

The executive committee of the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Technology voted that the use of such a sum for a similar purpose in connection with chemical research would not be a wise expenditure at the present time for the following reasons:

1. The proposed plan, to be successful, would require the enlistment of the services of the best men in the country in traveling about and consulting with the various research workers. Such a utilization of their time would detract just so much from the progress of their own research work, with no certainty that the hoped-for stimulation and organization of the research workers of the country would exceed in value this loss.

2. The committee also feels that the first step in attaining the purposes of the proposed project should be a carefully prepared and indexed research census and that the promotion of cooperation between investigators working along similar lines can be best attained by calling a conference at some central point. The program of work for each such conference should be carefully worked out in advance by correspondence with the investigators, supplemented by such personal visits as the chairman of the Division may be able to make.

3. In view of the amount of preparatory work to be done in connection with securing the necessary data, corresponding with the research workers, and arranging the program for such conferences, the committee does not feel that during the first year it would be practicable to call more than five such conferences, but feels that a sum of money, not to exceed \$7,000, could be wisely and fruitfully expended in this way during the first year and would be glad to join the Physics Division in requesting such a sum from the Rockefeller Foundation, to be used in this manner. It feels, however, that any requests for additional amounts should be based upon the knowledge and experience gained during the first year.

#### THE PATRON'S MEDAL OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

At the anniversary of the Royal Geographical Society on June 2, the medals were presented in accordance with the announcement already made in *SCIENCE*. The president of the society, Sir Thomas Holditch, in presenting the patron's medal to Mr. Butler Wright for Professor W. M. Davis said:

The Patron's Medal is awarded to Professor William Morris Davis, of Harvard University, for his eminence in the development of physical geography. He is the most eminent of living American geographers, and has devoted his life to investigations in physical geography and to the teaching of geography as a university subject at Harvard, and as visiting professor in several European universities. At the commencement of his career he devoted much attention to meteorology, and his "Elementary Meteorology, 1894" is a standard work. Later he had practical experience as a geologist on the U. S. Geological Survey. For forty years he has given his main attention to the physical geography of the land surface, on which he has published several books and very many papers, some of the most important of these in the *Geographical Journal*. Professor Davis has travelled throughout North and South America and Europe, widely in Asia (including an expedition to Turkestan), Africa and Australasia. All the leading geographers of Europe have at one time or another taken part in geographical excursions on a great scale led by Professor Davis, and have borne witness to his extraordinary grasp of physical features and his power of exposition in the field. As a university teacher he introduced new methods of study, especially in his geographical laboratory at Harvard, which have proved of high value in scientific training. As a theoretical geographer he is known mainly by the completeness with which he worked out the geographical cycle of erosion, and the consequences which follow from the application of the conception. All the work of Professor Davis, both in the field and in the study, is marked by a forceful originality which has acted as a vivifying stimulus to several generations alike of disciples and critics. It is not too much to say that his writings have been largely instrumental in displacing German in favor of English as the language of advanced work in geography. Mr. Butler Wright has undertaken to accept the medal on behalf of Professor Davis, and it is with honor that I give it to so distinguished an American. There has always been a good feeling between American geographers and ourselves, and I hope that this will be a small token that it will continue.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE fiftieth anniversary of the appointment of Dean George H. Perkins as professor of geology in the University of Vermont was celebrated at the recent commencement. The