nearly all depths the water was warmer than in 1924 by 2 to 3 degrees, even though the temperature was very high last year. The air temperature was also high, and whereas winter minima of $-48°$ to $-50°$ were formerly recorded, last winter the lowest was scarcely $-30°$. It was mild also during the summer, and the glaciers are rapidly diminishing both in length and thickness, so that mountain ridges emerge. Lastly, information is given as to the present position of the coal industry. The Norwegian company continues to work full time, while the Dutch are at present contenting themselves with the erection of works. Much time has been lost by the Swedes owing to a fire in their mine, now extinguished. The Anglo-Russian Company is continuing its operations, and gets good prices on the Murman Coast.

THE NOBEL PRIZES

ACCORDING to press dispatches from Stockholm the board of directors of the Nobel Prize fund has, for the first time since the first prizes were given twenty-four years ago, decided to withhold all five of the prizes for this year. The reasons for this unprecedented decision is stated to be partly because of lack of qualified candidates and partly because of need for funds for the Nobel Library and the Physical and Chemical Institute, both founded in Stockholm by Alfred Nobel as part of his memorial.

Previous press dispatches had stated that high taxation in Sweden, an indirect consequence of the war, was imperiling the continuance of the Nobel prizes. It was said that the Nobel prizes in 1901 amounted to 709,234 crowns (about $177,600), and the taxes were 88,042 crowns (about $22,000). In 1923 the prizes had shrunk to 574,676 crowns, but the taxes had risen to 578,006 crowns, exceeding the income of the funds. For this reason the Nobel family has petitioned the Stockholm government to exempt the prize foundation from taxation. Their petition is receiving the support of the Swedish newspapers, scientists, literary men and the public generally.

In previous years prizes in one or more of the individual classifications have been withheld, but this is the first time that it has been decided to award none of the five. The five prizes are physics, chemistry, medicine or physiology, literature and the Nobel peace prize.

The Swedish Academy of Science awards the first two; the Stockholm Faculty of Medicine the third; the Swedish Academy of Literature awards the literature prize, and the peace prize is awarded by a committee of five elected by the Norwegian Storthing.

It has been announced that the 1924 physics prize to Professor Siegbahn was in recognition of his important discoveries in the X-ray spectra of the elementary substances.

PLANS FOR INCREASING THE ENDOWMENT OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

THE Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution has made the following announcement concerning the proposed $10,000,000 increase to the institution's endowment:

The board of regents of the Smithsonian Institution announces its decision to go before the American people to raise an addition of $10,000,000 to the institution's endowment for fundamental scientific research and publication. Since its foundation in 1846 the Smithsonian's initial endowment has only doubled, and its annual income of $65,000 has been for years inadequate to maintain its many and varied investigations and publications. Since the war, particularly, the rise in costs has materially cut down those activities, suspending some publications such as the "Contributions to Knowledge" series, cutting others to a third of what they were, and restricting the prosecution of such essential researches as that of Dr. Charles G. Abbot on the sun and its influence on the weather.

At the present moment lack of funds prevents the institution from undertaking sixteen major projects for research. Many of these projects are of immediate importance. Some of them, for example, will lead to an increase in the food supply from the sea, others will furnish data whereby the hardwoods, the fruits, the food, drug, oil and cordage plants of the Philippines will become increasingly available, while a third group will provide formulae to assist the engineer in solving the increasingly complex problems which face him.

The economic importance of such projects as these needs no demonstration. Nevertheless they are, like practically all of the Smithsonian's work, investigations in the field of pure research. They will form the groundwork for the applied scientist. Consequently, they are in the main investigations which will not be promoted unless the Smithsonian promotes them. For that reason the board of regents has determined to ask for an additional $10,000,000 to the institution's endowment.

The regents recognize the fact that the public will be surprised to have the Smithsonian turn to it for funds rather than to the government. But that surprise arises from a common misconception of the institution's position. It is not a government bureau. It was privately founded and privately endowed; it is privately directed and privately financed.

