it would be desirable to institute a more general system of admission fees.

(4) To inquire to what extent there is congestion in museums and galleries and to report whether, if there be such congestion, it can be relieved in any other way than by extensive building and in particular whether improvement could be brought about by a redistribution of specimens between different state-supported institutions or by disposal of specimens which may be either of slight importance or in excess of requirements, by way of sale or of gift or loan to provincial museums and galleries and to other authorities; and in this connection to ascertain the practice followed in the case of the chief national collections abroad.

(5) To consider whether it is desirable to effect any change in the existing practice of the British Museum with regard to its reception and preservation of publications under the provisions of the Copyright Acts.

(6) To consider whether the existing administrative responsibility for the various institutions is the most appropriate under modern conditions and whether it conduces to the most advantageous distribution and display of the national treasures, and to report whether it would be desirable, while preserving certain defined powers to their trustees or directors, to place them all under some central authority or under different authorities than those at present controlling them.

(7) To report whether the most suitable and scientific arrangement of specimens and their allocation to the most appropriate museum or gallery are in any way hampered by the terms of benefactors' bequests, and, if so, whether it would be expedient to take steps with a view to a modification of the terms of such bequests.

(8) To make recommendations generally which may suggest themselves as pertinent in the light of the information obtained during the course of the inquiry.

EXCURSION OF THE ELECTROCHEMISTS

THE American Electrochemical Society will board a special train at Chicago on September 4, traveling as far as Seattle and Vancouver and returning to Chicago on September 21. All the important electrolytic plants, research and university laboratories and power developments *en route* will be visited. Stops will be made at the following towns: Minneapolis, Butte, Anaconda, Wallace, Kellogg, Spokane, Seattle, Vancouver, Trail, Shelby, Great Falls and Keokuk.

America is leading the world in the production of electrolytic zinc, electrolytic lead and electrolytic copper, and ample opportunities will be offered to see the very latest production of the pure metals, starting from the mineral.

Power development in the Northwest has been progressing on a very elaborate scale, and the electrochemists are interested in new centers for the establishment of various electrolytic industries.

There will be three scientific sessions held *en route;* one at Minneapolis, another at Vancouver and a third at Keokuk. The papers' program includes a wide diversity of subjects, ranging from the electrodeposition of rubber to thin film rectifiers.

A large number of members and guests have made reservations for the trip. The total cost, including berth and meals, starting from and returning to Chicago, is estimated at $182. Further details are obtainable at the offices of the American Electrochemical Society, Columbia University, New York City.

THE HERMAN FRASCH FOUNDATION FOR CHEMICAL RESEARCH

BY a decision of the Court of Appeals, a bequest of the residuary estate of Mrs. Elizabeth Blee Frasch, widow of Herman Frasch, for many years president of the Union Sulphur Company, which directed that the income of the gift of $1,000,000 was to be used for chemical research in the field of agricultural chemistry, is upheld.

The will of Mrs. Frasch left her residuary estate, received largely from her husband, who was a well-known chemist, to the United States Trust Company to establish the Herman Frasch Foundation for Chemical Research. She directed that the income be paid to one or more incorporated institutions in the United States, to be selected by the trust company, after consulting with the American Chemical Society, "upon condition that the said institution shall agree that the money so received shall be devoted to research in the field of agricultural chemistry with the object of attaining results which shall be of practical benefit to the agricultural development of the United States."

Mrs. Frasch directed that the institution so selected should have the use of the funds for five years after her death, and that before the end of this period the trustee should request the American Chemical Society to examine the work done by the institutions and report "whether in its opinion satisfactory progress has been made with the funds of the foundation toward the attainment of such practical results." If the society reported that satisfactory progress had not been made, payments would cease, and another institution would be selected to make use of the income for five years, after which another inquiry would be made.

