

adequate thoroughness. The test of such methods by time, in the American engineering schools, is not yet complete. Indeed the last steps are quite young in our practise; but they stand high by *a priori* tests, and the few years' trial thus far made indicates an ideal result from the interassociation in the same laboratory of the undergraduate laboratory instruction by problems and the postgraduate laboratory research.

DUGALD C. JACKSON

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

THE JOSEPH A. HOLMES SAFETY ASSOCIATION

MENTION has already been made in the columns of SCIENCE of the movement to start a memorial to the late Dr. Joseph A. Holmes and an account of the preliminary meeting of representatives of different national associations was given in the same article.¹

The first meeting of the permanent association was held in the U. S. Bureau of Mines, Washington, on March 4 last. The following organizations were represented:

American Institute of Mining Engineers, Hennen Jennings.

American Mining Congress, Dr. David T. Day.

American Federation of Labor, A. E. Holder.

Mining and Metallurgical Society, Dr. George Otis Smith.

American Society of Mechanical Engineers, General W. H. Bixby.

American Institute of Electrical Engineers, John H. Finney.

American Electro-Chemical Society, Dr. F. G. Cottrell.

American Association for the Advancement of Science, Dr. L. O. Howard.

American Chemical Society, S. S. Voorhees.

Geological Society of America, Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt.

National Academy of Sciences, Dr. David White.

American Red Cross Society, Dr. Robert U. Patterson.

Western Federation of Miners, Joseph D. Cannon.
Mine Inspectors Institute, J. W. Paul.

¹ See SCIENCE, Vol. XLIII., No. 1101, February 4, 1916, pp. 164-165.

Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, Professor O. P. Hood (vice Professor Wadsworth).

Letters of regret were received from the following:

United Mine Workers of America, William Green.

National Safety Council, H. M. Wilson.

American Forestry Association, P. Risdale.

American Society of Testing Materials, A. W. Gibbs.

The permanent organization was effected under the name of the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association and the following officers were elected:

President, the Chief of the U. S. Bureau of Mines (Mr. Manning).

First Vice-president, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution (Dr. Walcott).

Second Vice-president, the President of the American Federation of Labor (Mr. Gompers).

The members of the executive committee to serve with the other officers were elected as follows:

Mr. Hennen Jennings, representing the American Institute of Mining Engineers.

Dr. John A. Brashear, of Pittsburgh.

The present functions of the association were formulated as follows:

1. That annually the association shall make one or more awards with honorariums to be known as "The Holmes Award" for the encouragement of those originating, developing and installing the most efficient safety devices, appliances or methods, in the mining, quarrying, metallurgical and mineral industries during the previous year, these awards to be the result of reports and investigations made by the secretary and the representatives of the association.

2. From time to time the association shall also make suitable awards for personal heroism or distinguished service or the saving of life in any branch of the mining, quarrying, metallurgical and mineral industries.

3. Once a year a meeting of the association shall be held in the city of Washington at which all awards will be publicly announced.

CONVOCATION WEEK MEETING AND THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE council of the American Chemical Society has by a vote of 61 to 31 declined to

reconsider the vote fixing the annual meeting of the society in September. The circumstances of the case are explained in the following letter from the secretary of the society, Dr. Charles L. Parsons, addressed to the members of the council on March 2:

On February 14 a letter was received from Professor W. A. Noyes moving reconsideration of the recent vote selecting the date of September 25, 1916, for the time of our annual meeting rather than Convocation Week in December. Under vote of the council [*Proc.*, 1912, p. 43], it is necessary that the president certify to the urgency of this vote before it can be sent to the council. After some correspondence between Professor Noyes and President Herty, I am this morning in receipt of a letter from President Herty certifying to the urgency of the matter, and Professor Noyes's motion to reconsider is accordingly submitted to you for your opinion. Professor Noyes's motion and President Herty's letter to me regarding the matter follow:

“February 10, 1916.

“PROFESSOR C. L. PARSONS,
Washington, D. C.

“*Dear Professor Parsons:* In the recent vote of the council on the date of the fall or winter meeting of the American Chemical Society I voted in favor of the September date in order that I might move a reconsideration of the question. I can not believe that the members of the council, in voting as they have, gave due consideration to the following points which favor the December date:

“1. A plan has been carefully formed to bring all of the scientific interests of the country together in one city once in five years. The December date was set in order to carry out this plan for the first time. It seems only fair that the chemists of the country should cooperate in carrying out this important scheme.

“2. The date in September which is proposed is at a time when practically all of the professors and teachers in our colleges and universities are busy with the opening of the year's work and very few of this class of our members would find it possible to attend the meeting.

“I move, therefore, that the motion fixing the date of the meeting in September be reconsidered.

“I also move that in case the motion to reconsider carries the fixing of the date of the meeting be left to the directors, or, if they prefer, post-

poned till the April meeting of the council.

