handsome tree of striking appearance. Even over on the Pacific slope there appear here and there along the road individuals of these same trees. Sometimes they stand so close to the road as almost to strike a passing rider. The trees have large round leaves and beautiful pale pink flowers, of the size and of much the same form as hollyhocks. How is it to be explained that for two generations people have been riding along this road, where practically every botanist who ever visited Costa Rica has passed, yet none of them ever noticed these showy trees? At any rate, until Wercklé, no one called attention to them, and he was the first to obtain specimens.

A few years ago this plant was described by Mr. H. Pittier and the present writer as a new genus, *Wercklea*. The La Palma species was called *Wercklea insignis*, and it is found not alone at this locality, but at other places of similar altitude. Not far away, at Las Nubes, on the slopes of Irazú, occurs a second species of the genus, discovered by Mr. C. H. Lankester and described as *Wercklea lutea* Rolfe. This latter plant is very similar in habit, a slender tree with large round leaves, the blossoms equally showy, but yellow.

Of all the many unusual plants that make the Costa Rican flora such a fascinating one, none are more notable than these two trees that compose an endemic genus. It is altogether fitting that they should commemorate the name of this erratic botanist whose explorations revealed no small number of the plants that compose the flora of Costa Rica.

PAUL C. STANDLEY

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE RUMFORD FUND

THE American Academy of Arts and Sciences received in the year 1796, from Benjamin Thomson, Count Rumford, a fund, which has since been named the Rumford Fund, in aid and recognition of researches in light and heat, branches of science to which Count Rumford had notably contributed during his eventful career.

The American Academy constituted in 1833 a standing committee of seven fellows, to supervise the trust created by Count Rumford. More than fifty scientists have served on this committee at different times since that date. The committee recommends to the academy, from time to time, the award of the Rumford premium to distinguished investigators in light and heat. It also receives and deals with applications made for grants from the income of the fund, in aid of researches in light and heat.

Since 1839, the academy has made thirty-two awards of the Rumford medal or premium. It has also made more than 260 grants of money to researchers, nearly 120 in all, in amounts varying between $25 and $750, but averaging about $260 each. These grants have been for apparatus, material or experimental equipment. They are also made towards costs of printing in the publication of researches. Only in very rare cases, however, have grants been made towards the payment of assistants in carrying on such researches.

The subjects of research that have been aided by the Rumford Fund are (1) light and (2) heat, both from the radiant and non-radiant viewpoints. More recently, the subject of X-rays have been accepted as coming within the scope of the fund.

Recipients of grants for investigations are expected to report annually to the committee, on the progress of the work in aid of which the grant was made.

Researches carried on with aid from the Rumford Fund may be published in any place or form, with the proviso that due recognition be made in the publication, of the grant from the Rumford Fund of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. It is also expected that a complete copy of every such publication shall be presented to the academy, for its library.

Persons making application for grants from the Rumford Fund are requested to inform the committee of any similar applications, made by them, for grants from other funds, in aid of the same research or of related researches.

Applications for grants should be addressed to the chairman of the Rumford Committee, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 28 Newbury Street, Boston. Such an application may be made by any duly qualified person in North America, or in any of the American islands. It should specify the nature of research and the particular aid desired.

A. E. KENNELLY,
Chairman of the Rumford Committee

THE NEW METALLURGICAL LABORATORIES AT THE PITTSBURGH EXPERIMENT STATION

THE new metallurgical laboratories of the Pittsburgh Experiment Station of the Bureau of Mines, Department of Commerce, were formally opened on the evening of January 26. Members of the Metallurgical Advisory Board of the Carnegie Institute of Technology and the Bureau of Mines and others prominent in the mining and metallurgical fields were present.

The new metallurgical laboratories are the outgrowth of an agreement made in 1923 under which Carnegie Institute of Technology appointed an ad-

visory board for its department of metallurgy and arranged for cooperative research fellowships in metallurgy at the Pittsburgh Experiment Station of the Bureau of Mines. Under the arrangement, certain problems in the metallurgy of iron and steel formerly conducted at the Northwest Experiment Station of the Bureau of Mines, Seattle, Wash., are being studied at Pittsburgh. In the study of these problems, the well-equipped laboratories of Carnegie Institute of Technology will be available to supplement those of the Bureau of Mines.

