but which are able and willing to contribute an important part of a research.

Galen H. Clevenger,
Acting Chairman of the Division of Engineering

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE WATT CENTENARY[1]

Additional interest has been given to the forthcoming commemoration of the centenary of the death of James Watt by the movement just inaugurated in Glasgow to found locally a James Watt chair of engineering at the university. Birmingham engineers decided some time ago that a similarly named chair should be installed in the university of their city, besides holding a centenary commemoration and erecting an international memorial to the three great pioneers, Watt, Boulton and Murdock. The commemoration in Birmingham will be held on September 16–18. London, Glasgow, and Greenock, and, indeed, all parts of the country, are heartily cooperating, and, with few exceptions, the universities and scientific societies, together with many manufacturers and individual eminent men, are associating themselves with the scheme. In the Science Museum at South Kensington steps are being taken to arrange a comprehensive exhibition of Watt relics. In Birmingham the Watt relics existing there, which have so carefully been preserved by the forethought of Mr. George Tangye, and were a few years back presented to the city, will be completely rearranged and displayed with many additions. Two pumping-engines made by Boulton and Watt will be seen; one, the first sold by the makers in 1776. will be actually shown under steam, and raising water. A memorial service will be held in the Parish Church at Handsworth, where the three contemporaries are buried. A garden-party will be held in park at Heathfield Hall, where the garret workshop still remains as Watt left it. Lectures will be delivered by eminent men and a centenary dinner held. Some doubt seems to have been raised with regard to the claims of Birmingham to an international memorial. It should be remembered, however, that Watt's association with Boulton led to the success of his engine. Boulton's factory was famous for workmanship throughout Europe. It is true that Watt conceived his first ideas whilst working at the University in Glasgow, but he gained no practical success until he went to Birmingham. He spent the best part of his life there, including the evening of his days after he retired from business. The foundations he laid by scientific thought and careful study have resulted in the great and universal application of steam, and the appeal comes appropriately from Birmingham for an international memorial to him.

[1] From *Nature*.

THE SHORTAGE OF COAL IN EUROPE

The Bureau of Mines gives figures showing that western and southern Europe is badly in need of coal. The deficiencies in the several countries were supplied by Great Britain, which now faces a loss of its export business through reduction in its coal production. On a pre-war basis of consumption the following tabular statement gives the deficiency in the various countries in western and northern Europe which must be met by imports:

	Long Tons (2,240 lbs.)
France	20,000,000
Spain	3,650,000
Italy	9,650,000
Holland (other than supplies from Germany)	2,010,000
Sweden	4,560,000
Portugal	1,360,000
Norway	2,300,000
Mediterranean countries (other than Italy)	3,500,000
Denmark	3,030,000
Total	50,060,000

In 1913 Great Britain supplied 31,000,000 tons to north Europe; 32,000,000 tons to France, and south Europe, that is 63,000,000 tons to the above-named countries, and others, in Europe, in addition to which about 9,000,000 tons was sent to South America; and 5,000,000 tons to other parts of the world.

If the statements made before the Parliamentary Commission are correct, from the

most favorable point of view, as estimated by Sir Richard Redmayne, conditioned on maintaining of war-time restrictions on domestic consumption, Great Britain will be able to supply only 23,000,000 tons for export during the coming year, dating from July 16. If, on the other hand, the domestic consumption was on a pre-war basis, there would be but 7 million tons available. But, on the basis of Sir Reymayne's figures, if all the coal were shipped to western and southern Europe, there would be a deficiency of over 25,000,000 tons without considering the 14,000,000 tons that Great Britain, in 1913, supplied for other parts of the world. There is thus a total deficit of approximately 40,000,000 tons, which if it is to be supplied at all, can be supplied by America only, on the assumption that Westphalia and Belgium are unable to materially increase production for several years. At best there is evidently a very large amount of coal that the United States could and should supply to relieve the situation in Europe and in South America, now that there is likely to be enough shipping flying the American flag to take care of the business.

THE PROPOSED MEDICAL FOUNDATION FOR NEW YORK CITY

ANNOUNCEMENT has been made by Dr. Royal S. Copeland, health commissioner of New York City, of an organization to be known as the New York Association for the Advancement of Medical Education and Medical Science.

The association's constitution and by-laws have already been adopted and an application has been filed at the Secretary of State's office in Albany for a charter. Dr. Wendell C. Phillips, ear specialist and general surgeon for Bellevue Hospital, is the president, and Dr. Haven Emerson, formerly health commissioner of New York, is the secretary.

Dr. Phillips, who is the originator of the project, planned before the war for an institution that would at least rival Vienna and Berlin. The world conflict postponed the matter, but as soon as the armistice was signed the physician and those interested with him revived the plan. A meeting was held on April 10, at which prominent medical men gave their views, and a committee was appointed to deal with the matter.

As stated in the constitution of the association, there are four primary objects to be attained. There are: First: To improve and amplify the methods of graduate and undergraduate teaching. Second: To perfect plans for utilizing the vast clinical material of the city for teaching purposes and to make use of teaching talent now unemployed. Third: To bring about a working affiliation of the medical schools, hospitals and laboratories, as well as the public health facilities of the city, to the end that the best interests of medical education may be conserved. Fourth: To initiate the establishment of a medical foundation in New York City whereby funds may be secured to meet the financial requirements of all forms of medical education and investigation.

There will be two classes of membership in the organization, one a general membership, including all physicians in good standing, teachers of auxiliary sciences, and investigators of problems relating to medicine; the other, a corporate membership of medical teachers and medical men with hospital appointments or affiliations. The corporate membership is limited by the constitution to not over 150.

The physicians who are responsible for the plan issued a short statement, which was given out at the board of health offices, in which they said:

> For years it has been evident that medical education, both undergraduate and graduate in New York has not adequately represented the possibilities of this great city. One of the reasons for this state of affairs has been the lack of financial support for our medical institutions. A more potent reason, however, arises from the fact that individual institutions working along somewhat narrow lines have accomplished satisfactory general results. The larger possibilities which could only come from a more or less central organization have failed to materialize.
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> As a result, men seeking medical education have been obliged to seek medical centers in European countries where more individual and special courses could be secured with but little trouble.