ena; and issue catalogues of active, dormant and extinct volcanoes, and of local seismic features.

6. *Central Scientific Bureau*

Dissemination of volcanologic and seismologic knowledge will be furthered by working through a body cooperating with all Pacific countries; therefore the conference

Recommends the establishment of a central bureau for dissemination of scientific knowledge among the volcano and earthquake stations of the Pacific.

7. *Geophysical Samoan Station*

This conference commends highly the work done at the Geophysical Observatory at Apia, Samoa; and expresses the hope that the service of that station will be continued.

8. *Education of Dwellers in Districts Liable to Disaster*

Great injury and loss of life to persons and damage to human constructions may be caused by earthquakes and volcanic eruptions and may be decreased by general education; therefore this conference

Recommends that countries liable to seismic disaster educate the people in proper methods of construction, in behavior during emergencies, and in the history of such catastrophes elsewhere.

SAMUEL SHELDON

DR. SAMUEL SHELDON, of the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, died at Middlebury, Vt., of Bright's disease on September 4, 1920. He was a professor of physics and electrical engineering at that institution for the last thirty-one years, and enjoyed a wide reputation as a physicist, educator and consulting engineer. In appreciation of his services to the Polytechnic, his colleagues of the faculty and the members of the corporation at recent meetings adopted the following minute:

The corporation and the faculty of the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn desire to give expression to the great loss sustained by the death of Dr. Samuel Sheldon who for thirty-one years served the Polytechnic as professor of physics and electrical engineering.

As an educator he was beloved and admired for his sterling qualities of mind and heart, for his earnestness and enthusiasm in the lecture-room, and for his genial good humor on all occasions. The personal interest he held for his students followed them in their professional work, and he derived pleasure from their achievements. They in turn affectionately called themselves "His Boys."

As an engineer he attained eminence through his integrity and straightforwardness of character; and by forceful personality and keen judgment he reached the highest offices in national engineering societies. This broad contact with the engineering fraternity and his association with men of attainment brought him experience and vision of inestimable value to the Polytechnic.

As a colleague he will always be remembered as a man of action, of precision, yet sympathetic and kind—above all inspiring. He lived for the Polytechnic, worked unceasingly for its upbuilding, and was rewarded with the happiness that came through the realization of his ideals.

We, the members of the corporation and faculty of the Polytechnic Institute, herewith express to his family our deep respect and esteem for our beloved Dr. Sheldon and the profound regret that we shall henceforth be deprived of his valuable assistance and counsel in the solution of our educational problems.

Dr. Sheldon was born in Middlebury on March 8, 1862, the son of Harmon Alexander and Mary Bass Sheldon. He was graduated from Middlebury College in 1883 with the degree of A.B. and then pursued graduate work, receiving the degree of A.M. in 1886. During the next two years he studied at Würzburg, Germany, and received the degree of doctor of philosophy there in 1888. During a part of this time he was associated with Kohlrausch, the distinguished physicist, in his celebrated determination of the ohm as the unit of electrical resistance. He was awarded the honorary degree of doctor of science from the University of Pennsylvania in 1906, and from Middlebury College in 1911.

Dr. Sheldon was the author and joint author of several college text-books. Among them were "Direct-Current Machines," "Alternating-Current Machinery," "Electric Trac-

tion and Transmission Engineering" and "Physical Laboratory Experiments." He had also written a number of monographs and papers on special topics.

Dr. Sheldon was an honorary fellow of the American Electrotherapeutic Association, fellow and past-president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, member of the American Physical Society, member and past-president of the New York Electrical Society, member of the American Electrochemical Society, fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, member of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, member, past-vice-president and assistant treasurer of the United Engineering Society and chairman of its library committee, member of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences and president of its department of electricity, and member of the Engineers' Club.

Erich Hausmann

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

The California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, opened the work of the new year on September 27. The name of this institution was changed from Throop College of Technology to its present name by order of court, on petition of the board of trustees, on April 7, 1920. From the fall enrollment, the total attendance for the year is estimated at 400 students, a substantial increase over the enrollment of last year, which marked the largest attendance up to that time.

The institute has just received from Dr. Norman Bridge an additional gift of $100,000, for the Norman Bridge Physical Laboratory. His original gift for this purpose was $150,000, this addition making a total of $250,000. The construction of the building will be commenced immediately, and the building will be completed for the opening of the college year 1921–1922.

The resignation of Dr. James A. B. Scherer as president of the institute was accepted by the board of trustees on September 11. Dr. Scherer was president of the institute for twelve years. His resignation was occasioned by the condition of his health. When Dr. Scherer assumed the presidency the institute occupied old buildings, its work was almost wholly that of a preparatory school, its endowment very small, and its staff little known in the educational world. To-day it is a scientific institution of recognized standing, it occupies a physical plant consisting of a beautiful campus of twenty-two acres and four modern, reinforced concrete buildings, beautiful in architecture and equipment with the most modern scientific equipment. It has a substantial and constantly growing endowment, and has drawn into its staff men of the highest standing in science and engineering, including such outstanding figures as Dr. Arthur A. Noyes, who has recently become a full-time member of the faculty, Dr. Robert A. Millikan, who, under a cooperative arrangement with the University of Chicago, spends a portion of each year at the institute, and Dr. A. A. Michelson, who as research associate of the institute has recently installed on its campus apparatus for the measurement of earth tides, and has recently spent several months at the institute in connection with this investigation.

Pending the appointment of a new president a faculty administrative committee has been appointed, composed of Franklin Thomas, professor of civil engineering, chairman, Dr. Arthur A. Noyes, director of chemical research, Clinton K. Judy, professor of English and chairman of the faculty, Harry C. Van Buskirk, professor of mathematics and recorder, and Edward C. Barrett secretary of the institute.

New appointments to the staff of the institution are:

John R. Macarthur, B.A., University of Manitoba, 1892; Ph.D., University of Chicago, 1903; associate professor of English.

Captain Frederic W. Hinrichs, U. S. A. Retd., West Point, 1902; B.A., Columbia University, 1902; assistant professor of mechanics.

Captain Hans Kramer, U. S. A. Engineers, West