territory. Where others had failed Dr. Newcombe succeeded. In a quiet unassuming manner, he led in the gathering together of a small group of botanists and the organization of the Hawaiian Botanical Society, April 7, 1924. He became the first president of the new organization and by the end of his presidential year its success was assured. Its growth and development have been steady.

In the same manner, through his influence, a larger group with more diversified scientific interests gathered at the University of Hawaii and there under his leadership the Hawaiian Academy of Science was organized July 23, 1925. Again he served in the capacity of first president during the first critical year of its existence, giving freely of his time, energy and the wisdom of his deep rich life. The successful year closed with a four-day session devoted to the reading of papers bearing on various scientific subjects of interest. The Hawaiian Academy of Science has continued its active growth.

Dr. Newcombe's helpfulness to the cause he loved did not end with the organization of these two societies. The latchstring of his study was always out. Never was he too busy, too tired or too engrossed with his own affairs to pause and help with advice, suggestion or criticism a fellow worker. In fact it seemed as if he could not do or give freely enough from his rich life. Age, sickness and sorrow did not dim the brightness of his great mind. He remained, as he would have wished, in full possession of his mental faculties until a few hours before his death. As he approached the sunset of his life, those who knew him best felt a softening and a mellowing of his natural austereness. Many an eye was moist at the close of the simple service held in his home, where alumni of the University of Michigan, friends and scientists had gathered in the hush and quiet of the late Sabbath afternoon, to pay tribute by word and profusion of flowers to the memory of a great teacher, scientist and friend. His passing means much to the community at large, to the scientific world and to his friends here and on the mainland.

As student and author of many articles on original research, as teacher, counselor and inspiration to his students and fellow workers, Dr. Newcombe has exercised a dominating influence in the advancement of scientific thought in America.

ELIZABETH DOROTHY WUIST BROWN
BERNICE P. BISHOP MUSEUM,
HONOLULU

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

THE annual general meeting of the Australian National Research Council was held in Melbourne on August 25 and 26. According to a report printed in *Nature*, particular attention was given to the financial position of the council in relation to present and future work. The offer of the Carnegie Corporation to provide a sum of £5,000 as the nucleus of a research fund was accepted with most cordial thanks, and with this sum and more than £1,000 available from other sources, such a fund was formally instituted. A strong committee was appointed to take action for securing additional contributions from Australian sources, and it is hoped that before long the council will be in a position to give considerable aid to Australian workers in pure science. Amongst several satisfactory reports on the year's work was one from the anthropology committee outlining the progress made since the initiation of the department of anthropology in the University of Sydney. This step followed upon a resolution by the second Pan-Pacific Science Congress of 1923 and was made possible by contributions from the commonwealth and state governments and the Rockefeller Foundation. The new department is now in full swing and is taking active steps to organize investigations both on the mainland and on the neighboring Pacific islands. The following new members were elected to the Australian National Research Council, the total membership of which may not at any time exceed 100: Mr. C. R. P. Andrews (director of education, Western Australia); Professor A. R. Radcliffe Brown (anthropology, University of Sydney); Professor A. N. S. H. Burkitt (anatomy, Sydney); Professor A. J. Ewart (botany, Melbourne); Dr. W. A. Hargreaves (government chemist, South Australia); Professor J. W. Paterson (agriculture, Perth), and Dr. H. R. Seddon (Veterinary Research Station, New South Wales).

The trustees of the Commonwealth Science and Industry Endowment Fund in Australia are this year making £1,250 available in small grants for the assistance of scientific workers in Australia. The lines which will be followed in making the grants will be similar to those which have been proved to be satisfactory by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in Great Britain. The Commonwealth Fund has an invested capital of £100,000, and it is provided by act of parliament that the interest from it shall be employed for the dual purposes of training students in the methods of scientific research and in providing assistance to persons engaged in research, irrespective of whether their work has an obvious practical application or not. At present, the income is being devoted mainly to the first object, but as time goes on it is expected that an increasing sum will be available annually for distribution in grants.

