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 cooperation 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 ASSOCIATION 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

for 1925; President, Wilbur A. Nelson, state geologist of Tennessee; secretary, M. M. Leighton, state geologist of Illinois; member of executive committee, E. B. Mathews, state geologist of Maryland. The association voted to send a memorial to the President of the United States requesting a liberal support to scientific work. The memorial, which was presented by the new president of the association, follows:

The American Association of States Geologists is composed of state officials charged with the scientific study and exploration of the natural resources of their respective states. As such, they are engaged in the development of new taxable values; and in the outlining of policies along these lines for the different states in the union. They are therefore vitally interested in the policies adopted affecting the scientific work carried on by the federal government.

State geological surveys through the application of science in solving the problems of geology, particularly as they relate to the unknown or undeveloped resources of the country, are laying the foundation for the establishment of new mining developments and manufacturing industries; and often actually assist such industries in starting on a successful basis. The members of the association are interested in water power, stream gaging, mining, quarrying of structural materials and road materials, soils, topographic mapping, forestry, fish and game, parks, oil and gas, industrial and municipal water supplies and waste disposal. They are oftentimes the only state agency charged with scientific study, and development of these natural resources. Because of this there is a lively interest not only in geology and all allied sciences, but also the fundamental relation of scientific work to the prosperity and general welfare of our respective states and the country as a whole.

In connection with their various activities state geologists have occasion to come in contact with and to use all the scientific bureaus of the government and necessarily must depend on the government scientific bureaus for a great deal of service from their highly specialized and trained scientific personnel, which the smaller state organizations could not afford to maintain independently.

Without this help it would be impossible for us to render the quality of service which should be given to our states, and which is now being given in developing our varied resources.

As state geologists we feel that in the effort to secure economy, a false economy is likely to be inadvertently adopted by the government, which will actually retard the development of new taxable wealth.

The building of a scientific personnel of high quality is a matter that takes years. The destruction of the spirit of such organizations can be accomplished in a few months.

This scientific work of the federal government, the high value of which we keenly appreciate, lacks encouragement to such an extent that the best scientific ability possessed by the young men of the country is not being attracted into the government service as it formerly was; and further many of the best men at present in the service are impelled regretfully to seek occupation elsewhere.

We feel that this situation, while not keenly appreciated by the public, is one which has a vital bearing on the public welfare and that a grave mistake in public policy will be made if the present conditions are allowed to continue.

The maintenance of competent national scientific bureaus is not a matter of interest solely to national officials of the legislative and executive branches. It is also of vital interest to local state agencies throughout all the country. We would respectfully suggest that in preparing the budgetary distribution of funds for scientific work by the federal government the judgment of some impartial representative body of scientists, such as the National Research Council, established by executive order soon after the World War, might prove of service.

The fact that members of this association officially represent thirty-seven states of the union gives them a personal contact with the pulse of the thinking people on this subject. We, therefore, feel it our duty as public officials, and privilege as citizens, to present this matter to you and to respectfully urge that you give it careful and serious consideration.

Respectfully,

WILBUR A. NELSON,
President, Association of States Geologists of America

THE ELLA SACHS PLOTZ FOUNDATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION

THE Ella Sachs Plotz Foundation for the Advancement of Scientific Investigation was established in 1923, and during the first year of its existence the trustees have received thirty-two applications for assistance from investigators in the United States, Europe and Australia. Grants were made in eight instances, as follows:

Dr. T. Addis and Mrs. L. L. Mackay, Leland Stanford University, $1,000 for an investigation of the factors which influence the rate of compensatory hypertrophy of the kidney after unilateral nephrectomy.

Dr. George E. Fahr, University of Minnesota, $500 for a research on the rôle of colloids of blood plasma in the production of edema in acute and subacute glomerulonephritis.

Dr. Frank Fremont-Smith, Harvard University, $1,000 for investigation of physiology and biology of spinal fluid.

Dr. Henry G. Barbour, University of Louisville, $1,500 for an investigation of the physiology, pharmacology and clinical pathology of water exchange.

Dr. A. Bezredka, Pasteur Institute, Paris, France, $1,500 for researches in bacteriology and immunology.

Dr. Joseph C. Aub, Harvard University, $1,000 for a study of the internal secretions of the adrenal cortex.