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-

ture. He said "Government can not stand still. It must advance. It must provide for healthy growth of every useful governmental activity." In concluding the debate on this item which was followed by a favorable vote, Chairman Good remarked: "We may smile at this proposition. We may laugh it out of Congress, just as we did by ridicule the proposition of Mr. Langley in regard to the aeroplane."

To those who are interested in scientific and engineering investigations under government auspices such expressions by leaders in Congress are encouraging. It is also worthy of note that neither Mr. Good nor Mr. Byrns represent sections of the country that would primarily and immediately be affected by the proposed investigation; they seem to represent the country as a whole.

AWARD OF THE WILLARD GIBBS MEDAL

The presentation of the Willard Gibbs medal to Dr. Frederick G. Cottrell, director of the United States Bureau of Mines, from the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society, took place on May 21. This medal was founded by William A. Converse, of Chicago, and is conferred "In recognition and encouragement of eminent research in theoretical and applied chemistry."

At a meeting, which took place in the City Club, Lawrence V. Redman, chairman, addressed the section on The Willard Gibbs medal. The presentation was made by Dr. Willis R. Whitney, director of the Research Laboratories of the General Electric Company, and the Willard Gibbs address on "International scientific relations," was given by Dr. Cottrell.

While a professor at the University of California from 1902 to 1911, Dr. Cottrell devised a process for removing fumes from the waste gases of a sulphuric acid plant at a copper smelter. There had been numerous complaints that the noxious vapors were imperilling the health of the surrounding population, destroying animal life, and injuring vegetation. The process devised by Dr. Cottrell consisted of placing chains at the bottom of the flues. These chains were charged with currents of electricity, the effect of which was to cause the particles to fall and thus prevent their escaping into the air.

Dr. Cottrell patented the device but turned over his rights to a non-dividend-paying organization, formed for that purpose and known as "The Research Corporation." A charge for the use of the process is made and the net profits are devoted to the promotion of scientific research.

THE RETIREMENT OF PROFESSOR FAIRCHILD OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Professor Herman Le Roy Fairchild, head of the department of geology and curator of the geological museum at the University of Rochester, reached his seventieth birthday on April 29 and will retire from active service at the close of the present academic year. As a tribute to his contribution to science and his service to the university, undergraduates and members of the faculty joined in paying homage to him. Gifts from his classes and from the faculty expressed the esteem in which Professor Fairchild is held by the undergraduates and his associates on the teaching staff. His entry into the chapel in Anderson Hall on April 29 was the signal for an outburst of applause and cheering, which was renewed on the presentation of the faculty gift.

President Rush Rhees and Professor John R. Slater, head of the department of English, were the speakers. Pointing to Professor Fairchild's successful career as an indication that "a prophet is not without honor in his own country, even if he is a weather prophet," Professor Slater lauded his contribution in the field of science and scholarship, and after reading an original poem written for the occasion presented the faculty gift.

Professor Fairchild received the bachelor of sciences degree from Cornell University in 1874, and the honorary doctorate of science from the University of Pittsburgh in 1910. He was professor of natural science in Wyoming Seminary, at Kingston, Pa., from 1874 to 1876, and from there he went to New York city as a lecturer on natural science and on geology in Cooper Union. He was recording secretary of the New York Academy of Sciences from 1885 to 1888, going to the University of Rochester in that year. He