

during his career. His department has developed under his leadership and guidance from a small unit to a group of nearly 200 students and a faculty and staff of twenty-five. Many prominent mechanical engineers and engineering teachers are the product of this department.

Professor Flather has taken an active part as consulting engineer in many important engineering projects in the Northwest. Among these are municipal water works, electric light plants, factories and power plants. He designed the heating plants for the University of Minnesota on the main campus and the farm campus. He also conducted many researches and investigations, especially along lines of mechanical power development, transmission and measurement, and the design of tall chimneys.

His articles in the technical journals have been numerous and cover a broad field. He is the author of books on rope driving, dynamometers and the measurement of power, and kinematics, and joint author of books on steam boilers and engineering thermodynamics. At the time of his death he had partially completed a work on the history of engineering.

He was a member of various societies, principally scientific and technical, including the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, Society of Industrial Engineers, Minneapolis Engineers' Club, American Association for the Advancement of Science (secretary and vice-president of Section D), Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education (treasurer and later vice-president), American Association of University Professors and the honorary societies Sigma Xi, Tau Beta Pi, and Pi Tau Sigma. He was also a member of the Authors' Club and the Newcomen Society of London.

Professor Flather was a cultured gentleman of broad vision. Outside of his professional and scientific interests, his tastes ran to literature. He enjoyed a wide acquaintanceship throughout the United States and in various foreign countries. He was a delightful conversationalist, versed in many subjects.

Professor Flather is survived by his widow, a daughter, Elizabeth, who is a senior at the University of Minnesota, and a brother, Herbert Flather, of Meriden, Conn.

O. M. LELAND

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY<sup>1</sup>

THE scheme proposed by Sir Frank Heath for the reorganization of the Commonwealth Institute of Sci-

<sup>1</sup> *Nature*.

ence and Industry has been tabled in the Australian House of Representatives. The outstanding aim in the scheme is to obtain the utmost cooperation of all the states with the commonwealth in the formulation of advice through carefully selected men of responsible position and wide outlook, it being recognized that the vast distances of Australia and the wide range of its climates demand a degree of decentralization much greater than is necessary or desirable in a smaller and more populous country. It is recommended that the purposes of the institute be defined under three heads: (1) To provide for the training of young men and women in scientific research and for the encouragement of research workers who have already shown capacity for original work; (2) To take responsibility for conducting scientific investigations into problems of importance either (a) to the whole industrial activities of the commonwealth, whether primary or secondary, or (b) to the interests of Australian consumers as a whole; (3) To encourage and assist under suitable conditions the solution of scientific problems of importance to particular states or groups of states, which, though urgent in themselves, do not affect the whole dominion.

Three derivative functions for the Commonwealth Institute of Science and Industry are added to the main purposes set out in Sir Frank Heath's scheme for reorganization: (a) To act as a clearing-house for information on scientific matters affecting the industries of the country; (b) To act as the principal and official means of *liaison* in scientific matters between the governments of the commonwealth and those of Great Britain and other parts of the British Empire; (c) To become, as it wins the confidence of the world of industry and science, the adviser of the government on the scientific aspects of policy. It is proposed that the institute be constituted a body corporate consisting of the prime minister for the time being and an advisory council of a chairman and eight members, under the title of the Department of Research in Science and Industry. The chairman and two members are to be appointed by the governor-general and are to form an executive committee with very extensive powers. The other six members are to be the chairmen of state advisory committees. Each of the latter is to include two members nominated by the state government from its scientific staff, two members of the state university nominated by the Australian National Research Council, and two representatives of the principal industries of the state.

### FEDERAL LEGISLATION

UNDER a bill (S. 41) to encourage and regulate the use of aircraft in commerce, which has been reported by the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, the Secretary of Commerce would make

recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture as to necessary meteorological service. The bill provides that it shall be the duty of the Weather Bureau to furnish such weather reports, forecasts, warnings and advices as may be required to promote the safety and efficiency of air navigation in the United States and above the high seas, particularly upon civil airways designated by the Secretary of Commerce.

Representative Winter, of Wyoming, has introduced a bill (H. R. 12066) to add certain public lands to the Washakie National Forest.

