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