from teaching the arts of peace to instructing in the art of war. With his characteristic energy, Professor Van Ingen began preparing himself, the younger instructors and the graduate students of his department to do efficiently what it seemed most probable that they would first be called upon to do—give instruction in map-reading and interpretation to undergraduates and alumni of the university who were desirous of fitting themselves for commissions in the army. When the university actually began the training of these men, therefore, he was placed in charge of that branch of instruction. When the government asked the university to set up a school of military aeronautics for the preliminary training of candidates for commissions in the Air Service, he was chosen to be president of the academic board of the school, responsible for all the instruction given except the military drill. He organized the school and remained as its academic head until the end of the war. It was under the tremendous strain of this work that his health broke down. He suffered a nervous collapse, and later contracted a serious case of influenza, from the after-effects of which he never recovered.

B. F. HOWELL

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH SCHOOL OF ANTHROPOLOGY[1]

AFTER nearly two years' effort, the Australian National Research Council has succeeded in its project for establishing a Commonwelth School of Anthropology, to be attached to the University of Sydney. In December 1923 the Commonwealth government expressed approval of a scheme submitted to it; in the following year, however, an officer selected by the British government to advise Australia in the matter of administration of territories, reported very strongly against the proposal to use such a school for the training of officials. In consequence, government interest flagged. Renewed efforts, supported by the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science and the universities, were made in September, and, largely as the result of a visit from Professor Elliot Smith, who brought unofficial word of warm American sympathy, the prime minister promised to provide £1,000 per annum towards the expenses of a chair. The estimated yearly requirement being £2,500, the respective states were then asked to contribute the balance of £1,500 between them on a population basis. New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania agreed to provide their shares, and South Australia is practically certain to fall into line; Western Australia remains uncertain. The Research Council, therefore, has now asked the senate of the University of Sydney to consider the immediate appointment of a professor and the general arrangements for the new school. In doing so, it has laid emphasis on the following points: (*a*) The main work of the chair both in teaching and research should be in the field of social anthropology rather than on the physical or anatomical side, though provision should be made for this also. (*b*) In view of the training of students for government service in Papua and the Mandated Territories, and for specialized work in the Pacific, the professor chosen should have had actual field experience. (*c*) Though the routine work of the new chair will be under the control of the University of Sydney, it is urged that a permanent advisory committee, containing representatives of the commonwealth, states and research council, should be appointed, to assist in the organization of field research.

[1] From *Nature*.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH UNDER THE GOVERNMENT

REPRESENTATIVES of technical and scientific bureaus of the government met in the Interior Building on June 17 to formulate plans for the conduct of scientific research in the government service. General H. C. Smither, chief coordinator of the Budget Bureau, presided. The object of these conferences is to have frank, open discussion of the problems confronting the scientific worker, to the end that better cooperation and less duplication may result. According to a report in *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry,* the government activities represented were:

Department of Agriculture
- Bureau of Chemistry, W. W. Skinner
- Fixed Nitrogen Research Laboratory, F. G. Cottrell

Department of Commerce
- Bureau of Standards, G. K. Burgess
- Bureau of Mines, D. A. Lyon

Department of the Interior
- Geological Survey, W. C. Mendenhall

Navy Department
- Bureau of Engineering, M. A. Libbey
- Bureau of Ordnance, A. C. Stott
- Bureau of Navigation, E. T. Pollock and W. C. Asserson
- Naval Research Laboratory, Paul Foley
- Bureau of Aeronautics, R. M. Parsons
- National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, G. W. Lewis

Smithsonian Institution
- A. Wetmore

Treasury Department
- Public Health Service, H. S. Cumming and G. W. McCoy