PUGET SOUND SECTION, AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

A. L. Knisely, *President,* C. A. Newhall Co., Seattle, Wash.

R. T. Elliott, *Secretary,* U. S. Bureau of Chemistry, Seattle, Wash.

SAN FRANCISCO SECTION, AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

H. F. Blichfeldt, *Chairman,* Stanford University.

B. A. Bernstein, *Secretary,* University of California.

WESTERN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS

J. R. Slonaker, *President,* Stanford University.

Tracy I. Storer, *Secretary-Treasurer,* Museum of Vertebrate Zoology,. Berkeley.

MEETING OF PACIFIC COAST ECONOMISTS

A meeting of Pacific Coast economists will be held and a program arranged for Thursday and Friday afternoons, June 17 and 18. An effort will be made to organize a Pacific Coast Division of the American Economic Society.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE MATHEMATICAL INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF STRASBOURG

Helped by the favorable exchange level, a number of students are going to study in French universities. It is important to bring to their attention that, since November, 1919, the University of Strasbourg, completely reorganized, is working in full order. Its teaching staff is more than equal in number to what it was under German rule, and its equipment, already excellent in many respects, has been greatly improved where it was deficient.

For mathematical study, students will be offered in Strasbourg the usual standard courses on analysis, mechanics, astronomy, etc., the program of which is permanent and requires the students' time for two or three years. Research courses have been arranged for candidates for the "Doctorat de l'Université de Strasbourg," and of scholars generally. French diplomas are required for registration with a view to the doctorate, but can be dispensed with on presentation of equivalent foreign diplomas, with a statement of the student's ability by one of his former professors.

The program of research courses during the academic year 1920–21 is as follows:

First Semester (November 1, 1920–February 28, 1921)

Mathematical Physics: Mr. Bauer: Quantum Theory; Atomic Structure: 3 lectures a week.

Higher Analysis: Mr. Fréchets Theory of Chance: 2 weekly lectures; Integral Equations: 1 weekly lecture.

Second Semester (March 1, 1921–June 30, 1921)

Mathematical Physics: Mr. Bauer: Statistical Applications of Quantum Theory: 3 weekly lectures.

Higher Analysis: Mr. Fréchet: Applications of the Theory of Chance: 1 weekly lecture.—Functions of Lines: 2 weekly lectures.

Hydrodynamics: Mr. Villat: Researches on the Motion of a Solid in a Viscous Fluid: 2 weekly lectures.

Differential Geometry: Mr. Pérès: Transformations of Surfaces Applicable on Quadrics: 2 weekly lectures.

Theory of Functions: Mr. Valiron: Dirichlet's Series and Facultative Series: 2 weekly lectures.

For further information apply (in French or English) to M. le Directeur de l'Institut de Mathématiques de Strasbourg, Bas-Rhin, France.

Details concerning lodgings, etc., will be supplied by the Comité de Patronage des étudiants étrangers Université, Strasbourg, Bas-Rhin, France.

Students who wish to improve their knowledge of the French language during the vacation may apply for the circular on "Summer Courses," organized by the "Faculté des Lettres de Strasbourg."

THE FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY DECENNIAL CELEBRATION

The Forest Products Laboratory was organized by the U. S. Forest Service in 1909 and formally opened in June, 1910. It is conducted in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin.

During the ten years of its existence the efforts of the laboratory have been devoted to the development of improved methods and processes for the better utilization of forest products of all kinds, and to the direct assistance of the industries concerned. Among the major lines of endeavor are the following:

Pulp and paper,
Hardwood and softwood distillation,
Preservation of wood,
Decay and decay prevention,
Mechanical properties of wood,
Glues for wood,
Kiln drying and air seasoning,
Grading structural timbers,
Grading lumber,
Laminated construction,
Chemistry of wood,
Boxing, crating, packing,
Needle and leaf oils,
Ethyl alcohol from wood waste,
Wood finishes,
Aircraft parts,
Veneers and plywood,
Steam bending,
Identification of wood,
Microscopy of wood.

During the war direct assistance was rendered the War and Navy Departments and various other branches of the government in the solution of many important problems, particularly in connection with aircraft, gun-stocks, artillery wheels, escort wagons and the boxing and crating of arms and stores for overseas shipment. It was necessary, throughout this period, to abandon all work on the regular peacetime program.

A good many men acquainted with the work of the laboratory have expressed the thought that the laboratory and the service rendered by it should receive some mark of recognition or appreciation from the industries which it serves. In response to this thought, the decennial celebration has been planned, and a general committee organized to carry out the detailed arrangements.

The present plans call for a two-day program, including addresses by men prominent in science, industry and commerce; inspection of the laboratory; a banquet; and various other forms of instruction and entertainment. It is proposed to make a permanent record of the decennial in the form of a souvenir publication to contain all of the addresses and other relevant matter, including the names of those who can permit a permanent record of their cooperative contributions to be made.

ENGINEERING INVESTIGATIONS OF THE U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

A CORRESPONDENT writes:

In these days of economizing in government appropriations it is refreshing to note some of the remarks on the floor of the House by Representative Good, of Iowa, chairman of the Sundry Civil Appropriations Committee and Representative Byrns, of Tennessee, ranking minority member of that committee, in which they urged additions to appropriations. Their arguments were in defense of an item of $125,000 providing for an engineering investigation by the U. S. Geological Survey of the super-power project for the eastern United States. Mr. Byrns stated: "This proposition is one that looks forward to the conservation of our resources and, as has been stated, the time is at hand when something must be done looking to the conservation of our fuel supply because those in authority state that at present the known supply of oil will be exhausted within a very few years at the present rate of consumption." He further characterized this Geological Survey investigation as one that should be made "by government experts in order that if the investigation discloses that such a plan is practicable, those who are asked to make these investments will have confidence in the accuracy and impartiality of the report." Chairman Good in reporting the Sundry Civil bill had already made special reference to the super-power item in the bill as unique but as believed vitally important and he stated that such a survey would represent "Government initiative and cooperation which will result in the savings to the country of hundreds of millions of dollars annually. It will result in a great saving in the direct cost of fuel. It will furnish a reserve source of power for transportation and utility companies, which will be of large value in time of labor disputes and public emergencies. The principle can be applied broadly. Its benefits will accrue to towns and villages and to the farms of the country." Chairman Good also stated that this provision best illustrated the policy of including in the appropriation bill items providing for the fu-