information and data about technical and scientific results accomplished in certain fields. The Research Council must see to it that the desired information is forwarded to the interested parties with promptness and accuracy. In this way, a service will be gradually unified, instead of having it, as it is now, divided amongst the various ministries with its great cost and waste of energy and which, on the whole, can be greatly reduced.

Mr. President, I am sure that the National Research Council will fully perform the task I am intrusting to it, and in that confidence I am sending my very best wishes to you and to the directors of the council.

January 1, 1928, VI.

MUSSOLINI

This message of the chief of the government constitutes an event of outstanding importance for the scientific and technical development of the country and, from several points of view, can rank with the speech of Pesaro, which marked the beginning of the economic rehabilitation of Italy.

The head of the government, after having reestablished the authority of the state, reorganized the finances and stabilized the currency, is now taking up again genially with this message the policy of expansion and affirmation of our people in all fields of intellectual activity and he desires that Italy reconquer again the function of predominance in scientific research which had its birth and flourished in our midst.

The organ of this revival will be the National Research Council, which the lofty mind of the Duce has desired to be presided over by the most genial investigator which Italy to-day possesses, Guglielmo Marconi, and by a directorate on which serve men distinguished for ability and culture: His Excellency Giannini, minister plenipotentiary; the Honorable G. A. Blanc, Professor Parravana, General Vacchelli, His Excellency Bonaldo Stringer, manager, and Professor Magrini, secretary general.

A National Research Council has been in existence since 1921, but on account of its peculiar organization it has not been able to obtain all the expected good results.

The national government, fully aware of the great benefits which such an institution could render to the nation, decided to promptly reorganize it and better define its juridical status and it has accordingly made it a permanent consultative and informative organ of the head of the government, and of the ministry of public instruction, for everything concerning the development and progress of scientific activity at home and abroad.

At the same time, in order to obtain the necessary information, he has given to the council the freedom of approach to the institutions, laboratories and establishments where scientific research is carried on.

The constitution of the National Research Council is as follows: A board of directors and ten national committees, one for each of the principal branches of science.

At the head of each committee there is an executive board consisting of a president, a secretary and three members. Each national committee has a number of members varying according to the development attained by the scientific branch it represents.

In addition, the National Board of Directors may propose from time to time to the head of the government the appointment of special national commissions for the study of specific problems which have a practical importance in the life of the nation.

The organization of several of these commissions has already been determined upon, and two of them, that for food and that for national fertilizers, will very soon initiate their work.

The head of the government in his important message, when referring to the tasks assigned to the National Research Council, speaks of the institution of well-equipped research laboratories.

The Duce thus stresses, interestingly, one of the most important items of the activities of the organization and points out with accuracy one of our deficiencies which must be removed.

Italy, among the nations of great cultural development, is the only one which has not as yet any institution for pure scientific research, and all technical progress is intrusted to university laboratories, which, on account of their predominantly didactic functions, can not take care of the development of science with the necessary energy.

It is, therefore, indispensable to equip some great institution so that it may completely satisfy through books and magazines, apparatus and instruments, all of the exigencies of the investigators and thus place the country in a position to contribute, equally with other nations, to the technical progress of the world, and meanwhile this order of the Duce will be executed at once.

The importance of the other functions which the National Research Council is called upon to perform is self-evident but we wish especially to refer to the compilation of the technical and scientific bibliography and its diffusion abroad in every center of study in order that the patient and often valuable (geniale) work of Italian scientists may no longer be ignored by anybody.

THE FARADAY MEMORIAL FUND

WILLIAM F. CASTLE, mayor of Southwark, writes as follows with regard to the Faraday memorial fund:

Michael Faraday was born in Southwark, the son of a

blacksmith whose forge stood not far from London Bridge and close to the present Southwark Town Hall and Central Reference Library.

