

or whether they are held there in colloidal form. The material is so inert in its chemical affinities that we have not yet been able to kill it or to control it in any material way except by heating. This is a matter of the greatest importance in the cultivation of the soil and is a matter of profound importance in road building as it appears to be the main cause of the deterioration and the breaking down of the modern road surfaces.

MILTON WHITNEY

BUREAU OF SOILS,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

FROM the report in the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* we learn that Rumford Hall, Chemists' Club, was the gathering place on September 6, of the largest Council Meeting in the history of the society. President Edgar F. Smith was in the chair, and one hundred and sixteen councilors were present in person or by proxy. The business of the day consisted in large part of matters concerning the internal policies of the society, a complete report of which will appear in the proceedings in the October issue of the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*.

Two matters of national policy were discussed at length. The society's committee on patents and related legislation submitted a report on the Stanley Bill, now before the congress. The following resolution was unanimously passed:

While the council is disposed to accept the views of its committee on patents, nevertheless it is felt that a constructive suggestion should be made by the committee as to legislation which would prevent the utilization of our Patent Office by foreigners for the suppression of the development of industries such as was so clearly apparent in the organic chemical industry upon our entrance into the war in 1917. The committee is therefore urged to consider this problem immediately and to report to the committee on national policies.

President Smith outlined the present legislative situation with regard to the organic

chemical industry, whereupon it was moved that resolutions urging the passage of a limited embargo on synthetic organic chemicals be prepared for presentation to the general meeting on the following day.

It was decided to hold the annual meeting in September, 1922, at Pittsburgh, Pa. It will be remembered that this section relinquished its lien upon the September, 1921, date to permit the international gathering to be held in New York City. The spring meeting will be held in Birmingham, Ala., early in April, 1922.

The secretary presented an ad interim report of the finance committee and gave statistics regarding the paid and unpaid membership. It is estimated by the directors that the actual expenditures for the year 1921 will exceed the receipts by approximately \$10,000.

The president of the Chemists' Club, John E. Teeple, presented a suggestion that the society take over the Bureau of Employment now run by the club, or establish a bureau to replace this organization. In accordance with the Council vote, the President appointed a committee consisting of H. P. Talbot, Edward Bartow, and A. C. Fieldner, to consider this question and report at the spring meeting.

Dr. Smith told of the work of the Priestley Memorial Committee, describing the Priestley portrait, and outlining the plans of the committee to establish a Priestley Medal fund. Plans are also under way for the restoration of the Priestley home at Northumberland, Pa., and President Smith spoke of his wish that the society might celebrate its fiftieth anniversary with a meeting at Northumberland in 1925.

THE OPTICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE fourth annual meeting of the Optical Society of America will be held in Rochester, New York, on October 24, 25, and 26. A large number of important papers dealing with all branches of optics will be presented. Several of the papers on the program will deal with the various phases of physiological optics. At this meeting a section on vision