

joint commission on reorganization of the administrative branch of the Federal Government was brought up for two hours' debate on that date and passed by the House, having already passed the Senate on May 10. The bill became Public Resolution No. 54 on December 30 without executive approval. The resolution requires the committee to make a report in December, 1922. Mr. Smoot announced in February that the committee would do the work personally and would not turn it over to the Bureau of Efficiency or any other governmental agency. Considerable shifting and rearrangement of the scientific bureaus has been predicted as a probable outcome of the reorganization movement.

The House Committee on Patents recommended on December 10 that the Nolan Patent Office bill (H.R. 11984) be sent to conference, but unanimous consent for such reference was refused in the House. Later, on December 14, the bill was sent to conference, and hearings were reopened by the conference committee in January. Section 9 of the bill, providing for the issuance of patents to Federal employees, continued to meet with opposition from commercial and industrial interests, but was retained in the bill. The House agreed to the conference report on February 16. Opposition developed in the Senate, and the bill did not reach final action before the end of the session on March 4.

The bill for Federal supervision of the nitrate plants (S. 3390), including provision for research on the fixation of nitrogen, was made the unfinished business in the Senate on December 15. After several debates and the adoption of a number of amendments, the bill passed the Senate on January 14. The House took no final action.

The American Society of Zoologists, at its annual meeting on December 28-30, 1920, passed resolutions protesting against the passage of that part of H.R. 7785 (the scientific apparatus tariff bill) which abolishes the "duty-free privilege" to educational institutions. Occasional protests against this feature of the bill have been discussed in current scientific and technical periodicals. This feature of the bill was brought up in a hear-

ing on the Fordney emergency tariff bill before the House Committee on Ways and Means on February 14, and the sentiment of the committee seemed to be strongly in favor of eliminating the duty-free privilege on chemical glassware, chemical porcelain and apparatus. The Fordney bill passed both houses, but was vetoed by the president.

As for the special bill for a tariff on scientific supplies (H.R. 7785), although it had passed the House as long ago as August 2, 1919, the Senate took no final action and it lapsed with the adjournment on March 4.

A bill "to fix the metric system of weights and measures as the single standard for weights and measures" was introduced in the House by Mr. Britten on December 29 (H.R. 15420), and in the Senate by Mr. Frelinghuysen (by request) on December 18 (S. 4675). The bills are said to have been "fathered" by the World Trade Club of San Francisco. They were referred to the respective weights and measures committees and no further action was taken.

The Smith-Towner bill to create a Department of Education (S. 1017 and H.R. 7) after lying dormant through nearly the entire life of the Congress, was reported in the House on January 17 and in Senate on March 1, but progressed no further.

A step toward the erection of the proposed building for the National Academy of Sciences was taken in the introduction of S. 4645, "to authorize the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to close upper Water Street between 21st and 22d Streets, N.W." The bill passed the Senate on February 24, but advanced no further.

With the adjournment of the Sixty-sixth Congress at noon on March 4, various other bills and resolutions which are of interest to scientific men either perished in committees or at an intermediate stage of progress.

#### LECTURES BEFORE THE SIOUX CITY ACADEMY

THE Academy of Science and Letters of Sioux City, Iowa, arranged for the present year a weekly lecture program as follows:

"The culture areas of the early Iowa Indian," Professor Charles R. Keyes, Cornell College.

"The origin of the prairies," Professor B. Shimek, Department of Botany, University of Iowa.

"From Iowa to New Zealand and back," Rev. L. M. Dorreen, Sioux City.

"How we Americans select our President," Professor L. E. Aylesworth, Department of Political Science, University of Nebraska.

"Problems of Jackson's administration," Professor H. W. Caldwell, Department of History, University of Nebraska.

"Transmutation of elements," Professor M. E. Graber, Department of Physics, Morningside College.

"The last stand of the Sioux," Hon. Doane Robinson, State Historian, Pierre, S. D.

"Unfinished Iowa," Professor O. E. Klingaman, director of Extension Department, University of Iowa.

"History of American art," Professor Paul H. Grummann, Dean of the Department of Fine Arts, University of Nebraska.

"The history of the Missouri," Professor Freeman Ward, Department of Geology, University of South Dakota.

"Periods of architecture in America," W. L. Steele, Architect, Sioux City.

"Becoming acquainted with the suns," Professor G. D. Swezey, Department of Astronomy, University of Nebraska.

"Survey of prehistoric man," Professor H. G. Campbell, Department of Philosophy, Morningside College.

"Our raw material," Professor Hattie Plum Williams, Department of Sociology, University of Nebraska.

"Our native landscape of Mid-America," Mr. Jens Jensen, Ravinia, Ill.

"Our local bird life," Professor C. S. Thoms, Department of Sociology, University of South Dakota.

"Remaking the face of Iowa," Professor R. B. Wylie, Department of Botany, University of Iowa.

#### COOPERATION OF NATIONAL HEALTH AGENCIES

COORDINATION of the work of voluntary national health agencies has been effected on May 1, a number of these organizations will take possession of two floors of the Penn

Terminal Building, in Seventh Avenue at Thirty-first Street, New York City. The National Health Council was formed last fall by organizations, each of which will retain full autonomy. The new arrangement is in no sense a merger, but an effort to bring the organizations together for economy in overhead expenses and for cooperation in health programs. In addition to its work in coordinating the efforts of private health agencies, the council will maintain an inter-organization information service; a health legislative bureau, which will keep track of national and State health legislation and keep council members fully informed on it, and a statistical bureau. It also expects to aid in the development of health educational material and will foster periodic joint conferences among members of the various participating organizations.

On the fifteenth floor of the Penn Terminal Building will be the offices of the American Social Hygiene Association, the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, the National Organization for Public Health Nursing co-operating with the American Nurses' Association and the League for Nursing Education, and the National Tuberculosis Association.

On the sixteenth floor there will be offices for the American Public Health Association, formerly in Boston; the Bureau of Social Hygiene, the Child Health Organization of America, probably the liaison office of the United States Public Health Service, the National Health Council, with the Common Service Committee; the Maternity Center Association, the New York Diet Kitchen Association, the New York Community Service, and probably the American Society for the Control of Cancer.

The Federal Board of Vocational Education already has its New York offices in the Penn Terminal Building, on the fourteenth floor.

Officers of the National Health Council, which not only maintains its offices in New York, but has a national headquarters office in Washington, are: Chairman, Dr. Livingston Farrand; vice-chairman, Dr. Lee K.