The great strides made by the Russian academy since the revolution and the improvement of general economic conditions is indicated in its report for 1924. During that year the academy held 64 meetings at which 112 papers were read discussing 85 important questions. Four hundred additional papers were read at meetings of different sections of the academy. In addition, the academy published 55 scientific books, copies of which were sent abroad; and 78 expeditions were sent to the Urals, Siberia, Mongolia, Central Asia, North and South Russia, etc. The physiological laboratory carried on research on the occipital lobes of the higher animals. Other departments prepared a catalogue on the life, culture, social structure and religions of India; and studied the biochemical properties of human blood. Important work was also done by the Asiatic museum which prepared for publication 340 volumes of Dao-Jsan and other Chinese works.

The academy has also stimulated an interest in applied science. Researches and experiments have been carried on in the separation of metals by nitrogen under high temperature and pressure; Crimean lakesal has been analyzed; and a new system of making seismographs has been invented.

The academy works in close cooperation with economic organizations and with the government. It has prepared maps and other material for the government and is working with the State Planning Commission on a study of Russian natural resources. Other government commissions with which the academy cooperates are conducting studies in race problems, tropical countries, the Polar regions, literature, dictionaries and bibliographies.

Important are Professor Steklov's studies in the basic problems of mathematical physics; Professor Numerov's astronomical studies; Professor Joffe's studies on the atomic structure of matter, and Professor Pavlov's studies in biology and pathology.

The academy has already reestablished many of its contacts with scientists of other countries. Charles D. Walcott, of the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, D. C.; Fridjof Nansen, of Norway; A. J. Thompson, of England, and scientists of various other countries are honorary members of the academy. Among the academy's corresponding members are Dr. Alexis Carrel, of New York, and Professor A. A. Michelson, of the University of Chicago; Louis Bauer, of Washington, D. C.; Madame Curie and Albert Einstein.

THE DORMITORIES OF THE HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

MR. HAROLD S. VANDERBILT, of New York City, has given to the Harvard University Medical School for the new dormitories the sum of $575,000, in addition to the $125,000 that he gave last April for the installation of a gymnasium within the dormitories. Since the latest architects' estimate of the total cost of the land and buildings is $1,327,865, and since the building fund now has $445,000 and expects a contribution of $300,000 from the Harvard corporation, Mr. Vanderbilt's gift will permit immediate construction of this much-needed addition to the Medical School; with the entire expense provided for in advance. The plan to provide a special dormitory for the Harvard Medical School was first undertaken as long ago as September, 1923. Since that time subscriptions have been raised in the following amounts from the following sources:

1,486 doctors	$112,984
594 lay donors	207,026
Expected from Harvard University	300,000
Total	$620,010

The new dormitory will provide housing for 250 men, who are now occupying often unsuitable quarters in scattered sections of Boston and Cambridge. A dining hall will be included, which will be convertible into a medical auditorium. Here it is expected that physicians can be seen and heard by students, faculty, profession and public, and the larger medical societies may hold their future annual assemblies.

Moreover, it has been found that the regular weekly lectures given under the auspices of the school to the public at large have outgrown the present amphitheaters in the medical school, which accommodate only about 300. The large auditorium in the new dormitory will be available for the lectures hereafter.

Plans for the new building have been drawn by Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch & Abbott. Although these may be the final plans, the critical study and analysis of them has yet to be completed by the fund committee, by Dr. David L. Edsall, dean of the Harvard Medical School, and by other authorities.

HONORARY DEGREES CONFERRED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

AS has already been reported in SCIENCE, the University of Cambridge, in connection with the meeting at Cambridge of the International Astronomical Union, conferred the honorary degree of doctor of science upon five leading members of the union. The ceremony took place in the Senate House on July 21, the vice-chancellor, Dr. A. C. Seward, master of Downing, presiding.

In presenting a general greeting to the astronomers, the public orator, Mr. T. R. Glover, as reported in the London *Times*, reminded them that they had come to the university of Newton, and further, he referred to the discussion between Adam and the Archangel in "Paradise Lost," turning upon the very problems to which the astronomers were giving their lives. He quoted in the version of "Gulielmus Hogaeus" (William Hog) the lines of the Archangel: "With centric and eccentric scribbled o'er." The Archangel, he said, was very properly on the side of eternity and willing

to weigh the simpler theories of Copernicus. Satan, lover of the fugitive and the temporary, was a firm adherent of the old and false. The orator believed that the astronomers were "on the side of the angels."

