

of this union. Dr. Woodward's contributions to the various branches of geophysics, notably geodesy, are too well known to require enumeration here. He held positions of responsibility, both in governmental and university affairs, and was president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington from December, 1904, to January 1, 1921, when he voluntarily relinquished this position. He was the recipient of many honors, both from universities and learned academies. We cherish the memory of our late fellow member, not alone for his scientific achievements, but also for his sturdy philosophy and ever hopeful outlook.

Resolved, Further, that the secretary of the union be instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to Mrs. Woodward and that it be spread on the minutes of the union.

LISTER MEMORIAL LECTURE¹

THE first Lister Memorial Lecture was delivered by Sir W. Watson Cheyne, Bart., F.R.S., on May 14, at the Royal College of Surgeons. This lecture forms part of the memorial to Lord Lister which was decided upon so long ago as October, 1912. Part of the funds raised were devoted to placing a medallion in Westminster Abbey, part to the monument unveiled in Portland Place, London, in March, 1924 (see *Nature*, March 22, 1924, p. 430), and the remainder formed an International Lister Memorial Fund for the advancement of surgery. The Royal College of Surgeons of England became trustees for this latter fund, and it was resolved to award a bronze medal, with a sum of £500, every three years, in recognition of noteworthy contributions to surgery. Sir W. Watson Cheyne is the first recipient of the medal, and the award is particularly appropriate, apart from Sir William's scientific achievements, in that he was, with the late Sir Rickman Godlee, assistant to Lister in London. Sir William's lecture on the occasion of the presentation of the medal was a general account of Lister's aims and achievements, and the full and detailed story is promised in a forthcoming volume. Lister's early work at Glasgow is passed in review, leading up to the time when he learned of the work of Pasteur on fermentation and putrescence. The use which Lister made of this knowledge and the wonderful extensions of the work in surgery caused a revolution in surgical methods, for, as Sir William Cheyne says, "not only has his work led to the practical disappearance of septic diseases after operations, but it has enabled the surgeon to perform many operations which prolong life, restore movements, rectify deformities and add to the usefulness and comfort of mankind." The complete lecture appears in the *Lancet* of May 16.

¹ From *Nature*.

THE SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THE directors of the Seismological Society of America, meeting in San Francisco on April 30, elected the following officers to serve during the succeeding twelve months: *President*, Dr. Bailey Willis; *First vice-president*, Mr. H. O. Wood; *Second vice-president*, Captain N. H. Heck; *Third vice-president*, Mr. M. Hall McAllister; *Secretary-Treasurer*, Dr. S. D. Townley. By request of the president, Dr. Arthur L. Day will continue to act as chairman of the scientific committee and Dr. Townley as chairman of the committee on publications. Since both the president and secretary are connected with Stanford University that institution remains the center of administration. The activity of earthquakes in California naturally focuses the work of investigation in that state. The society has, however, broader interests and affiliations with seismological research in general. Its activities are divided between two branches of the subject, scientific research, which it seeks to promote by the publication of the *Bulletin* of the society, and education toward safety, which it strives to advance through the study and discussion of practical measures for safeguarding communities against earthquake damage and conflagration. The membership is now about 650 and is widely distributed throughout the world. All who are interested in matters pertaining to earthquakes are eligible to membership.

S. D. TOWNLEY,
Secretary

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

TRANSFER OF THE BUREAU OF MINES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE on June 4 by executive order transferred the Bureau of Mines from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Commerce, Attorney General Sargent having decided that the action was authorized by law. In furtherance of the same purpose the president some months ago transferred the Patent Office, and other bureaus will be similarly treated when the required legislation is obtained under the reorganization act. Two offices of the Bureau of Mines will remain under the Interior Department, those having to do with coal, oil and other mineral land leasing. These offices, not being engaged in scientific research, under the law can not be transferred.

Secretary Hoover, of the Department of Commerce, said that he soon would appoint a committee representative of organizations of mining engineers and the mining industry to study ways and means to increase the efficiency of the Bureau of Mines and divi-