be open to the Columbia University Medical School and others, and for the post-graduate instruction of physicians.

THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF ARTHUR D. LITTLE, INC.

ARTHUR D. LITTLE, INC., celebrated its fortieth anniversary at a banquet in its laboratories on December 30, which was attended by one hundred or more present and former members of its staff.

Dr. James F. Norris, retiring president of the American Chemical Society, presented the congratulations of the chemical profession, and greetings were read from former associates, many of whom are now prominent in chemical and engineering fields.

Dr. A. D. Little, president of Arthur D. Little, Inc., briefly reviewed the history of his organization, which began business on October 1, 1886, as a firm under the style of Griffin & Little, with office and laboratory on the top floor at 103 Milk Street, Boston. The business which first came to the firm was chiefly analytical, though for a number of years special emphasis was also given to consulting work in the pulp and paper industry in which Dr. Little had previously been active, his initial job having been that of superintendent of the first sulphite pulp mill in the United States.

Mr. Roger B. Griffin, Dr. Little's partner and father of Mr. Roger C. Griffin, chief chemist of the present organization, died in 1893 as the result of an explosion in the laboratory. Six years later the laboratory was moved to somewhat larger quarters at 7 Exchange Place, and the scope of the business was extended.

Shortly after, in 1900, the firm of Little & Walker was organized. The partnership was dissolved five years later, when Dr. William H. Walker assumed the professorship of chemical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In 1902 another move was made—this time to 93 Broad Street. Here the firm occupied at first half and later the entire sixth floor, but soon the fifth floor also was taken over, and then the fourth, as new departments were established and an organization developed.

In 1909 the concern was incorporated as Arthur D. Little, Inc. There were by this time many specialists on the staff, and departments were maintained for analyses and tests, research, fuel engineering, lubrication, forest products, biology, textiles and chemical engineering.

DR. COOLIDGE AND THE EDISON MEDAL

THE Edison Medal for 1926, which was awarded in December to Dr. William D. Coolidge, assistant director, research laboratory, General Electric Company, "for the origination of ductile tungsten and the fundamental improvement of the X-ray tube," has been declined by Dr. Coolidge for the reason given in the following letter:

SCHENECTADY, JAN. 17, 1927

MR. GANO DUNN, chairman Edison Medal Committee, American Institute of Electrical Engineers, New York City.

My Dear Mr. Dunn:

Judge Morris has just handed down a decision to the effect that my ductile tungsten patent is invalid. This decision, coming from a man of Judge Morris's standing, proves to me that the best of men could question my right to the Edison medal which your committee has been good enough to award to me.

My appreciation of that great pioneer Mr. Edison, in whose honor the medal was established, and my admiration for its former recipients are such that I would not, for the world, do anything that could in any way detract from the luster of that medal, which should stand for generations to come as one of the most coveted prizes for meritorious work in the electrical field.

In the light of the above facts, I can not accept the medal. Allow me to take this opportunity to thank you and the other members of the committee and to express my deep appreciation of the great honor which you did me. Very sincerely yours,

W. D. COOLIDGE

The *Electrical World*, from which we take the above, reports further that at a specially called meeting of the Edison medal committee, held January 21, it was resolved, ". . . with profound regret, to acquiesce in the decision of Dr. Coolidge, which nullifies the award." There will, therefore, be no award of the Edison medal for 1926.

The case referred to by Dr. Coolidge was that of the General Electric Company *vs.* the DeForest Radio Company and the Robelin Piano Company, a suit charging contributory infringement in the manufacture and sale of radio tubes having ductile tungsten filaments, and the court held that the discovery of the cold ductility of the metal was not an invention and that therefore the patent was void. An unusual feature of the judgment was that by it Judge Morris reversed a former finding of his own, made when sitting in New Jersey, which upheld the patent. If his later decision stands, the effect it will have on lamp manufacture has become a subject of considerable speculation.

One of the contentions of the defendants in the suit was that Dr. Colin G. Fink, head of the department of electrochemistry at Columbia University, New York, and a former associate of Dr. Coolidge's in the General Electric laboratories, was the real originator of the process in dispute. Dr. Fink himself made this

claim and had protested to the Edison medal committee of the institute against its award to Dr. Coolidge. In view of the finding that the patent was invalid, the court did not pass on the question of priority of discovery.

