will greatly strengthen the medical and biological features of the meeting. The special committee on Philological Sciences in the Association (Mark H. Liddell, *secretary,* Purdue University, LaFayette, Ind.) has prepared an excellent program dealing with problems and projects in linguistic research. It is hoped that linguistic scientists as well as those interested in the historical sciences may soon have the advantage of organization in the American Association. The section on Social and Economic Sciences will present a full and important series of invited papers on the general topic, "New problems of Western civilization." The American Political Science Association will this year meet in Washington along with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The British Ambassador to the United States, Sir Esme Howard, will address the political scientists on "British policy and the balance of power." The Engineering Section will hold sessions on engineering research and the relation of engineering to the fundamental sciences. The recent rapid influx of new association members from among the engineers gives promise of increased activity on the part of this section. The Society of American Foresters will give prominence at the Washington meeting to the newer phases of forestry in the United States and the plans and projects that confront this nation in regard to forests and forest products.

BURTON E. LIVINGSTON,
Permanent Secretary

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

NATIONAL PARK MUSEUMS

THE national park museum project, begun several years ago with the establishment of a small field collection in Yosemite, has progressed slowly, lacking adequate funds, and has been sidetracked through the absorption of the National Park Service in more pressing problems. The formation of a committee on Museums in National Parks on the suggestion of Stephen T. Mather, director of the service, and the laying of the cornerstone for a new museum in Yosemite National Park on November 16, are important steps in the program.

The museum building was made possible through an appropriation of $70,500 from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller memorial fund. Valuable exhibits already have been collected under the direction of the committee on museums, and plans now being formulated call for a historical and scientific library, and halls to exhibit progressively the geologic development of the Yosemite Valley and the so-called "Life Zones" from the California plains to the summit of the Sierras. It also will serve as headquarters for the Nature Guide System.

This new and modernly equipped institution, which is expected to become one of the nation's greatest treasures of scientific and natural history exhibits, takes the place of a small museum collection begun in 1919 by Ansel F. Hall, park naturalist for Yosemite. He also worked with Mr. Mather in perfecting the Nature Guide System, by which visitors to the national parks see their wonders under expert guidance. The original exhibition was collected and arranged entirely by Mr. Hall, who even made his own exhibition cases by hand, there being no appropriation to purchase needed equipment. The little museum became so popular that it was realized there was a public demand for more adequate showing of the natural park specimens—geologic rock formations, wild flowers and foliage, and specimens of woods found only in certain regions.

The personnel of the Committee on Museums in National Parks which will have charge of this phase of national park development is as follows:

Chauncey J. Hamlin, chairman; Dr. Clark Wissler, curator of anthropology, American Museum of Natural History, vice-chairman; Robert Sterling Yard, executive secretary National Parks Association, secretary; John B. Burnham, president of the American Game Protective Association; Dr. H. C. Bumpus, of Brown University; Laurence Vail Coleman, secretary of the American Association of Museums; Dr. A. R. Crook, chief of the Illinois State Museum; Dr. Vernon Kellogg, secretary of the National Research Council; Dr. Frederic A. Lucas, honorary director, American Museum of Natural History; Dr. John C. Merriam, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington; George D. Pratt, vice-president of the Brooklyn Museum of Arts and Sciences, and Professor Charles L. Richards, director of the American Association of Museums.

TANNING RESEARCH LABORATORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

AMONG the activities which marked the annual meeting of the Tanners Council of America at Cincinnati, from November 18 to 20, was the dedication of the council's new research laboratory. Here the studies of the fundamentals of leather manufacture that have been made by Professor G. D. McLaughlin will be continued and extended. Professor McLaughlin, as director of the laboratory, assisted by E. R. Theis, in charge of chemical work; Dr. G. E. Rockwell, in charge of bacteriological work, and Daisy M. Baehr, histologist.

