

was made director of the recently organized Virginia Geological Survey, positions which he filled with highest effectiveness until seized by a brief but fatal illness.

Notwithstanding his busy life, Dr. Watson found time to spend a part of the summer of 1897 with the Indiana Geological Survey, the summer of 1903 with the North Carolina Geological Survey, and parts of the years 1897 and 1898 in research work in the United States National Museum.

In 1899 Dr. Watson was married to Miss Adelaide Stephenson, of Atlanta, Georgia, a singularly happy union. Out of this union six children were born, all of whom, with Mrs. Watson, survive.

Dr. Watson was a man of high ideals. His life was devoted to public service and, while he was serving his state and his profession with great enthusiasm and tireless energy, he did not neglect the opportunity for public service in his community. He was a director of one of its banks for a considerable time and, for many years, was a member of the Charlottesville School Board. He was also an active member of the First Baptist Church.

Probably the greatest service which Dr. Watson rendered was to his state through the medium of the State Geological Survey. The splendid series of reports published by the Survey during his administration are of the highest usefulness and scientific value. They take first rank among scientific publications in this country and constitute a permanent memorial to the scientific spirit and enthusiastic energy of Dr. Watson as a geologist and administrative officer.

Dr. Watson was successful as a teacher. His scholarship, grace and courtesy easily and quickly won the admiration and devotion of his students. Many of his students have already made a notable record in geology and other phases of science.

His success as an investigator and productive scholar won universal recognition and many honors and placed him in the first rank of American geologists. He was the author of more than 150 publications, including coauthorship of the standard textbook on engineering geology. His writings were particularly in the field of economic geology, mineralogy and petrology, but he took a lively interest also in other phases of earth science and his contributions to those fields were on as high a plane of scientific excellence as in his specialty. Although only fifty-three years of age at the time of his death, he had accomplished a tremendous amount of work.

Dr. Watson was a member of the Sixth Peary Arctic Expedition to North Greenland, Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Fellow of the Geological Society of America and the Mineralogical Society of America. He

was a member of Sigma Xi, Society of Economic Geologists, American Institute of Mining Engineers, Seismological Society of America, Geological Society of Washington, Washington Academy of Science and the Association of State Geologists. He had served on many committees in connection with his various scientific activities and had held various offices in the scientific societies to which he belonged. During the later years of his life, he had been a member of the council of the Geological Society of America, secretary of the Association of State Geologists, and at the time of his death he was chairman of the committee of the Mineralogical Society of America on nomenclature and classification.

In the death of Dr. Thomas L. Watson, the state of Virginia loses one of its most valuable and effective public servants, the University of Virginia one of its most widely known scholars, and the science of geology one of its foremost exponents in this country.

ALBERT W. GILES

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FLOWER AND FRUIT STERILITY

THERE have already been held under the auspices of the Horticultural Society of New York two important conferences on matters of vital interest to horticulture. One conference in 1902 was on "Plant breeding and hybridization" and one in 1907 was on "Plant hardiness and acclimatization." The papers presented at these conferences were published by the society as volumes 1 and 2 of its memoirs.

For some time the officers of the society have had in mind the holding of another international conference on some subject of timely significance to the progress of horticulture. After careful consideration the council has decided that the subject of this conference be "Flower and fruit sterility." A conference committee consisting of N. L. Britton, *chairman*; Frederic R. Newbold, *treasurer*, and A. B. Stout, *secretary*, was appointed, the organization of advisory committees was authorized, and a sum of money appropriated for the expenses of the conference and for the publication of its proceedings.

A preliminary statement of the main features of the conference may be made at the present time as follows:

*Scope:* The conference will consider the phenomena of sterility and fertility in fruit and seed production with special reference to (a) the breeding of floricultural plants, (b) problems of fruit growing and seed production in horticultural and agricultural crops

and (c) the botanical and genetical aspects of sterility and fertility.

*Character of the Sessions:* It seems desirable to hold a three-day conference with one day devoted to the interests of floriculture, one to the problems of fruit growing and one to the more purely scientific aspects of the subject. There will be invitation papers of the symposium type with shorter and more special contributions as offered. It is planned to have invitation papers presented by several noted horticulturists, botanists and geneticists especially from Europe.

*Time and Place:* An International Conference on Plant Sciences is to be held at Ithaca, N. Y., in 1926, which will be attended by horticulturists, geneticists, plant physiologists and others who will also be interested in the work of the Conference on Flower and Fruit Sterility. For this reason it has been decided to hold the conference in New York City during the week of August 9 to 16, 1926. This will immediately precede the Ithaca conference, whose sessions are from August 16 to 23.

Further notices regarding this conference will be made from time to time. An effort will be made to reach all who are interested in the subject. The co-operation of all who are interested is requested. The committee is now ready to receive titles of papers and an early report from those who plan to attend and particularly from those who wish to present papers is requested.

A. B. STOUT, *Secretary,*  
*Conference Committee*

598 MADISON AVENUE,  
NEW YORK CITY

#### PLANS FOR THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRY

FEDERAL authorities have tentatively approved the proposed location for the \$5,000,000 National Museum of Engineering and Industry, which it is planned to build within a few years in Washington, D. C. Under present plans the building, which will be five hundred feet in length and three stories in height, will be erected on land adjoining the Smithsonian Institution. The architect has just completed the preliminary drawings, which will be studied by the Fine Arts Commission. Final drawings, still to be made, must be completed before the commission gives its approval.

The museum will be the world's largest and finest, in its magnitude and completeness surpassing all Europe's industrial museums. The total floor area will be the equivalent of twenty-seven acres. This space will permit an impressive display of exhibits of engineering and the industries. Large corridors, a central rotunda, adequate administrative offices and

conference chambers and halls for the conduct of public lecture work are embraced in the plans. Provision is made as well for ample storage space, workshops and shipping rooms below the ground level.

To perpetuate the names of those whose ingenuity, initiative and perseverance have advanced the material progress of civilization, the central rotunda will be designated "The National Hall of Fame for Engineers, Inventors and Industrialists." Therein will be installed busts and memorials of the great figures of industrial and engineering history. An adjoining chamber will be known as "The Founders' Room" and contain busts, tablets or other memorials, uniform in character, of those whose foresightedness and whose contributions in time, money and effort have made possible the successful establishment and maintenance of the museum.

Under the present plan the new building will replace existing buildings now used to house industrial exhibits. The museum will receive exhibit articles from all the numerous government departments for preservation. These sources include the United States Patent Office, the Bureau of Standards, the Department of Commerce and Labor, the War and Navy Departments and other governmental agencies connected with industrial and scientific research. Private individuals, societies and corporations will be invited to submit to the institution any or all objects within their keeping that are deemed to have historic or technical interest in depicting the onward course of industrial evolution. While the plans call for the founding of a chain of sectional branch museums in industrial centers throughout the country, the central museum here is expected to shape the course of their destinies, opening up facilities and services of nation-wide scope to each. Each branch museum may obtain from the Washington institution authentic copies of all specimens preserved here.

Two of the projected sectional museums are already under way. In New York, Henry T. Towne has bequeathed \$1,000,000 toward the establishment of a "Museum of the Peaceful Arts." In Chicago, Julius Rosenwald has promised the first \$1,000,000 toward the establishment of an industrial museum to represent the interests of that territory. Each of the local institutions is expected to specialize in those industries which are of dominant importance in their respective districts.

#### STATEMENT SENT TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES BY THE ASSO- CIATION OF STATES GEOLOGISTS

At the annual meeting of the Association of American States Geologists held in Ithaca, New York, December 29 to 31, the following officers were elected