

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

served as president of the Rochester Academy of Science from 1889 to 1891, secretary of Geological Society of America from 1890 to 1906, and president of the society in 1912. He was chairman of a section of geology of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1898 and is a member of its executive committee. Professor Fairchild is an authority in glacial and dynamic geology.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

PROFESSOR JOHN C. MERRIAM, of the University of California, was elected president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington on May 25, to succeed Dr. R. S. Woodward, who will retire at his own request at the end of the year, after sixteen years of service. Dr. Merriam is professor of paleontology and dean at the University of California. He was last year acting chairman of the National Research Council.

At the annual meeting of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences held on May 12, it was voted upon the recommendation of the Rumford Committee to award the Rumford Premium to Dr. Irving Langmuir, of the General Electric Co., for his researches in thermionic and allied phenomena.

At a stated meeting of the Franklin Institute on May 19 the Franklin Medals were presented to Sir Auckland Geddes, British ambassador for the Honorable Sir Charles A. Parsons, Newcastle-on-Tyne and to His Excellency, Mr. A. W. F. Ekengren, minister of Sweden for Professor Svante August Arrhenius, of the Nobel Institute, Stockholm. Papers were read on "Some Reminiscences of Early Days of Turbine Development," by Sir Charles A. Parsons and on "The World's Energy Supply," by Professor Arrhenius.

THE Société de Pathologie Exotique has elected the following members from the United States: Dr. S. Flexner, Rockefeller Institute, associate member, already corresponding member; Dr. B. H. Ransom, U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry, corresponding member.

PROFESSOR HIRAM BINGHAM has been decorated by the French government with the

Ordre de l'Etoile Noire, grade of officer, for his services in France during the war. Dr. Bingham was recently elected an alternate-at-large to the Republican National Convention to be held in Chicago in June.

PROFESSOR A. D. WILSON, director of the division of agricultural extension of the college of agriculture of the University of Minnesota, has declined the post of assistant secretary of agriculture, tendered him by the Secretary of Agriculture, E. T. Meredith.

At its meeting on May 12 the Rumford Committee of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences voted an appropriation of \$200 additional to former appropriations to Professor Norton A. Kent, of Boston University, in aid of his research on spectral lines.

CHARLES W. TRIGG, incumbent of the Coffee Fellowship at the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, while still retaining his former connection, has moved to Detroit, Michigan, to assume charge of the chemical department of the donors, the King Coffee Products Corporation.

GENERAL W. C. GORGAS has left for England accompanied by Brigadier-General Robert E. Noble. They will proceed to West Africa to study what is alleged to be an outbreak of yellow fever in that district.

DR. LOUISE PEARCE, of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, has sailed for England and Belgium *en route* to the Belgian Congo for the purpose of studying the chemotherapy of African sleeping sickness.

MR. FRANK C. BAKER, curator of the Museum of Natural History of the University of Illinois, will spend the months of July and August in making a survey of the molluscan fauna of Winnebago Lake, Wisconsin, in the interests of the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. Material will also be obtained for the exhibits and research collections of the Illinois University Museum. Winnebago Lake is similar in origin to the large Oneida Lake in New York, which Mr. Baker surveyed several years ago for the College of Forestry at Syracuse University, and a comparison of the faunas of the two bodies