In presenting President Campbell, of the University of California, the orator, speaking in Latin, said that there was on a mountain top a building—he himself had seen it from afar—where for five and twenty years, amid the solitudes, sat a philosopher for whom "the moon, day, night and all night's stars austere," brought many a dark and difficult question, for which, however, as far as a man amid the things of God could be, he was equal. But he was recalled from the mountains to preside over a great university with 9,000 students of both sexes. There was no bay, the public orator thought, in the world that outshone the Bay of San Francisco, within its Golden Gate. So did it delight one with the alternate charms of sun and sea mist, with the beauty of tree and hill, that he might well believe that Homer himself, when he described the Isles of the Blest in the West, free of the snow and tempest, glad in zephyr and the ether, happy in that gathering of white souls, was really describing this place which the orator found as delightful as he did. He was delighted, as a conscript in the company of the Golden Bear, to present to them his friend, President William Wallace Campbell.

In presenting Professor W. de Sitter, the orator said he was in charge of the observatory at Leyden. He counted Jove and the four Galilean satellites as Jove among his intimates, as might be expected of one who had so long wooed Jove's daughter Truth in South Africa. They would remember the words of the Athenian: "Vortex reigns," but Newton taught men not to believe too much in Aristophanes or Descartes. Contemplating the incredible mechanism of nature, Newton repudiated Vortex and its arbitrary rule. He found order in the heavens, and this their guest further elaborated. But lately it had been whispered among shrewder people that Newton had been abandoned for relativity, and on that subject the orator did not know what to say to their guest.

Introducing Dr. B. Baillaud, the Public Orator said that when first the astronomers met in this conference M. Baillaud was their chairman. Since then he had made the Eiffel Tower a center of a network of wireless for the more accurate keeping of time. He was among those at the head of French astronomical research. Amid the flames of war, while from afar Long Bertha hurled every day her globes of fire at Paris, their friend never abandoned his station, but while earth blazed, like Archimedes, he was at leisure for the society of the stars, and, as if in peace, had his mind on the things of heaven—a true philosopher.

In introducing Professor Nagaoka, the Public Orator said light was once more sought from the East, and a Japanese astronomer came well skilled to track the footsteps of the fugitive atom. A shrewd and able investigator, he had quite recently invited the men of science to decide whether in point of fact he really had made gold out of humbler atoms by transmutation.

In introducing Dr. Schlesinger, he said their guest, a true "son of Eli," was eminent among those who had tried to measure the distance between the stars. Whether, with Bacon, they called it "perspicillum," or, with Milton, "a glazed optic tube," he was taking one from New England to South Africa that, after the study of another sky and other stars, he might still further blend light and truth.

COMMITTEES OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

AT the first meeting of the board of directors of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers for the administrative year beginning August 1, 1925, held in New York on Thursday, August 6, President Pupin announced the committee appointments as follows:

GENERAL COMMITTEES

Board of Examiners.—Erich Hausmann, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Finance.—G. L. Knight, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Sections.—Harold B. Smith, Worcester, Mass.

Meetings and Papers.—E. B. Meyer, Newark.

Publications.—L. F. Morehouse, New York.

Coordination of Institute Activities.—Farley Osgood, Newark.

Student Branches.—C. E. Magnusson, Seattle.

Membership.—J. L. Woodress, St. Louis.

Headquarters.—H. A. Kidder, New York.

Law.—W. I. Slichter, New York.

Public Policy.—Gano Dunn, New York.

Code of Principles of Professional Conduct.—John W. Lieb, New York.

Safety Codes.—Paul Spencer, Philadelphia.

Standards.—H. S. Osborne, New York.

Edison Medal.—Gano Dunn, New York.

Institute Prizes.—L. W. W. Morrow, New York.

Columbia University Scholarships.—W. I. Slichter, New York.

Licensing of Engineers.—Francis Blossom, New York.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

Electrical Machinery.—H. M. Hobart, Schenectady, N. Y.

Power Generation.—V. E. Alden, Baltimore.

Power Transmission and Distribution.—Percy H. Thomas, New York.

General Power Applications.—A. M. MacCutcheon, Cleveland.