programs for the meteorological service and reductions in the staff have taken place instead of the wished-for augmentation. The total whole-time staff of the Meteorological Office and its out-stations has changed during the year from 266 to 261. The year has seen a great increase in the interest of seamen in weather information and the report mentions that it is greatly to be regretted that this increased interest should coincide with conditions which have made it imperative to reduce rather than to extend the activities of the Marine Division. Data now being received are gradually getting back to pre-war conditions, when it was equally felt that excessive observations were costly. For forecasting work the report states that, although certain messages are still received by cable, almost all European countries have now adopted the use of wireless telegraphy and it is growing evident that it will shortly be possible to dispense with exchange of messages by cable. Much information is given relative to aviation and the upper air, new developments entailing much organization. The British Rainfall Organization is now controlled by the Meteorological Office and among many other branches of work may be mentioned atmospheric pollution and the oversight of attached and subsidiary observatories.

THE "ZOOLOGICAL RECORD"

MR. P. CHALMERS MITCHELL, of the Zoological Society of London, writes to the London *Times* under date of April 21, as follows:

May I say that the council of the Zoological Society will much regret if the *Zoological Record*, which it has supported with increasing financial difficulty for many years, has to be dropped? But the annual loss on the issues is over £1,100, and is likely to increase as the output of zoological research increases.

Bibliographical work, although necessary for all branches of zoology, is of less immediate concern to a society whose primary function is the care and study of living animals than to museums, general laboratories, universities and the various institutions dealing with medical zoology, parasitology, economic entomology and so forth. Last year the council, in its annual report and in circulars addressed to zoologists and zoological institutions throughout the world, explained the financial position, and stated that unless those to whom the *Record* was "invaluable" showed their appreciation of it by subscribing for a sufficient number of copies, the society could no longer undertake the publication. The response was unsatisfactory, and the council has accordingly taken the inevitable step of making it known that the *Record* will be discontinued unless substantial help is forthcoming. But it is so anxious to give those to whom the *Record* is necessary full opportunity of coming to its support, that it has undertaken to proceed with the compilation so that no time may be lost.

I fear that the suggestion of your correspondent, Mr. Stanley Kemp, in to-day's issue is not helpful; because of the drain of the *Record* on our resources we have already been compelled to suspend the publication of our "Transactions," and to postpone other scientific work of immediate interest to us; we are certainly not going to suspend the issue of our "Scientific Proceedings," which have appeared continuously since 1829, in order to carry out bibliographical work for other institutions. On the other hand, we are ready to continue the *Record*, and to regard a loss of £500 a year as part of our contribution to the common good of zoological science, if other institutions guarantee us against further loss.

A NEW CHEMICAL LABORATORY FOR HARVARD UNIVERSITY

IMMEDIATE measures for raising funds for a new chemical laboratory at Harvard University are imperative, according to the report of a committee of graduates appointed by Langdon P. Marvin, '98, president of the Associated Harvard Clubs, to consider the needs of the department of chemistry.

Stating emphatically that the present physical dilapidation of Boylston Hall, the main Harvard chemical laboratory, is "almost beyond belief" and that thirty-three years ago it was already considered antiquated, the committee asserts that even if this building is extensively repaired, "the only result achieved will be a third-class laboratory that has accommodations for about one-half the number of students that will be forced to work in it. It would be utterly impossible to provide for normal growth by such means."

Every graduate who has a son going to Harvard should visit Boylston Hall and see where he will have to work [reports the committee]. What can be said for the professors who have to do the teaching? Simply that devotion to the university and their belief in its future has kept them at their posts. Every one of them could

step out into better positions. In theoretical chemistry the Harvard staff have no superiors in America to-day. It is manifestly difficult, however, to hold a faculty together when such sacrifices are demanded, and new professors from the outside are not attracted to Harvard, which is not a healthy condition for any faculty to be in. How long then must chemistry at Harvard be confined to the narrow, unsuitable, inadequate bounds that restrict and distort its growth?

The present inadequate provision for the study of chemistry is not a matter that concerns only the Division of Chemistry when so large a proportion as thirty-five to forty-five per cent. of the undergraduates is involved. The necessity of the occasion demands that every Harvard man and every friend of Harvard should at once become interested in this most vital need of the university. When the Associated Harvard Clubs and the alumni of Harvard really understand this deplorable and impossible condition of the Division of Chemistry, this committee believes that they will not rest until the situation is cured.

The committee of Harvard graduates which made the report is headed by Edward Mallinckrodt, Jr., of Saint Louis. The other members are Dr. William S. Thayer, of Baltimore; Professor Theodore W. Richards, of Cambridge; W. Cameron Forbes, of Westwood, Mass.; Martin H. Ittner, of Jersey City; Eugene DuPont, of Greenville, Del.; Eliot Wadsworth, of Washington; G. Cook Kimball, of Pittsburgh; Isaac P. Hazard, of Syracuse, and Elihu Thomson, of Swampscott, Mass.

CONFERENCE ON WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

THE sixteenth annual conference on weights and measures will be held at the Bureau of Standards on May 21 to 24 inclusive. Invitations have been sent out to all state, municipal and other officials who are interested in weights and measures matters and judging by the replies received the conference will be unusually well attended.

A tentative list of papers which will be presented has been prepared, the titles of some of which are as follows: "Fraudulent practices and how we eliminated them," "The attitude of the Mid-west toward abolition of bushel weights," "Temperature as a factor in the measurement of gasoline," "Cooperation between state and local officials," "Divergence in bread labeling requirements," "Bread weight regulation from the standpoint of the retail baker," "The organization and conduct of city and county departments of weights and measures," "Problems arising in the supervision of public markets," "Origin and destination weighing of coal in carload lots," "Retail sales of coal and coke," "A standard test method for milk bottles," "Results of the Bureau's investigation of the commercial filling of milk bottles," "Commodity tolerances" and "Sale of service by weight or measure."

Among the reports of committees will be one on bread legislation and another on specifications and tolerances for vehicle tanks and fabric measuring machines.

The first morning of the conference will be devoted to the reports of delegates, while the second day will be "City and County Day," its sessions being devoted entirely to the problems of city and county weights and measures officials.

In connection with the conference the usual exhibit of weighing and measuring appliances will be held in the Industrial Building of the Bureau and it is expected that a large number of firms will avail themselves of this opportunity to set before weights and measures officials the latest improvements in their products.

THE FIRST DECADE OF THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

THE Rockefeller Foundation was chartered by special act of the New York State Legislature on May 14, 1913. The following statement of contributions and programs during this first decade is made by Edwin R. Embree, the secretary.

While the chartered purpose is broadly stated as "the well-being of mankind throughout the world," the work of the Foundation has become chiefly centered upon public health and medical education.

The expenditures during the first decade, 1913 through 1922, have amounted to seventy-six and three quarters millions ($76,757,040), roughly divided as follows:

Public health	$18,188,838
Medical education	24,716,859
War relief	22,298,541
All other philanthropic work	10,445,628
Administration	1,107,174