

neers; *director and secretary*, Alfred D. Flinn; *treasurer*, Jacob S. Langthorn; *assistant treasurer*, Henry A. Lardner.

At the annual meeting of the board of trustees of the United Engineering Society, on January 28, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, W. L. Saunders; *first vice-president*, Bancroft Gherardi; *second vice-president*, Lewis D. Rights; *secretary*, Alfred D. Flinn; *treasurer*, Jacob S. Langthorn; *assistant treasurer*, Henry A. Lardner.

At the meeting of the councilors of the Northeastern Bird Banding Association, held on January 21, at Boston, Mass., the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, Francis H. Allen, Boston; *vice-presidents*, Francis Beach White, Concord, N. H.; Henry S. Shaw, Waban; Harrison F. Lewis, Toronto, Canada; Charles L. Whittle, Cohasset; *corresponding secretary*, Laurence B. Fletcher, Brookline; *recording secretary*, Mrs. Alice B. Harrington, Cambridge; *treasurer*, Charles B. Floyd, Auburn-dale. S. Prentiss Baldwin, of Cleveland, Ohio, was made honorary president of the association.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

GIFTS for scientific, educational and humanitarian work totaling \$1,339,000 were made by the Commonwealth Fund during the fiscal year ending September 30, 1925, according to the seventh annual report. The endowment of the fund, which was established in 1918 by gift of Mrs. Stephen V. Harkness, was \$27,761,000 at the end of the year reviewed in the report, but recent donations from Mrs. Harkness have increased that total by \$11,000,000.

WILLIAM J. McDONALD, of Paris, Texas, has bequeathed the sum of \$1,490,000 to the University of Texas, to be used for the purpose of building and equipping an astronomical observatory to bear his name.

THEODORE P. SANXAY, of Iowa City, Ia., has bequeathed to Princeton University the sum of \$160,353, and the sum of \$15,000 to Iowa State University.

OF the sum of \$40,000 appropriated by the last Colorado legislature for experimental purposes, the Colorado School of Mines has been awarded \$20,000 for work at its experimental plant.

DR. RAYMOND A. PEARSON, formerly president of the Iowa State College, has accepted the presidency of the University of Maryland. He will succeed Dr. Albert F. Woods, who was recently appointed director of scientific work in the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

PROFESSOR J. ORVIS KELLER, head of the industrial engineering department at Pennsylvania State College, has been appointed head of the engineering extension department in the college.

WILLIAM WALTER RANKIN, JR., professor of mathematics at Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia, has been appointed professor of mathematics at Duke University. He will take up his new duties next fall.

PROFESSOR C. D. SMITH has resumed the duties of head of the department of mathematics at Louisiana College after a year's leave of absence spent at the University of Iowa.

A. J. RIKER has been promoted to assistant professor of plant pathology at the University of Wisconsin.

At the University of Edinburgh, Colonel P. S. Lelean, until recently professor of hygiene in the Royal Army Medical College, has been appointed to the Bruce and John Usher chair of public health and Dr. William Robertson, medical officer of health of the City of Edinburgh, has been made director of instruction in sanitary administration.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE SUPPORT OF THE U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND OTHER COOPERATING AGENCIES

At their fall meeting held in Pennsylvania, the Association of American State Geologists discussed the question of the duties of the federal government and the state governments in scientific work, and the necessity of certain of this work being carried on adequately and continuously by the federal government. A letter was therefore prepared and addressed to Honorable Calvin Coolidge, President of the United States, requesting his earnest consideration of the needs of the scientific personnel of the government, and his support of a financial program which will permit this work to be carried on effectively. The body of the letter, which was transmitted by Mr. W. A. Nelson, president of the Association of American State Geologists, reads as follows:

It was with great pleasure that we noticed in your [President Coolidge's] message to Congress the following statement: "We should constantly engage in scientific studies of our future requirements and adopt an orderly program for their service."

Most of the States of the Union maintain State Geological Surveys. These Surveys have each a staff adequate in the main to deal with the general problems within the State. Each State, however, presents problems which can be solved only by specialists, whose work