ganic compounds, especially by means of nickel, has been thoroughly elucidated by Professor Sabatier and his coworker, the Abbé Senderens. The industrial application of the process to the unsaturated acids of the oleic series has already acquired considerable industrial importance. It gives me great pleasure to announce the award, so well earned by Professor Sabatier.

The Hughes medal is awarded to Professor Paul Lanvegin, who has made valuable contributions to electrical science, both on the theoretical and experimental sides. He has found by experiment the rate of recombination and the mobility of ions produced by different processes in gases at various pressures, and he has made an exhaustive study of the theoretical aspects of the interdiffusion of gases and the mobility of ions.

MEMORIAL TO JOHN WESLEY POWELL

THE Department of the Interior has completed, on the rim of the Grand Canyon, in Arizona, a memorial to Major John Wesley Powell, the pioneer and distinguished man of science who first explored the Grand Canyon. The memorial is an altar decorated in Indian imagery and supporting a bronze tablet, resting upon a pyramidal base of rough-hewn stone. Fifteen steps lead from the west up to the altar floor, from which one may gaze into the very heart of the glowing mile-deep canyon. It is a structure worthy alike of the rugged, forceful personality of the man and of the titanic chasm which it overlooks.

The spot chosen for the memorial is Sentinel Point, a promontory south of the railway station, which commands a particularly fine view of the Granite Gorge and of the river, whose unknown terrors of whirlpool and cataract the Powell party braved in small open boats. The structure, which is built of weathered limestone from the neighborhood, has a rectangular base 21 by 28 feet. The altar carries on its east side a medallion portrait of Major Powell in bronze bas-relief by Leila Usher and the following inscription:

Erected by the congress of the United States to Maj. John Wesley Powell, first explorer of the Grand Canyon, who descended the river with his party in rowboats, traversing the gorge beneath this point August 17, 1869, and again September 1, 1872.

The general effect is unobtrusive, natural and appropriate. A few small, gnarled trees grow close by, but do not obstruct the view. The structure stands back from the edge sufficiently to permit visitors in considerable numbers to group themselves in front.

The memorial was planned at the International Geological Congress of 1904 in recognition of Major Powell's distinguished services as director of the United States Geological Survey. In March, 1909, Congress appropriated $5,000 for the purpose, "in recognition of his distinguished public service as a soldier, explorer and administrator of government scientific work." Dr. H. W. Holmes chose the site.

The original plan was to make the memorial a Roman chair facing the canyon. Last spring Secretary Lane substituted an altar for the chair, and Mark Daniels, then general superintendent and landscape engineer of National Parks, designed the structure as it stands to-day.

It was then late in July, and Mr. Walter Ward, engineer of the Reclamation Service, had a difficult task before him to find and hew the rock and build the structure within the slender appropriation.

This memorial, so expressive of the spirit and character of the man whose life work it celebrates, and so admirably located, will be formally dedicated early next summer. If, as is expected, Congress meantime makes the Grand Canyon a national park (it is a national monument now), the two dedications will take place together, making a celebration altogether notable in the history of national parks.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. CHARLES R. VAN HISE, president of the University of Wisconsin and previously professor of geology, has been elected president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in succession to Dr. W. W. Campbell. The other officers elected at the Columbus meeting of the association and an account of the proceedings will be found elsewhere in the present issue of SCIENCE.