the royal purple of hematoxylin before they could be exposed to the awed gaze of the beholder. Likewise, in 1899, when the name of vom Rath was a word to conjure by; continuing in 1900, when nerve endings were the end and aim of all that was worth while, he could only wonder and be silent. I remember in 1899 asking an acquaintance that I had made the previous year what he was working at. His reply was: "I have been working for the past two years on the nerve endings of *Arenicola*, but have not got any results yet." But with the introduction of experimental methods the epoch of zoological fads came to an end. Now our dweller beside the road listens with appreciation to illuminating lectures on a variety of subjects, where problems new and old are attacked from various and unusual points of approach and by a multiplicity of methods. He listens with delight to the lecturers who announce the results of their researches, but with a conviction that is sometimes in inverse proportion to his knowledge of the subject under discussion. Often he is inclined to accept these conclusions with enthusiasm, only to have his enthusiasm chilled when he hears what the lecturer's friends have to say about the lecture on the following morning.

When, in more recent years of the Fish Commission, or Bureau of Fisheries, as it is now called, Parker, with no other equipment than a pair of hat-pins, demonstrated the functions of the otoliths of fishes, and, with an apparatus which he constructed with the aid of a saw and hammer, supplemented by a simple surgical operation, discovered the function of the lateral line in fishes, and in equally simple fashion cleared away the fog that enveloped our knowledge of how much or how little fishes hear sounds either above or beneath the water; when Sumner showed by ingenious but easily worked experiments the degree to which flat-fishes adapt themselves to their surroundings; when Field gave proof as convincing as that of the proverbial pudding that *Mytilus edulis* is truly an edible, and that the smooth dog-fish by some other name would be eagerly sought in the markets; when these pieces of original work and others like them, of which many could be named, are considered, we feel that they represent in good degree the kind of investigation which would have won Professor Baird's hearty sympathy and approval. I am inclined to think, however, that he would have viewed with still greater favor the Bulletin of the Bureau of Fisheries for 1911 reporting a Biological Survey of the Waters of Woods Hole and Vicinity.

EDWIN LINTON

WASHINGTON AND JEFFERSON COLLEGE,
WASHINGTON, PA.

THE INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING CONGRESS

THERE will be held at San Francisco, from September 20 to 25, 1915, an International Engineering Congress, organized and conducted under the auspices of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Institute of Mining Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers. General G. W. Goethals has consented to act as honorary president and is expected to preside over its general sessions. The following eminent engineers have consented to serve the congress as honorary vice-presidents: Professor Richard Beck, Sir J. H. Biles, Otto T. Blathy, Commander Christian Blom, Professor André Blondel, Dr. C. E. L. Brown, Dr. Emil A. Budde, Henry Le Chatelier, Professor Hermann Hullmann, Wm. Henry Hunter, Professor Luigi Luiggi, Rear Admiral Yoshihiko Mizutani, W. M. Morday, Sir Charles Parsons, Jean L. de Pulligny, V. E. Timonoff, R. P. J. Tutein-Melthenius, H. H. Vaughn, Sir Wm. Willcocks.

The papers to be presented before the congress will cover the general field of engineering and will be published in ten volumes.

The papers in general are intended to treat the various topics in a broad and comprehensive manner and with special reference to the important lines of progress during the past decade, the present most approved practises and the lines of present and future development.

The general fee for membership in the congress is $5, which will entitle the member to receive the index volume and any single volume of the transactions he may select, together with the right of participation in all the general activities and privileges of the congress. The committee of management must know at the earliest practicable date the number of members in the congress. Effective plans in regard to the publication of the transactions, as well as all arrangements looking toward the proper ordering of local affairs during the week of the congress, require this information.

It is expected that there will be arranged a number of excursions to points of engineering and general interest within practicable reach of San Francisco, and every effort will be made to enable visiting engineers to inspect personally such engineering works as are especially typical of engineering on the Pacific Coast. Further information of general interest and importance regarding the congress will be given publicity through the technical press, and to all subscribers notice will be sent containing more complete information as to papers, sessions of the congress, excursions, travel routes and itineraries, hotel rates and accommodations, and other matters of importance.

Mr. W. F. Durand is chairman and Mr. W. A. Cattell is secretary of the committee of management, the address of which is Foxcroft Building, San Francisco.

EDITH JANE CLAYPOLE

The following minute in memory of Dr. Edith J. Claypole, who died in March, as a result of infection incurred in the preparation of typhoid vaccine for the armies of Europe, has been adopted by the Science Club of Wellesley College. It has also been embodied in the minutes of the Academic Council:

The Science Club of Wellesley College records its sense of loss in the death of Edith Jane Claypole, a charter member of the club, its first secretary, and active both in its foundation and in its early conduct. Descended from a father who was himself a distinguished man of science, and receiving her early education at home, she was by inheritance and training exceptionally fitted for the line of work to which she chose to devote her life. She early exhibited unusual capacity for research; in the field of cell-studies and pathology her many papers are evidence of her power of achievement. As a teacher she opened the eyes of her students to the beauty and significance of living things, revealed to them the method of science, and inspired them with the high nobility of its aims. Members of other departments recognized the open-mindedness and appreciation that marked her attitude toward all branches of scientific activity. As a physician she early became interested in preventive medicine, and to its advance she devoted herself without reserve. Through her researches in pathology, particularly in certain obscure cases of infection and in typhoid immunization, she won distinction, and in the application of these researches to the needs of humanity, she has now crowned her service with the gift of her life. Her charm of manner and winsomeness of spirit, with a strong and wholesome nature, quick and tender in its response to the needs of others, and her unfailing steadfastness in friendship, endeared her to large circles. We, the members of the Science Club, express our sadness in the loss of a comrade, and our appreciation of her service to science and to humanity.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

The Civic Forum Medal of Honor awarded annually for "distinguished public service" has been presented to Mr. Thomas A. Edison.

Dr. Abraham Jacobi was the guest of honor at a dinner in the Hotel Astor given by the physicians and officers of the Bronx Hospital on the occasion of his eighty-fifth birthday.

At the annual meeting of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, held on May 12, at its house, 28 Newbury Street, the following officers were elected:

President, Henry P. Walcott; *Vice-presidents*, Elihu Thomson, William M. Davis, A. Lawrence