Among the technical problems that are being studied by the newly established metallurgical section are the melting of sponge iron; reduction and carburization in iron smelting; mill ball compositions and preparations; abnormality in case carburized steels; non-metallic inclusions of steel, and requirements for open-hearth refractories.

In the study of these problems the large technical staff of the Bureau of Mines will be assisted by members of the faculty of Carnegie Institute of Technology and by the members of the Metallurgical Advisory Board, which is composed of prominent metallurgists connected with the industrial organizations of the greater Pittsburgh district. Some of the investigations will be conducted largely in operating plants in and near Pittsburgh. Other agencies in close proximity that will help facilitate the work are the University of Pittsburgh, the Mellon Institute and the Carnegie Library.

The equipment of the new metallurgical laboratories includes a modern electric-furnace laboratory well arranged for fundamental work in many branches of the metallurgy of iron and steel; a metallographic laboratory, and a chemical laboratory.

The metallurgical section of the Pittsburgh Experiment Station is under the general supervision of D. A. Lyon, assistant director and chief metallurgist of the Bureau of Mines, and S. P. Kinney, the supervising ferrous metallurgist. The latter correlates all the ferrous work of the bureau and conducts blast-furnace investigations. The work of the metallurgical section is directly in charge of the section chief, C. E. Sims, who is also the electrometallurgist of the bureau and who handles all work pertaining to electrometallurgy or the electric furnace. F. W. Schroeder, a chemist, who has done graduate work in ceramics and extensive research work on refractories, will handle the work of the section having to do with the metallurgical requirement of refraction. B. M. Larsen, a chemical engineer, who has specialized in metallurgy, will conduct research problems in the metallurgy of steel. A. K. Hutton handles the analytical work.

THE BRITTEN BILL TO EXTEND THE USE OF THE METRIC SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES

A METRIC bill, for the purpose of extending the use of metric weights and measures in merchandising, was introduced into the House of Representatives on December 7 by Fred A. Britten, congressman from Illinois. The bill was referred to the committee on coinage, weights and measures, which has been holding hearings since February 1. The text of the bill follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that from and after the 1st day of January, 1935, metric weights and measures, except as herein provided, shall be used for the following purposes:

(1) For buying or selling goods, wares, or merchandise, unless permission to use other weights and measures has been granted by the United States Department of Commerce or by a state department of weights and measures or by an authorized state official.

(2) For charging or collecting for the transportation of any goods, wares, or merchandise, unless permission has been granted to do otherwise by any of the authorities designated above.

SEC. 2. Not later than the 1st day of January, 1935, all postage, excises, duties, and customs charged or collected by weight or measure by the Government of the United States of America shall be charged or collected in terms of or according to metric weights and measures.

SEC. 3. Nothing in this act shall be understood or construed as applying to—

(1) The construction or use in arts, manufacture, or industry of any specification, drawing, goods, wares, merchandise, tool, machine, or other appliance or implement designed, manufactured, constructed, or graduated in any system of measurement.

(2) The ordering, buying, or selling of manufactured articles, such as tools, machines, or parts of machines, ordinarily known by or designated in terms of any other system of weight or measure.

(3) Any contract made before the 1st day of January, 1935.

(4) The survey or description of lands within the jurisdiction of the United States of America, or transactions in lands or real estate therein.

(5) The sale of goods, wares, or merchandise originally intended for any foreign country.

SEC. 4. After the 1st day of January, 1935, the terms "world yard" for the "meter," "world quart" for the "liter," and "world pound" for "five hundred grams" shall be recommended for international use and accepted as metric terms.

SEC. 5. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed but only in so far as they are inconsistent herewith; otherwise they shall remain and continue in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. Rules and regulations for the enforcement of this act shall be made and promulgated by the secretary