“Very respectfully,
“W. A. NOYES”

“February 29, 1916.

“DR. CHARLES L. PARSONS, *Secretary*,
American Chemical Society,
Box 505, Washington, D. C.

“*My dear Dr. Parsons:* In the recent letter ballot of the council, held for the purpose of advising the president and secretary as to the wishes of the council regarding the time for holding the 1916 annual meeting, Dr. W. A. Noyes voted in favor of the September date in order to move a reconsideration. He now so moves, with the addition that in case of reconsideration the matter be left to the decision of the directors.

“Under the action of the council at the 1911 Washington meeting it becomes my duty to pass upon the urgency of this motion.

“While simultaneous action on the two motions is somewhat unparliamentary, nevertheless in view of the desirability of settling this matter as promptly as possible, I beg to certify to the urgency of Dr. Noyes's motion for reconsideration, and request that you will submit the matter to the council immediately for letter ballot.

“I regret that I can not agree with the author of the motion in his desire that the annual meeting this year should be held in December, rather than in September as has been decided by the votes of so large a proportion of the council.

“Under normal conditions I would favor most heartily the policy of meeting quadrennially with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. At the Cincinnati meeting I spoke most earnestly in behalf of this policy, but this is an entirely different world from what it was at that time.

“As a result of the European war chemistry has received a tremendous impulse in this country; the general public has been aroused to its importance to the welfare of the country; and this year of all others it is extremely desirable that we should have at our annual meeting the largest gathering of chemists that this country has ever known, for there are many problems, the solution of which demands personal conferences by men from every section of the country. There is need for the presence of both the men from the universities and the men of the industries at such conferences, and there is need of the greatest legitimate publicity of our work and aims.

"I deeply regret that it was found absolutely impossible to hold the Second National Exposition of Chemical Industries during Convocation Week. Every effort was made to do so, but all of these efforts failed through inability to secure a suitable building during that week. The exposition must be held in September. If, therefore, we should decide to hold our annual meeting in December, I am confident that it would result in a large portion of our membership attending the exposition and failing to attend the meeting of the society. This would mean a very great loss in this particular year to the prestige and usefulness of the society. The opportunity of a lifetime is in our hands. It seems to me that we would be very unwise to divide our strength just at the time when we have so wonderful an opportunity for increasing it.

"Should the council vote against reconsideration, members of the society connected with universities would not be thereby necessarily prevented from attending the annual meeting. It seems reasonable that university authorities would gladly give leave-of-absence to members of chemistry staffs in those institutions which open on or before September 25, and certainly the departments of chemistry in all of our universities would have much to gain from a meeting held in conjunction with the Second National Exposition of Chemical Industries. "Sincerely yours,

"CHAS. H. HERTY,
"President"

FIRST MEETING OF THE PACIFIC DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE first meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be held in San Diego, California, between the dates, August 9 and 12, 1916. The plans for this meeting include four public addresses upon important scientific subjects of general interest. The first of this series of addresses will be that of the president of the division, Dr. W. W. Campbell, director of the Lick Observatory, Mount Hamilton, on Wednesday evening, August 9, and will be entitled "What we know about Comets." This address will be followed by a reception to visiting scientists. The three other public addresses will occur on Thurs-

day and Friday evenings, August 10 and 11, and on the afternoon of one of the days set aside for the meeting. Addresses will be given by Dr. Barton W. Evermann, director of the Museum of California Academy of Sciences, and by Dr. F. F. Westbrook, president of the University of British Columbia.

Thirteen scientific societies of the Pacific coast region are now affiliated with the Pacific Division and it is expected that many of these societies, together with other scientific societies of the same region will participate in the San Diego meeting. Sessions of these societies will be held on Thursday and Friday, August 10 and 11, and at least one day of the period of the meeting, Saturday, August 12, will be reserved for excursions, which will be both of general and special scientific interest.

The Channel Islands and the region of southern California present a number of extremely interesting geological features. This region is also unique botanically and zoologically. Materials of southwestern ethnology and archeology are to be found among the Indian reservations and remains of Spanish settlements in southern California. The excursions which are to be arranged at the time of the San Diego meeting, will make accessible as many as possible of these interesting features. Among other excursions which may be taken en route to or from the San Diego meeting are visits to the astronomical observatories at the Lick Observatory on Mount Hamilton, near San Jose, and the Mount Wilson Solar Observatory, near Pasadena.

Special significance centers upon this meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association at San Diego, since this is the first of a series of meetings which it is planned to hold annually under these auspices in the educational centers of the Pacific coast. Additional interest is given to this occasion by the Panama-California Exposition at San Diego which illustrates in its exhibits the resources of the southwest and includes a series of unusually fine collections concerning the history of man.

Preceding the San Diego meeting of the Pacific Division the first assembly in science