The laboratory is on the grounds of the University of Cincinnati and the funds for its establishment, approximately $110,000, were raised by the Tanners Council. On Wednesday, November 19, the members

of Tanners Council and the American Leather Chemists Association were welcomed by Dr. Frederick C. Hicks, president of the University of Cincinnati. In the absence of Secretary Hoover, Dr. Martin H. Fischer spoke on the significance of this undertaking. He was followed by Dr. J. S. Rogers, president of the American Leather Chemists Association. President Fraser M. Moffat, of Tanners Council, then presented the laboratory to the University of Cincinnati and it was accepted on behalf of the directors by President Hicks.

In the three-story brick building there are laboratories well equipped for fundamental research on all phases of leather. The large staff laboratories are supplemented by smaller ones for students who have qualified themselves to do special work. The whole undertaking is an example of cooperative fundamental research fostered by an industrial association.

LABORATORY FOR THE STUDY OF THE PHILOLOGICAL SCIENCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

DR. A. R. MORRIS, of the department of rhetoric in the University of Michigan, has sent the following communication to Professor Alfred H. Lloyd, dean of the graduate school of the university:

I am directed to report to you the action of a conference of representatives of seven departments held yesterday to consider plans for mobilizing resources in the interest of laboratory study of phonetics, philology and language form. The movement grows out of a proposal made last December before the Philological Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science by Professor Cottrell. The suggestion seemed so timely that it ought not go unrealibed.

To meet the needs of philologists not provided with laboratories, it was suggested that a laboratory be established, somewhere in the country, equipped to make records for all comers. Such a laboratory adequately fitted and manned involves greater expense than any institution is just now in a position to meet. Until a way is found through the National Research Council or otherwise to provide such facilities, or until some other feasible plan is worked out, it seemed that something might be done immediately in this direction by pooling the laboratory resources of equipment and personnel. After some preliminary conferences seven departments have taken steps to pool their resources and to offer their combined equipment to any one wishing to make speech records for analysis. By this combination we should be able soon to provide facilities for recording by any of the methods so far developed and to provide material assistance in the analysis of curves for the study of tone quality.

The seven departments cooperating are psychology, physics, rhetoric, physiology, phonetics, mathematics and public speaking. Our proposal is, perhaps, only a stopgap to serve until something better is developed, but so far as this plan can be made to advance the laboratory study of linguistic problems these seven departments are glad to offer their services.

CHEMISTRY AT THE WASHINGTON MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

AN interesting program will be presented to the chemists at the Washington meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, beginning on Tuesday, December 30, at 10 A. M. The meeting is under the auspices of the Washington and other eastern sections of the American Chemical Society and Section C of the association, but all chemists and others interested are invited to attend.

The address of the retiring vice-president of the association, Dr. E. W. Washburn, editor of the International Critical Tables, will be presented on Wednesday afternoon on the subject "Some effects of the weather upon physical measurements."

A symposium on X-rays in chemistry has been arranged, and will probably be held on Thursday afternoon. Dr. Arthur H. Compton will present an illustrated paper on X-rays and their scattering by electrons; Dr. Ralph W. Wyckoff, of the Geophysical Laboratory, will consider the topic "X-rays and crystal structure"; Dr. W. P. Davey, of the General Electric Company, will talk on "Atomic and ionic radii," and Dr. George L. Clark, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will give a paper on "The versatility of x-rays."

A few of the other papers to be presented are listed below:

Illustrated lecture on gels and colloids, H. N. Holmes, Oberlin College.

European laboratories, W. A. Noyes, University of Illinois.

Excited atoms, K. T. Compton, Princeton University.

New aspects of some fundamental properties of matter, Eugene C. Bingham, Lafayette College.

A method of establishing a potential gradient for organic radicals, M. S. Kharasch, University of Maryland.

The electronic conception of adsorption from the standpoint of gels, Neil E. Gordon, University of Maryland.

Some causes of volcanic activity, A. L. Day, Geophysical Laboratory.

The interpretation of band spectra, Robert S. Mulliken, Harvard University.

The relation between the static and the dynamic concepts of the atom, Harold C. Urey, Johns Hopkins University.

Influence of sulphur on the color of dyes, E. Emmet Reid, Johns Hopkins University.

Electric moments of molecules, Charles P. Smythe, Princeton University.

Catalysis in homogeneous systems, F. O. Rice, Johns Hopkins University.

Methods for the determination of densities, M. Haring, University of Maryland.