Trowbridge died in 1907 and his own death occurred in his eightieth year, on the eighteenth of February, 1923.

The earlier part of the long period during which Professor Trowbridge was a member of the teaching staff of Harvard College was characterized by the development of laboratory methods in teaching, and by the recognition of research as one of the fundamental activities of the department of physics. Keenly alive to the lack of adequate facilities for the advancement of his chosen field along these lines at Harvard, Trowbridge projected a great physical laboratory and found the means to construct it. When the laboratory was begun, models for such a building were altogether lacking in this country. Nevertheless, so excellent was its design that it still affords adequate facilities for teaching and research; it forms a lasting monument to the genius of the man who planned it.

For thirty years Professor Trowbridge presided as director over the destinies of the Jefferson Laboratory, devoting part of his time to teaching and a larger part to experimental investigation. Problems connected with spectrum analysis and with the conduction of electricity through gases attracted his attention; and his contributions to scientific literature on these subjects were considerable. It was during the progress of these researches that he realized the importance of a constant source of high potential; accordingly he caused the great storage battery to be constructed, which, unique in its time, is still in constant use, and which has proved of the highest value in the study of X-rays.

To the characteristics of foresight and imagination, Trowbridge added the rare gift of stimulating intellectual activity in others. This stimulus was felt by many classes of persons and produced useful results in varied fields. Under his guidance, many men who have won distinction in science took up problems in research for the first time; among them should be mentioned the late Professor B. O. Peirce and the late Professor W. C. Sabine.

Professor Trowbridge's personality was manifested not only in the intellectual activity which he exhibited, inspired and fostered, but also in unselfish and constant devotion to the needs of his students and colleagues. Both traits of his character contributed toward the sentiment of respect and affection with which his memory will ever be cherished by those who came under his influence.

THEODORE LYMAN
THEODORE W. RICHARDS
GEORGE W. PIERCE
Committee

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

MEMORIAL TO CHARLES R. VAN HISE

IN memory of the late Dr. Charles R. Van Hise, former president of the University of Wisconsin, a large quartzite rock in Ableman will be dedicated as "The Van Hise Rock" on June 3 with appropriate ceremonies and a tablet marker will be placed upon the rock. The rock is of great interest to geologists and it is considered especially fitting that this rock should be dedicated to President Van Hise, because as a geologist he frequently took his students to the rock and used it in explaining geological theories.

Judge E. Ray Stevens, Madison, president of the State Historical Society, will preside at the dedication. Others who will assist in the ceremonies are Professor C. K. Leith, chairman of the university department of geology; John S. Donald, head of the Friends of Our Native Landscape; W. O. Hotchkiss, state geologist; Joseph Schafer, superintendent of the Wisconsin Historical Society; and Dean Harry L. Russell, of the College of Agriculture.

Part of the inscription on the tablet marker is as follows:

This rock is pictured in geology text-books as a type illustrating important principles of structural geology and has been a point of special interest to many investigators in geology visiting this region. President Charles R. Van Hise, of the University of Wisconsin, was one of the first and foremost of these.

PROTECTION FOR THE RESULTS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH[1]

FRENCH law protects effectively the rights of authors of literary works, musical composers, painters and sculptors, but this is not true of scientists and inventors. The act of 1844, to be sure, provides for the granting of patents on inventions, but in reality only inventions strictly industrial in their nature come within the scope of this law. No pharmaceutic products or remedies of any kind may be patented. This state of affairs has recently given rise to sharp criticism. It has been emphasized that it is unjust that biologic discoveries and inventions which are of the greatest practical value in agriculture, in veterinary science and in human

[1] *The Journal of the American Medical Association.*

medicine, and which occupy to-day such an important place in pure and applied science, should be deliberately excluded from the benefits of the law respecting letters patent and should become public property from the date of their origin. The question was made the subject of a long discussion at a meeting of the Confederation of Intellectual Workers and the draft of a law providing for the protection of the rights of scientists has been prepared by a commission. According to this draft, the text of which has been submitted to the chamber of deputies and the League of Nations, the authors of scientific discoveries and inventions shall enjoy, for the duration of their life, the exclusive right of deriving a profit from their invention or discovery. Entitled to protection under this proposed law are: discoveries (that is, demonstrations of the existence of previously unknown principles, bodies, agents or properties of living beings or matter), inventions (that is, creations of the mind consisting of methods, apparatus, products, compositions of products as yet unknown) and, in a general way, all new applications of discoveries and inventions. To establish his right, the author of the discovery or invention must prove that his discovery or invention has been given sufficiently wide publicity. Publication in certain accepted periodicals will be regarded as sufficient publicity. Reproduction for commercial purposes of the name of the author of the published text or of the scientific communication and the bibliographic reference is prohibited, unless the written consent of the author is secured. The authors of inventions and discoveries may not oppose the industrial or commercial exploitation of new applications of their discoveries or inventions, but they will retain an author's rights in any exploitation in which applications of their initial inventions and discoveries have been made. The authors of discoveries or inventions in the domain of therapeutics will participate in the benefits of this law, it being understood that they can not exploit of themselves their discoveries and inventions unless they hold the diploma of a pharmacist.

THE TREND OF FORESTRY IN IDAHO

AT an open meeting of the Idaho Chapter of Sigma Xi, recently held at the University of Idaho, Moscow, "The trend of forestry in Idaho" was presented by Dean F. G. Miller, Professor C. Edward Behre and Dr. Henry Schmitz of the forest faculty. Dean Miller discussed the economic phases of the forestry situation particularly in north Idaho, where is found the largest body of white pine extant. He pointed out that about 48 per cent. of the timber in this part of the state was owned privately while the government held forty per cent. and the state about twelve per cent. He further showed that the greater bulk of the privately owned timber would in all probability be exhausted in the next twenty-five to thirty years. Since the government and the state can not supply on a sustained yield basis more than a fraction of the present annual cut, a serious slump in the lumber industry is inevitable.

Professor C. Edward Behre presented a series of lantern slides showing conditions in the Western White Pine and Western Yellow Pine stands of Idaho during and after logging operations, illustrating how these forests could be kept continuously productive if cut under national forest regulations and protected from the ravages of fire. The slides presented demonstrated the futility of the broadcast burning of logging slash as a permanent protective measure in the white pine forests and showed the tremendous waste in destruction of advance young growth which broadcast burning caused in both the white and yellow pine types. The need for research in forestry was emphasized by pointing out the various problems arising in providing for future forest growth.

Dr. Henry Schmitz spoke on the "Trend of research in forest products." The point was emphasized that the United States is annually consuming over four times as much timber as is produced by the forest areas and that this state of affairs can not go on indefinitely. The problem can partly be solved by increasing the yield of the various products made from wood. The place of research in this connection was discussed at some length particularly as applying to wood preservation, wood distillation, the manufacture of paper pulp and kiln drying.

SYMPOSIUM ON COLLOID CHEMISTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

THE University of Wisconsin announces a public symposium on Colloid Chemistry, to be held at Madison from June 12 to 15, 1923, in-