The bequest was contested on the ground that by the terms of the will the income might be used for private research which would deprive the gift of its charitable purpose. Judge Lehman in his opinion said that although Mrs. Frasch undoubtedly intended to create a trust "for purposes which would advance the public welfare," such intention "is not sufficient to give validity to a perpetual trust for the benefit of indefinite and uncertain persons" unless authorized by a law of 1893, now a section of the Personal Property Law of New York, based on the Statute of Elizabeth, which applies to a gift for religious, educational,

charitable or benevolent uses. The court pointed out that the statute does not provide for the legality of bequests given for research work, but said:

Research is the method used by modern universities and scientific foundations to increase the sum of human knowledge. Research conducted for such purpose and by such institutions is clearly "educational" and "benevolent" within the meaning of the statute. Not every charitable, educational or benevolent use is enumerated in the Statute of Elizabeth, although that statute was intended to limit the trusts for charitable uses, which might be enforced by a court of equity. Conceptions of public charity, benevolence and education change with passing generations.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

THE following are the members and officers of the Rockefeller Foundation for 1927 under a new plan of organization:

Members: John G. Agar, John W. Davis, David L. Edsall, Simon Flexner, Raymond B. Fosdick, Herbert S. Hadley, Charles E. Hughes, Vernon Kellogg, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Wickliffe Rose, Julius Rosenwald, Martin A. Ryerson, Frederick Strauss, George E. Vincent, George H. Whipple, William Allen White, Ray Lyman Wilbur.

Officers: John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Chairman of Board of Trustees; George E. Vincent, President; Edwin R. Embree, Vice-President in New York office; Roger S. Greene, Vice-President in the Far East; Selskar M. Gunn, Vice-President in Europe; Frederick F. Russell, M.D., Director International Health Division; Richard M. Pearce, M.D., Director Division of Medical Education; Norma S. Thompson, Secretary; Louis G. Myers, Treasurer; George J. Beal, Comptroller.

Executive Committee: The President, Chairman; John G. Agar, Simon Flexner, Raymond B. Fosdick, Vernon Kellogg, Wickliffe Rose, Frederick Strauss, Norma S. Thompson, Secretary.

International Health Division: The President, Chairman; Simon Flexner, Vernon Kellogg, Wickliffe Rose, William Allen White.

Division of Medical Education: The President, Chairman; David L. Edsall, Frederick Strauss, George H. Whipple, Ray Lyman Wilbur.

Finance Committee: John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Chairman; Raymond B. Fosdick, Frederick Strauss.

The Foundation holds regular meetings in February and November. The executive committee holds monthly meetings.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Osiris Prize for science amounting to $4,000, which is bestowed every five years by a committee representing five academies, has been awarded to Dr. Charles Nicolle, director of the Pasteur Institute in Tunis, for his researches on exanthematous typhus and recurrent fever and their mode of transmission by parasites; also for his researches on serotherapy in measles and scarlet fever, especially the injection of convalescents' serum.

THE Royal Society of Edinburgh has elected as honorary British fellows: Sir William Bragg, Sir David Bruce, Sir J. B. Farmer and Sir F. G. Hopkins. Foreign honorary fellows have been elected as follows: Niels Bohr, professor of physics, University of Copenhagen; Jules Bordet, professor of bacteriology, University of Brussels; Albert Einstein, professor of mathematical physics, University of Berlin; Hans Horst Meyer, emeritus professor of pharmacology, University of Vienna; Johannes Schmidt, Carlsberg Laboratory, Copenhagen, and Richard Willstätter, professor of chemistry, University of Munich.

THE commission for a portrait of Sir Berkeley Moynihan, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, has been placed by the Moynihan Portrait Fund Committee with Mr. Richard Jack, R. A., who has also been given a commission for a replica.

PROFESSOR EDWARD SKINNER KING, of the Harvard College Observatory, was granted the honorary degree of doctor of science by Hamilton College, at its recent commencement exercises.

DR. GUY L. NOYES, dean of the school of medicine and director of the University Hospitals, of the University of Missouri, was the guest of honor at a luncheon in Boston recently, given by the University of Missouri men who are finishing their course in medicine in Harvard University.

DR. CASSIUS J. KEYSER, who has been connected with the mathematical department of Columbia University since 1896, when he was awarded the degree of A.M., since 1904 Adrain professor of mathematics, has become professor emeritus.

PROFESSOR J. A. MACWILLIAM has retired from the chair of physiology in the University of Aberdeen which he has filled for a period of forty-one years.

AT a recent meeting of the British Institution of Electrical Engineers, Mr. A. Page was elected president and Captain J. M. Donaldson, vice-president, to take office on September 30.

DR. K. NAKAMURA, president of the Tokyo Higher Technical School and for a number of years head of its department of electrical engineering, was recently elected president of the Japanese Institute of Electrical Engineers.

DR. MASUJIRO NISHIBE, of the laboratory for infec-