a number of years that such a conference be held for the purpose of conferring on the various phases of all cereal research but particularly those more difficult problems concerning which there is difference of opinion, different methods of work, different points of attack and considerable variation in results, in order that these differences may be better understood by each other and that all such investigations be more coordinate and effective hereafter.

It seems that the fact that there are no other meetings at that time to conflict with this one and the fact that it is near harvest time in that region would be much in favor of having the conference at the time stated. It is realized that the time may be inopportune for some and that many in the eastern part of the United States will not be able to attend. It is hoped, however, that even of those in the east there may be certain ones who would in any case visit California about that time and who would avail themselves of the opportunity to take part in the conference. It is hoped and expected that there will be a good attendance from the territory west of the Mississippi River. A number have already signified their intention of being present and several have submitted titles of papers.

The arrangements are: To meet at Merced Tuesday, May 25, for a field inspection of the San Joaquin Valley cereals, go to Berkeley the evening of the same day and begin the conference proper the morning of the 26th at the University of California; continue the program the next day at the State Experiment Farm at Davis and finish the day with an inspection of the farm; then go to Chico in the evening or the next morning and visit the Plant Introduction Garden of the United States Department of Agriculture on the 28th. During the same day those who wish will go