It sprang from the bequest of James Smithson, an English scientist, who never set foot in this country. In 1826 he willed his fortune of $550,000 *in trust* to the United States for "the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men." Organized in 1846, the Smithsonian began at once making geological, botanical, zoological and ethnological studies of various sections of the continent, col-

lecting specimens and information in all these fields. It financed this work from its own private funds. In 1858 the collections had become of such importance to the public welfare that congress felt a responsibility for their upkeep and it charged the Smithsonian with the expenditure of an appropriation to that end. Later congress incorporated these collections into the U. S. National Museum, but the Smithsonian Institution carried the major share of the burden of caring for them from its private income till 1870.

Subsequently, from time to time, the government recognized that nine other outgrowths of Smithsonian researches had become public necessities and appropriated for their support also, but never has it made any grants for research directly to the Smithsonian. The institution finances its research work from its private income and by gifts for special investigations.

As to the administration of the Smithsonian Institution, that is in the hands of a permanent secretary, elected by the board of regents, in cooperation with the executive committee of the board. The board, composed of the chief justice, the vice-president, three senators, three representatives and six private citizens, all acting in a private capacity, exercises oversight. The government is the trustee or guardian of the institution. Thus, because of its organization and the private nature of its funds, the Smithsonian is divorced from political influence.

Although the institution has never before called upon the public to aid in its researches, it has frequently been the beneficiary of gifts from private individuals, including the Hodgkins endowment of $200,000 for research and the Freer bequest of oriental and American art collections, of a gallery to house them, and a large income to increase them and diffuse knowledge of Asiatic art.

THE CHANDLER MEMORIAL MEETING

A MEMORIAL meeting to the late Professor Charles F. Chandler was held in Havemeyer Hall, Columbia University, on November 16. The meeting was held in Professor Chandler's old lecture room at Columbia, where he for more than half a century had served as teacher and administrator. Organizations participating were Columbia University, The Chemists' Club of New York City, The New York Section of the American Chemical Society and The American Section of the Society of Chemical Industry. Many distinguished men of science attended.

President Nicholas Murray Butler presided, saying "that the aim of the gathering should be the perpetuation of Professor Chandler's influence and example. We are here not to express the sorrow that was in our hearts when the long life of Professor Chandler came to an end, but rather to sound a note of triumph for his enduring leadership."

Professor Michael I. Pupin spoke on "Chandler: The teacher and the chemist," declaring that Chandler was the apostle of chemical science in the City of New York. "The marvelous success of the American Chemical Society," asserted Professor Pupin, "was always a source of endless joy to Chandler's heart."

Dean George B. Pegram, of the Columbia Schools of Mines, Engineering and Chemistry, discussing "Chandler and the school of mines," said that "Chandler's deeds kept in memory will lead others his way."

Elihu Root spoke on "Chandler: The man and the public servant," characterizing him as one of the most effective crusaders of his time in behalf of the public good. Many evils, Mr. Root said, were successfully attacked by Chandler, who was the original leader of the great movement for tenement house reform and who first as chemist and later as president of the Metropolitan Board of Health laid the basis for the existing health system of New York City.

Adulterated milk, sales of kerosene without inflammability tests and slaughter houses operating contrary to municipal regulations were other nuisances combatted by Chandler, whose human qualities were praised by Mr. Root as scarcely less influential than the concentrated ability with which he prosecuted a prodigious activity covering an unusually long life.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

SIR ERNEST RUTHERFORD, Cavendish professor of physics at the University of Cambridge, has been nominated to succeed Sir Charles Sherrington as president of the Royal Society.

DR. JAMES F. NORRIS, president of the American Chemical Society, was honored by the Northeastern section of the society on the evening of November 13, when as a guest of the section he was tendered a banquet and reception at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and then, after delivering an address, was presented with an engrossed testimonial of appreciation for his services as president of the society.

COLGATE UNIVERSITY, in convocation on Alumni Day, November 13, conferred the degree of doctor of laws upon Albert Perry Brigham, who now retires from active teaching after thirty-three years as professor of geology.

DR. THEODORE LYMAN, Hollis professor of mathematics and natural philosophy at Harvard University, will retire on July 1 next. Professor Lyman will continue as director of the Jefferson Physical Laboratory.

PROFESSOR FORRIS J. MOORE has retired from the staff of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology after thirty-one years of service.

AT the recent annual meeting of the National Malaria Committee, held at Dallas, Texas, Dr. L. O. Howard was elected honorary chairman of the committee, to succeed the late Dr. Henry Rose Carter.