LECTURES BY INDUSTRIAL FELLOWS AT THE MELLON INSTITUTE

THE following course of lectures on technologic subjects, by specialists engaged in scientific investigation

in the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research of the University of Pittsburgh, are being given at 11:30 A. M. to 12:30 P. M. (4th period), in the fellows' room of the institute. All the discourses will be open to interested faculty members and qualified students of the university, to teachers of chemistry and chemists of the Pittsburgh district and to the membership of the institute:

1. Petroleum Refinery Technology, W. A. GRUSE

October 3. *Petroleum distillation practice*
October 10. *Chemical treatment of petroleum distillates*
October 17. *Properties and uses of petroleum products*

2. By-product Coke Technology, O. O. MALLEIS

October 31. *By-product coke-oven practice*
November 7. *Recovery of by-products from coke-oven gas*

3. Technology of Ceramic Products, S. M. PHELPS, TRACY BARTHOLOMEW, E. S. ROSS, B. A. RICE and E. J. CASSELMAN

November 14. *Raw materials and manufacture of refractories* (Mr. Phelps)
November 21. *Properties, uses and testing of refractories* (Mr. Phelps)
December 5. *Raw Materials and manufacture of Portland cement* (Mr. Bartholomew)
December 12. *Properties, uses and testing of Portland cement* (Mr. Bartholomew)
January 9. *Asbestos and magnesia products* (Mr. Ross)
January 16. *Vitreous enamels* (Mr. Rice)
January 23. *Window glass* (Mr. Casselman)

4. Manufacture of Explosives, H. L. COX

February 13. *Agricultural and mining explosives*
February 20. *Special military explosives*
February 27. *Detonators*

5. Paper Industry, MARC DARRIN

March 5. *Manufacture of paper pulp*
March 12. *Manufacture, properties and uses of paper products*

6. Leather Technology, M. C. WALSH

March 19. *Histology of skin and chemistry of tanning*
March 26. *Vegetable tannage*
April 2. *Mineral and other tannage*

7. Cereal Products, R. R. IRVIN

April 16. *Chemistry of cereals*
April 23. *Milling of cereals*
April 30. *Baking technology*

8. Fine-chemical Industry, L. H. CRETCHER

May 7. *Disinfectants and antiseptics*
May 14. *Anesthetics and hypnotics*
May 21. *Biochemical manufacturing processes*

STANDARDS FOR SCIENTIFIC AND ENGINEERING SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

THE decision to undertake the standardization of scientific and engineering symbols and abbreviations as a national enterprise was made at a general conference called by the American engineering standards committee and held in the rooms of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers on February 13, 1923. Three organizations, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, made the original recommendations which resulted in the calling of this conference. Official representatives of national organizations attended this conference and after a full discussion they voted unanimously that this project should be undertaken, and that the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Research Council, the Society for Promotion of Engineering Education and the U. S. Bureau of Standards should be requested to accept joint sponsorship. Later the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers were invited to become joint sponsors.

The sectional committee on scientific and engineering symbols and abbreviations now consists of thirty members representing thirty-seven national organizations. It has organized nine subcommittees to which have been assigned the following divisions of the subject: (1) symbols for mechanics, structural engineering and testing materials, (2) symbols for hydraulics, (3) symbols for heat and thermodynamics, (4) symbols for photometry and illumination, (5) aeronautical symbols, (6) mathematical symbols, (7) electrotechnical symbols including radio, (8) navigational and topographical symbols, (9) abbreviations for scientific and engineering terms. The reports of these subcommittees will be prepared and issued separately.

The proposed standard on symbols for heat and thermodynamics was prepared by subcommittee No. 3, of which Dr. Sanford A. Moss, Thomson Research Laboratory, General Electric Company, is chairman. This subcommittee was organized on April 5, 1926, by direction of the executive committee of the sectional committee on scientific and engineering symbols and abbreviations for the purpose of recommending a list of standard symbols for use in the field of heat and thermodynamics. The proposed tentative standard has received the approval of the sub-committee and is now being circulated with a request for criticism and comment. Communications may be addressed to Preston S. Miller, secretary of the sectional committee, 80th Street and East End Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Mathematical and aeronautical symbols, developed