

Cretcher as the head. As a senior fellow of the institute, Dr. Cretcher (A.B., Michigan, 1912; Ph.D., Yale, 1916) has been in charge of the institution's fundamental chemical studies since 1922, and has published jointly with several assistants and other members of the institute a number of papers on the results of their organo-chemical researches.

As head of the new department, Dr. Cretcher will have supervision over all investigations in pure chemistry and will also serve as an adviser to industrial fellows who are carrying on research on problems in synthetic organic chemistry. Dr. Cretcher's activities will be operated as an integral part of the institute and will be sustained by institutional subsidy. Dr. William L. Nelson (B.S., Trinity, 1920; Ph.D., Pittsburgh, 1926), who has been named as the first fellow in the department, was a member of the staff of the department of chemistry of the University of Pittsburgh during the period 1922-26.

Dr. Weidlein states that while Mellon Institute is primarily an industrial experiment station, it has always recognized the need of fundamental scientific research as a background and source of stimulus for investigation on behalf of industry. During the past five years the institute has been giving a constantly increasing amount of attention to the encouragement and support of research in pure chemistry, and has been progressively successful in arranging for funds to devote to the prosecution of investigations not suggested by industry, but planned within the institute and aimed towards the study of more basic problems than those usually investigated for direct industrial purposes. In the institute's new department of research in pure chemistry this interest and work will be nurtured and given opportunity to expand.

THE AMBROSE SWASEY PROFESSORSHIP OF PHYSICS

As has been noted in *SCIENCE* a chair in physics at the Case School of Applied Science has been endowed by Mr. Ambrose Swasey. On December 19, his eightieth birthday, he sent the following letter to Case School:

For many years, as you know, I have been greatly interested in your institution and those who have been responsible for its progress and the high standard of its work.

As the years have gone on I have been especially attracted to the department of physics and the splendid men who are known throughout the world because of their work in scientific research.

It gives me much pleasure to advise you that I have to-day set over to the Cleveland Trust Company, securities amounting to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) as an endowment fund for a chair of physics

at Case School of Applied Science. It is my belief that in the future, as in the past, your institution will render a great service for the benefit of science and engineering.

This is the second valuable gift which Mr. Swasey has made to Case School. A number of years ago he and his partner presented to it the Warner and Swasey Astronomical Observatory with its complete equipment. The first gift indicated his interest in astronomy and this second gift shows his interest in physics.

Mr. Swasey was one of the founders of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and is a past president as well as an honorary member of that institution. He is also a member of the American Philosophical Society and the National Academy of Sciences. The state of Ohio has but two members in the academy—Dr. Swasey (for the doctorate has been conferred upon him by several institutions of learning) a member of the corporation of Case School, and Dr. Miller, professor of physics in the same college.

There are no conditions attached to this donation except that it shall be used for a chair in physics; but the trustees, in accepting the gift, have taken certain steps which they think will be agreeable to the donor. Dr. Dayton C. Miller has been appointed to the Ambrose Swasey Professorship of Physics and has been relieved of all teaching duties so that he may devote his entire time to research work.

OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

A FULL account of the Philadelphia meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science prepared by the permanent secretary will be printed in the issue of *SCIENCE* for January 28. Officers were elected as follows:

President

A. A. Noyes, professor of physical chemistry, the California Institute of Technology.

Vice-presidents and Chairmen of the Sections

A—*Mathematics*: Dunham Jackson, University of Minnesota.

B—*Physics*: A. H. Compton, University of Chicago.

C—*Chemistry*: Roger Adams, University of Illinois.

D—*Astronomy*: W. S. Adams, Mount Wilson Observatory.

E—*Geology and Geography*: Charles Schuchert, Yale University.

F—*Zoological Sciences*: C. E. McClung, University of Pennsylvania.

G—*Botanical Sciences*: William Crocker, Thompson Institute for Plant Research.