

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.