As state geologist of Texas he gathered about him an assemblage of truly remarkable men. The group includes Penrose, Taff, Tarr, Harris, Kennedy, Cummins, Hill, Osann, Von Steeruwitz, Drake and Owen. Dumble and these men in five years' time erected the enduring substructure of the geologic knowledge of more than one twelfth of the total area of the United States. Their achievement is in every sense equal to the pioneer work of Hayden, Gilbert, Powell, Dutton, King, Emmons and others in the West. Any geologist familiar with Texas and the West will probably agree that Texas geologic problems are the most difficult. Although both terranes are characterized by a large scale uniformity in stratigraphy, the rock exposures in Texas are scarcer and less connected than in the Rocky Mountains, Great Basin and Great Plains regions. Any geologist worth his salt is certain to have his interest stimulated by the variety and scenery of the West, but all of Texas east of the Pecos River is one of the world's most monotonous tracts and withal possessed of perhaps the worst of all climates and environments for the geologist. Discouragement appears to have been the ordinary diet of Dumble and his associates of the Geological Survey of Texas and they must have thrived on it or their immense output of work of lasting worth is no criterion.

Dumble was, with a possible single exception, the first to establish a geologic department for an oil company. He was organizer and manager from the beginning of all the Southern Pacific Oil Companies, the most important of which have been the Pacific, Associated, East Coast and Rio Bravo companies. His activities as an economic geologist extended from South America to China, by way of Alaska. The territory under his immediate supervision embraced the States of Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Louisiana as well as northwest and northeast Mexico. It is doubtful if there is any natural resource which he was not required to study and to judge. His advice when followed proved very seldom wrong and very generally should have been heeded when it was not.

There was nothing of the spectacular flashiness of that present day incubus, the "go-getter," in Dumble. Always unassumingly modest, quiet, gentle and just he pursued the even tenor of his way and won the results desired without ever making any great ado about them. He had scant respect for half-baked deductions and sloppy work. He insisted that ample time and effort be spent in search of the facts and freely spent money for work of a purely scientific nature, regarded by rival companies as either unnecessary or inadvisable. This policy undoubtedly contributed to his almost unique success. Mr. Dumble's companies had few secrets and his offices in Houston and San Francisco have always served as clearing houses of information and discussion for all geologists interested in the West and Southwest. He firmly believed in the fullest possible cooperation among all engaged in the same line of endeavor. He not only freely published results which other companies would consider as private property to be jealously guarded but encouraged his subordinates to do likewise. His intelligence was sufficiently great to realize that an open, free and fair policy will always ultimately pay large dividends.

It would have been scarcely possible for any one to have commanded more respect, loyalty and sincere personal esteem from subordinates and associates. Many have remained with his organizations when they might have bettered their financial condition elsewhere; others have preferred to return after going elsewhere. Almost without exception those who did leave remained ever his friends. Colonel Newcome always carried with him Shakespeare and Don Quixote because he wished to be ever in company of gentlemen. Everyone associated with Edwin Theodore Dumble knew he was in the company of a gentleman.

CHARLES LAURENCE BAKER
HOUSTON, TEXAS

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

BENACHEION PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

A LETTER was received about six months ago from Mr. Emanuel Benachis, a wealthy resident and ex-mayor of Athens, Greece, in which he announced that the Phytopathological Institute that was being built through his generous gift of ten million drachmas was expected to be ready for work in the summer of 1926. Mr. Benachis outlined in his letter some of the objects of this institute. These may be of interest to plant pathologists, as they are concerned with problems of applied as well as theoretical botany. This brief account of the institute may serve to assist those phytopathologists who intend to visit that part of the world in locating the place and to acquaint all those interested in the phytopathological problems of Mediterranean countries with the salient features of this new institute.

The institute is located on a very beautiful site at Strophylion, a suburb of Athens, and occupies a very extensive area of land. There are a number of buildings devoted to distinct types of work. In the main building are housed the various laboratories. In the warehouse building are stored articles, such as chemicals, glassware, machinery, etc. There is an adminis-

tration building where the various offices and the library are located. Besides the above, there are a number of other buildings serving different purposes, such as insectaries, greenhouses and dwellings for the laborers. The insect collections of the institute are representative of the insect fauna of those regions. The same may be said for the mycological and other collections. The laboratories are well equipped with apparatus for general as well as specialized work in plant pathology and other allied botanical sciences.

