

gradually establish a standard to which authors will conform more and more closely as time goes on, and therefore the amount of editing required will become less and less.

Finally, mention should be made of the suggestion of several readers that larger type be used for the abstracts than has been the custom. Since more people read the abstracts than read the articles, it would seem obvious that the type of the abstracts should be at least as large as that of the articles.

It should not be long before all scientific journals, in fulfillment of their duty toward their readers, provide carefully prepared preliminary abstracts of their scientific articles. There can no longer be any doubt of the value of such abstracts. It remains only to overcome the practical obstacles to the introduction of the new policy.

In conclusion we desire to express our thanks to the 805 readers whose cooperation gave us the information herewith reported.

GORDON S. FULCHER

CORNING GLASS WORKS

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### CONSERVATION OF THE RESOURCES OF THE PACIFIC

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted by the Pan-Pacific Union Commercial Conference, meeting at Honolulu on November 7, 1922:

*Whereas*, It is known that many valuable species of marine mammals such as fur seal, sea otters, elephant seals and whale, and many species of important food fishes such as salmon and halibut, formerly occurred in the Pacific in such vast numbers as to constitute the objects of fisheries whose annual products were worth more than one hundred million dollars, and

*Whereas*, Nearly all of those great natural resources have been seriously depleted, many of them even to commercial extinction, through greed and short-sightedness and ill-considered fishery methods, and

*Whereas*, It is known that small remnants of fur-seal and sea-otter herds and small numbers of whales and of other commercially valuable species still remain in certain places, and

*Whereas*, The rapid recovery of the Alaska fur-

seal herd in the short period of ten years from complete commercial ruin to an annual production of more than one million five hundred thousand dollars, as a result of the international fur-seal treaty of 1911, demonstrates conclusively the wonderful recuperative power of such depleted natural resources of the sea under international cooperation, and justifies the belief that other depleted fisheries can be rehabilitated through similar cooperation among the nations concerned, and

*Whereas*, It is conservatively estimated that these resources when rehabilitated will yield to the world a regular annual product of more than one half billion dollars in value, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the Pan-Pacific Commercial Conference strongly recommends that the various countries bordering on, or interested in, the Pacific, take such steps as may be necessary to bring about an international treaty for the restoration of the vanishing resources of the Pacific to their former abundance, that they may be maintained for all time as the objects of great commercial fisheries of which they are easily capable, and be it further

*Resolved*, That this Commercial Conference recommends that the governments of the countries bordering on the Pacific enter into correspondence for the purpose of establishing an international commission for the scientific study of the biology, physics and chemistry of the Pacific in the interest of the restoration, proper utilization and conservation of its vanishing natural resources.

### THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING AND DR. NELSON

THE trustees of the University of Wyoming have passed the following resolutions:

*Whereas*, Dr. Aven Nelson, after five years as president of the University of Wyoming, resigned at the June meeting of the board of trustees, and

*Whereas*, His activities as president ceased October 2, upon the arrival of his successor, Dr. Arthur G. Crane, of Edinboro, Pennsylvania, and

*Whereas*, Dr. Nelson has served this university in various capacities from the infancy of the institution, in all of which he has succeeded to a high degree, and

*Whereas*, His industry, his patience and his scholarship were controlling factors in carrying the University of Wyoming through the world war and the reconstruction period thereafter to its present success.

*Be it resolved*, By the board of trustees of the University of Wyoming that we appreciate more fully than we can express his splendid loyalty and labors; that we extend to him our sincere wishes for a continued pleasant relationship upon his return to his former position as professor of botany; that we bespeak for him and Mrs. Nelson a long and happy life and all the joy and satisfaction which come from real service and the knowledge of a duty well done.

*Resolved*, That this expression of our good will be made a part of the permanent records of this board, and a copy thereof be transmitted to Dr. Nelson.

W. C. DEMING,  
*President, the Board of Trustees*

#### THE INDUSTRIAL DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

IN order that more time can be given to the presentation and discussion of papers delivered before the Industrial Division, American Chemical Society, it has been decided to ask all who plan to give papers before this division to submit completed manuscripts not later than March first to the secretary of the division. The manuscripts will then be sent to reviewers in a similar manner as contributed articles now submitted to any of the journals of the American Chemical Society. Upon favorable recommendation of the reviewers and the officers of the division, the papers will be included in the final program of the division.

It has been keenly felt for some time that something must be done to raise the standard of some of the papers which have been given before the division. No doubt the new method will reduce the number of papers to be presented at any one meeting, but it is felt that a few genuinely good papers followed by a sufficient time for discussion will be what most chemists desire. At Pittsburgh there were so many papers on the program that a time limit of seven minutes was allotted with three minutes for discussion. This time proved to be so short that a speaker could not present the paper in the best manner possible, and the period for discussion was so short that there was practically no attempt on the part of members to discuss the subject.

Since the spring meeting occurs at New Haven from April 3 to 7, inclusive, it is necessary for members of the American Chemical Society who are planning to present papers before the industrial division to send their papers on or before March 1 to the secretary of the division.

ERLE M. BILLINGS,  
*Secretary*  
INDUSTRIAL DIVISION,  
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY,  
KODAK PARK, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

#### THE UNION OF AMERICAN BIOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

THE most important business before many of the societies concerned at the Christmas meetings is the consideration of the proposed organization of the Union of American Biological Societies.<sup>1</sup>

That there is strength in union has long been believed. The practical questions before the biologists of the country are two: first, is it possible to achieve effective union in the diversity of biological interests; second, is the proposed Union of American Biological Societies a sufficiently well thought out plan of organization to give fair promise of effectiveness?

The answer to the first question would seem to be a clear and obvious "Yes." More diverse groups have already shown that they can by union achieve cohesiveness and power. The unbroken record of history, from the time when Benjamin Franklin said, "We must hang together or we will hang separately," to the present, from the first pooling of the common interests of unlike individuals to the Standard Oil Company and the American Chemical Society gives testimony to the real effectiveness and power of united effort.

As to the second question, that can only be answered after a study of the plan of organiza-

<sup>1</sup> The original name was the Federation of American Biological Societies. The word *Federation* in the Constitution has been changed by vote of the temporary executive committee to *Union* because of the confusion that some have thought would be caused by the similarity of the first provisional name to that of a small group of societies already organized.