

On July 11, a conference was held of various national organizations interested in the preparation and unification of purchase specifications and in their use from the point of view of both the producer and the consumer. This conference was called for the purpose of organizing an advisory committee to cooperate with the Department of Commerce and the National Conference of State Purchasing Agents in the work of formulating purchase standards, specifications and tests. Although no meeting of this advisory committee has yet been held, the various organizations represented are cooperating actively in the actual work of compiling the material for the dictionary, and a great deal of information has been supplied.

Correspondence conducted with the officers of trade associations and the purchasing agents of a large number of municipalities and public institutions has established the fact that all the individuals and groups for which the dictionary of specifications is being prepared will welcome its appearance enthusiastically and cooperate actively in the preparation.

A collection is now being made of all available specifications prepared by the various departments and independent establishments of the federal government and those used by state and municipal governments, public institutions, and the important national trade associations and technical societies. These specifications are being thoroughly card-indexed and classified. Care is being taken to pick out those specifications which are most urgently needed, and due consideration is being given to the attitude of purchasers and consumers toward the existing and the proposed specifications.

GEORGE K. BURGESS,  
*Director*

### THE LOS ANGELES MEETING

The progress of research on the Pacific Coast will be dealt with in an interesting series of papers to be presented at the Research Conference on September 17. The arrangement of this program is in the hands of the local committee which reports the following speakers and subjects:

PROFESSOR ERNEST C. WATSON, California Institute of Technology, on *Research Activities of the California Institute of Technology*.

F. B. SUMNER, Acting Director, Scripps Institution for Biological Research, on *The Scripps Institution*.

ACTING DEAN HERBERT J. WEBBER, University of California Agricultural Experiment Station, Riverside, on *The causes of variation in yield in citrus trees*.

DR. LAIRD J. STABLER, University of Southern California, on *Petroleum research*.

The forty-second regular meeting of the San Francisco section of the American Mathematical Society

will be held on Tuesday, September 18. Papers will be presented by Professor E. T. Bell, University of Washington; Professor Florian Cajori, University of California; Professor A. F. Carpenter, University of Washington; Dr. Paul H. Daus, University of California; Mr. H. P. Robertson, University of Washington; Dr. Victor Steed, University of Southern California; Professor Harry Bateman, California Institute of Technology, and others. A very interesting meeting is assured.

W. W. SARGEANT,  
*Secretary of the Pacific Division*

### THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PENIKES SCHOOL

AUGUST the thirteenth was celebrated at the Wood's Hole Marine Biological Laboratory as the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Penikese school by Louis Agassiz. In commemoration of this school, a bronze tablet has been cast in duplicate with an inscription as follows: "In commemoration of the Anderson School of Natural History established fifty years ago on the Island of Penikese by Jean Louis Rodolphe Agassiz, born 1807—died 1873, the Marine Biological Laboratory, the direct descendant of the Penikese school, erects this tablet, 1923." The original tablet is to be placed on a boulder on the Island of Penikese, and the replica in the Marine Biological Laboratory.

The celebration consisted of speeches by three of the staff of the former Penikese school, Dr. David S. Jordan, Dr. Burt G. Wilder and Professor Edward S. Morse; by one of the former students of the school, Dr. Cornelia M. Clapp; by Professors Hermon C. Bumpus, E. G. Conklin and Frank S. Lillie. It was emphasized that it was Agassiz's methods rather than his conclusions which made him the "master teacher," that he taught his students to get their facts from nature and to think for themselves.

### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Academy of the Lincei at Rome has elected W. M. Davis, professor of geology, emeritus, at Harvard University, a foreign member in the class of physical, mathematical and natural sciences.

DR. HARVEY CUSHING, professor of surgery at the Harvard Medical School, has been elected a foreign corresponding member of the Paris Academy of Medicine.

At the eleventh International Physiological Congress meeting in Edinburgh on July 25 the following members were presented by Sir E. Sharpey Schafer for the honorary degree of doctor of laws: F. Bot-