POPULAR LECTURES ON SCIENCE

ARRANGEMENTS have been completed for a course of seven lectures on "How the Scientist works" to be given at Manhattan Trade School, New York City, under the auspices of the People's Institute. The lectures will be presented on successive Wednesday evenings beginning February 9. The course was planned by the American Association for Medical Progress, and will be given in accordance with the following schedule:

February 9—*Chemistry, old and new,* Dr. Harrison E. Howe, editor of *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry.*

February 16—*Our knowledge of living matter,* Dr. Robert Chambers, professor of microscopic anatomy, Cornell University Medical College.

February 23—*The life of plants,* Dr. C. Stuart Gager, director of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

March 2—*The adjustments of the human body,* Dr. Lawrence J. Henderson, professor of physiology in Harvard University.

March 9—*The chemistry of the human body,* Dr. Carl P. Sherwin, professor of physiological chemistry, Fordham University.

March 16—*The nervous system,* Dr. Louis Casamajor, professor of neurology in Columbia University.

March 23—*How the investigator's mind works,* Dr. William E. Ritter, president of the board of trustees of Science Service.

A similar course entitled "How Science works" has been arranged for Los Angeles, through the cooperation of the Southern Branch of the University of California and the university extension division. These lectures are all to be given by members of the southern branch as follows:

January 10—*The beginnings of science,* Dr. William Conger Morgan, head of the department of chemistry.

January 17—*Revelations of the telescope* (illustrated), Dr. Frederick C. Leonard, department of astronomy.

January 24—*The autobiography of the earth,* Dr. William John Miller, head of the department of geology.

January 31—*The creation of man,* Dr. George M. McBride, head of the department of geography.

February 14—*The modern Aladdin,* Dr. Hiram W. Edwards, department of physics.

February 21—*The chemist in action,* Dr. G. Ross Robertson, department of chemistry.

February 28—*Experimenting with nature,* Dr. Loye Holmes Miller, head of the department of biology.

March 14—*Pathfinding human nutrition,* Dr. Helen Bishop Thompson, head of the department of home economics.

March 21—*What psychology is and is not,* Dr. Shepherd Ivory Franz, head of the department of psychology.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. ELIHU THOMSON, consulting engineer and director of the laboratories of the General Electric Company at Lynn, Mass., has been awarded the Faraday medal for 1927 by the British Institution of Electrical Engineers. The medal is awarded for notable scientific or industrial achievements in electrical engineering, or for conspicuous services rendered to the advancement of electrical science.

THE King of Italy, through the Italian Ambassador, has conferred the Order of Officer of the Crown of Italy upon Charles L. Parsons, Atherton Seidell and Harrison E. Howe, in recognition of "their friendliness toward the Italian people and their activities in promoting international good-will through the medium of chemistry."

IN the new year honors list of the King of England are included the following scientific men and others connected with scientific work: *Privy Councillor:* The Honorable W. G. A. Ormsby-Gore, under-secretary of state for the colonies and president of section E (geography) of the British Association at the Oxford meeting in 1926. *Knights:* Dr. Henry Head, who has made distinguished contributions to our knowledge of the nervous system; Mr. A. E. Kitson, director of the Geological Survey, Gold Coast Colony; Dr. D. Milne Watson, governor of the Gas Light and Coke Company, London. *K.C.B.* (*civil division*): Dr. G. Macdonald, secretary to the Scottish Education Department. *C.B.* (*civil division*): Mr. H. T. Tizard, principal assistant secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. *C.I.E.:* Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Cornwall, lately director, Southern India Pasteur Institute, Coonoor, India; Mr. D. Anstead, director of agriculture, Madras; Mr. D. Milne, director of agriculture, Punjab. *K.C.M.G.:* Professor W. Mitchell, vice-chancellor of the University of Adelaide, in recognition of his services to the Commonwealth of Australia.

CAPTAIN ROALD AMUNDSEN and Lincoln Ellsworth, leaders of the expedition which traveled in the dirigible *Norge* across the North Pole from Spitzbergen to Alaska last spring, have received medals commemorating their feat from the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society. The presentation took place before a lecture by the two explorers at the American Museum of Natural History on January 21.