The Senate has passed a bill (S. 1640) authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a national arboretum. A committee amendment reduced the proposed appropriation for this bill from \$500,000 to \$300,000, and provided that the site shall be open for recreational purposes and for the purpose of research and education.

The Senate has also passed a bill (S. 2516) providing for the establishment and maintenance of a forest experiment station in Pennsylvania and the neighboring states. The bill carries an appropriation of \$30,000. The Senate has also passed a bill (H. R. 292) authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire and maintain dams in the Minnesota National Forest for the administration of government land and timber, and also a bill (S. 3926) fixing standards for hampers, round-stave baskets and splint baskets for fruits and vegetables.

A bill (S. 4153) to provide for enlargement and relocating the United States Botanic Garden has been reported by the Senate Committee on the Library, without amendment.

#### THE CONTROL OF CANCER IN MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW YORK

DR. GEORGE H. BIGELOW, Massachusetts State Commissioner of public health, has announced the names of sixteen physicians and laymen who have accepted appointment to serve on an advisory committee to assist his department in carrying out the provisions of the cancer bill, passed by the legislature in the closing days of the session. Under the bill the Norfolk State Hospital is to be converted for use as a hospital for treatment of advanced stages of cancer, and \$100,000 is appropriated for this purpose. The bill provides an additional \$15,000 for the establishment of cancer clinics.

The advisory committee, as announced by Dr. Bigelow, is as follows: Dr. James S. Stone, president of the Massachusetts Medical Society; Dr. Walter P. Bowers, editor of the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*; Dr. Walter Burrage, secretary of the Massachusetts Medical Society; Dr. Robert B. Greenough, of the Harvard cancer commission and the Hunting-

ton Memorial Hospital; Dr. Franklin G. Balch, chairman of the Massachusetts section, American Society for the Control of Cancer; Richard K. Conant, state commissioner of public welfare; Dr. Henry M. Pollock, superintendent of the Massachusetts Homeopathic Hospital; Dr. J. W. Schereschewsky, United States Public Health Service; Robert W. Kelso, of the Boston Council of Social Agencies; Dr. G. Forest Martin, of Lowell, chairman of the board of trustees of the State Hospital at Tewksbury; Miss Ida M. Cannon, of the social service department, Massachusetts General Hospital; Dr. Edwin B. Wilson, department of vital statistics, Harvard School of Public Health; Rev. George P. O'Connor, Catholic Charitable Bureau; Dr. Kendall Emerson, of Worcester; Miss Gertrude W. Peabody, of the Massachusetts Association of Directors of Public Health Nursing, and Dr. Stephen Rushmore, dean of Tufts Medical School.

Plans for the establishment of a large medical center for the treatment of cancer were discussed on June 11, at the organization of the New York Cancer Association, Inc. A two-million-dollar hospital, extensive facilities for laboratory research and a highly organized welfare department to care for the families of cancer patients and to conduct an educational campaign will be the objects of the association, of which Sanders A. Wertheim, of 875 Park Avenue, was elected president.

The association, which is composed of physicians and private citizens, will work in close cooperation with the New York Cancer Institute. Bird S. Coler, commissioner of public welfare, who was instrumental in founding the institute, was elected chairman of the executive committee, and Dr. Isaac Levin, director of the institute, was named medical director.

Associated with Dr. Levin on the scientific committee are Dean Samuel A. Brown, of the university and Bellevue Hospital Medical College and president of the Academy of Medicine of New York; Dr. George D. Steward, president of the Medical Board of Bellevue Hospital; Dr. William H. Park, president of the American Health Association; Dr. Holmes C. Jackson, of the University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College; Dr. Barnet Josephs and Dr. Alfred D. Osgood.

#### PRESENTATION IN HONOR OF DR. B. F. KINGSBURY

ON Thursday afternoon, June 10, the graduate students of Dr. Benjamin Freeman Kingsbury presented to Cornell University a portrait of him, painted by Professor Olaf M. Brauner, in celebration of the completion of his thirty years of service in the faculty.

Dr. James G. Needham presided; Dr. Fred W. Stewart made the presentation address; Dr. Kingsbury's daughter, Marguerite, of the graduating class,