

way, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. Professor E. C. Williams, of the Universities of Manchester and Leeds, was appointed a year ago to the Ramsay chair of chemical engineering, and it was under his guidance that the laboratories had been reconstructed and equipped. The beginning of work had not been actually deferred until that day, but for some time had been actively in progress. He was gratified to learn that, apart from the support given to the movement by the Ramsay Memorial Fund, which handed over a sum of £26,979, the Laboratory of Chemical Engineering had enlisted the ready and generous support of many of the great firms of this country which were connected with the chemical industry. A sum of approximately £1,390 a year for five years had been provided in this way. Even now further financial support was needed if the department was to be enabled to rise to its full possibilities as the handmaid of the chemical industry of this country.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM BY AMERICAN ENGINEERS

MORE than 50,000 professional engineers, representing thirty national and local engineering societies, have entered a movement for Federal administrative reform, according to an announcement made by the Engineering Council, New York.

The project will be discussed at a national forum to be held in connection with a meeting of the council at Washington, D. C., January 16 and 17.

Architects, contractors and representatives of other professions and industries are allied with the engineers in their attempt to bring about a reorganization of the Interior Department, called an archaic survival of the early days of the republic.

The president of the council, ex-Governor James Hartness, of Vermont, made public a resolution adopted by the council's administrative board instructing the committee on government reorganization as it relates to engineering matters "to adopt a policy of aggressively working for the complete project of the Department of Public Works as originally outlined in the McCormick bill and finally developed in the Brown plan."

Many millions of dollars can be saved annually to the nation's taxpayers and economy and efficiency promoted by coordinating the immense public works functions of the government, historically a prolific source of waste, according to Mr. Hartness, who made the following statement:

The American Engineering Council will aggressively endeavor to have included in the proposed division of public works all the construction work now done by the Government, which means, in the light of the present

bill pending in Congress, that we shall endeavor to have included in that bill, by amendment or otherwise, work on rivers and harbors and by the Mississippi River Commission.

There will be a meeting of our committee on government reorganization as well as of the advisory council in Washington the evening of January 15 to develop concrete plans for carrying out the proposed changes.

Mr. Hartness also made public a second resolution referred to the administrative board which "deplored the failure of the committee on reorganization of government departments to recommend the transfer of rivers and harbors work from the Engineer Corps."

#### ROYAL INSTITUTION LECTURES

THE program before-Easter lecture arrangements at the Royal Institution of London has been issued. The subject of the Christmas course for young people is "Concerning the habits of insects," to be delivered by Mr. F. Balfour Browne, beginning on December 27, on "Insect collecting," followed by "The habits of bees and wasps" (December 30), "Caterpillars" (January 1), "The dragonfly" (January 3), "The water beetle" (January 6), and "The habits of insects and the work of man" (January 8).

The general course will begin on Tuesday afternoon, January 13, when Professor A. Fowler will give the first of two lectures on "The analysis of spectra"; on succeeding Tuesdays there will be two lectures by Dr. H. R. Hall on the "Prehistoric Greek and ancient Egyptian civilizations"; four by Professor Barcroft on "The color of the animal creation"; two by Professor E. N. da C. Andrade on "The evolution of the scientific instrument"; and two by Professor A. S. Eddington on "The internal constitution of the stars." On Thursday afternoons at the same hour, beginning on January 15, Mr. J. S. Huxley will give two lectures on "The courtship of animals and its biological bearings"; Sir William Bragg will deliver four on "The properties and structure of quartz"; Sir A. Smith Woodward two on "Dinosaurs"; Dr. Leonard Hill two on "The biological action of light"; and Mr. T. Thorne Baker two on "Chemical and physical effects of light."

The Saturday lectures will include four by Sir Ernest Rutherford on "Counting of the atoms"; and two by Professor J. H. Ashworth on a zoological subject to be announced later. The Friday evening meetings begin on January 16 with a discourse by Sir William Bragg on "The investigation of the properties of thin films by means of x-rays." Succeeding discourses will probably be given by Dr. A. W. Crossley, Professors J. W. Gregory, R. W. Chambers, T. H. Pear, Gilbert Murray, J. W. McBain, Principal Irvine, Mr. W. B. Hardy, Sir Ernest Rutherford, Sir Daniel Hall and others.