Some of the problems upon which the institute has concentrated most of its attention are:

(1) A general survey of the various diseases of the most important crops of Greece. This survey will include diseases caused by parasites belonging either to the plant or animal kingdom, such as viruses, bacteria, fungi, higher plants, nematodes, insects and other animals.

(2) Determination of the meteorological and edaphic factors associated with the development and inhibition of such diseases.

(3) Development of resistant plant varieties by breeding or by introduction from other countries.

(4) Introduction of predaceous insects and nematodes and other such natural enemies for the control of the pests of the cultivated plants.

(5) Preparation, testing and distribution of suitable fungicides and insecticides.

(6) Popularization of phytopathological knowledge among the farmers by lectures and demonstration work.

The thing that was called to my attention in the letter particularly, and which I also want to emphasize in this connection, is the inadequate supply of scientific literature in the library. The founder and staff of the institute will greatly appreciate the efforts of all phytopathologists and entomologists throughout the world in helping them to make up for deficiencies in the pathological and entomological literature. Plant pathologists and entomologists wishing to do so may either send reprints of their publications or ask the librarians of their respective institutions to enter the name of the institute in the mailing list. The address of the institute is: Benacheion Phytopathological Institute, Athens, Greece.

C. P. SIDERIS

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

OPENING OF THE INSTITUTE OF OPTICS IN PARIS

THE Institute of Optics, Paris, of which Dr. Charles Fabry is director, was formally opened on March 17.

The opening was attended by the president of the French Republic, Monsieur Doumergue, the minister of public instruction, Monsieur Herriot, and a large number of persons eminent in the political and scientific worlds of Paris. Among the three or four speeches those of the director and of Monsieur Herriot were notable. This institute grew out of an endeavor during war time to care for the design and construction of precise optical instruments. The institute was founded largely through the efforts of the Duc de Grammont, Professor Fabry and a few others in 1919 in a hired building. On March 17 the new and very adequate building was inaugurated, one towards which private funds, including some subscriptions from individuals in America, a portion of receipts of the Pasteur Day in 1924 and substantial contributions not only from French industrials but from governmental funds through the Ministries of Public Instruction and of Public Works, were forthcoming.

The institute consists of three subdivisions, covering fields of scientific research, not only in geometric optics, but in physical optics, a large testing laboratory equivalent to a section of the Bureau of Standards and a school for apprentices.

The founding of this institute marks a coming together of the large industrials and the most competent of the war scientists in their own field.

THE ORGANIZATION OF BRITISH SCIENTIFIC WORKERS

AN appeal has been sent from the National Union of Scientific Workers to all professionally qualified men of science and technicians in England, with the object of obtaining their views "on the possibility and desirability of building up a body fully representative of their broader interests." The appeal bears the signatures, with many others, of:

Dr. E. F. Armstrong, Sir William Bragg, Professor F. G. Donnan, Sir Richard Gregory, Sir Robert Hadfield, Lord Haldane, Sir Thomas Holland, Sir F. Gowland Hopkins, Sir Charles Parsons, Sir Horace Plunkett, Sir Humphrey Rolleston, Sir Charles Sherrington, Sir Arthur Shipley and Mr. H. G. Wells.

Following is the text of the appeal:

The National Union of Scientific Workers was founded in 1918 (1) to promote the cause of science in our national life, and (2) to improve the status of the scientific worker. The union, during its eight years of life, has a number of achievements to its credit, but it has not succeeded in becoming what its supporters hoped for —an organization fully representative of the general body of qualified scientific workers. Its membership is still a little below 1,000, although there must be nearly 10,000 persons in Great Britain qualified for admission. We believe that the establishment of such a representative body would be of the greatest importance to science and to those who have made science their profession; we are, therefore, sending this appeal to all qualified scien-