To commemorate this great and unselfish pioneer worker, the council of his native borough purpose to form and maintain in connection with the Central Reference Library, a Faraday Memorial Library, to include a complete collection of portraits and biographies of Faraday and works containing contemporary references to him and his work; books showing the position of the physical sciences when Faraday began to work in them, and the best up-to-date works on those sciences and their latest developments.

For this purpose a Faraday memorial fund has been inaugurated, the annual income from which will be devoted to the acquisition of the best authoritative books as published year by year, and so keep the Memorial Library always abreast of developments in, and practical applications of, the sciences, especially electricity, for which Faraday did so much. In this way the memorial will have permanent vitality, perennial freshness, and ever-increasing usefulness, and like the benefits of Faraday's discoveries will be available for all who will to make use of it.

Some readers of SCIENCE may like to be associated with the Southwark Borough Council in this tribute to him. As mayor of this historic borough by the Thames-side, in whose annals are brilliant names of special interest to America—John Harvard, who, like Faraday, was born here, for example—I shall be happy to welcome tokens of America's interest, either in the form of contributions or of enquiries, addressed to me at the Town Hall, Southwark, London, S. E. 17.

THE WORLD ENGINEERING CONGRESS

A WORLD Engineering Congress is to be held in Tokio, October, 1929. The Congress proposes to discuss various engineering subjects in anticipation eventually of initiating and promoting international cooperation in the study of engineering sciences and problems in all its branches and to cultivate a feeling of brotherhood among the engineers of the world. Herbert Hoover, secretary of commerce, is honorary chairman of the American committee which is sponsoring the congress.

Seventy-eight prominent engineers in the United States have accepted appointments by Secretary Hoover, as members of the congress, including Thomas A. Edison, John Hays Hammond, Samuel Insull, William B. Mayo, of the Ford Motor Company; Charles M. Schwab, Samuel M. Vauclain, president of the Baldwin Locomotive Works; Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad; Orville Wright, Gen. William Barclay Parsons, James H. McGraw, of the McGraw-Hill Publishing Company; H. H. Westinghouse, of the Westinghouse Air Brake Company; Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., president of the General Motors Corporation; Michael I. Pupin, of Columbia University, and the following members of the General Electric Co.: E. W. Rice, Jr., honorary chairman of the board; Gerard Swope, president; C. C. Chesney, vice-president, and Professor Elihu Thomson, director of the Thomson Research Laboratory of the company.

Departments of various governments, universities, institutes and associations will take part in the sessions, which will cover a period of two weeks. Maurice Howland, secretary of the American committee, made the following statement:

> Some of the world's most pressing problems relative to public works, communication, transportation, power, chemicals, textiles and aeronautical and automotive engineering will come before the congress. At the outset, activity in these fields will be taken up under general groupings such as education, administration, statistics and standardization. The session will go on to specific problems under the heads of structural work, shipbuilding, mining and metallurgy, fuel, heating and ventilation, illumination, drainage, refrigeration, and the use of telephone and telegraph. Almost every activity of daily life as touched by modern science and invention will be reflected in the deliberations of the congress.

THE ST. LOUIS MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

THE seventy-fifth meeting of the American Chemical Society will be held in St. Louis from April 16 to 19. Dr. William J. Mayo, of the Mayo Clinic, will address a public meeting on the evening of April 17 on "The Advancement of Learning in Medicine through Biochemistry."

Preliminary plans have been announced for the scientific sessions. All except the colloid, fertilizer and leather and gelatin chemistry divisions will meet.

The agricultural and food chemistry division, in addition to holding a meeting for the presentation of miscellaneous papers, will hold a symposium on insecticides and fungicides under the leadership of R. C. Roark.

The division of biological chemistry expects twenty to thirty papers on the biochemistry of soils, nutrition, vitamins, ultra-violet irradiations, endocrinology and the relation of chemistry to health and disease.

The cellulose chemistry division will hold two half-day sessions.

The division of chemical education will hold four half-day sessions at St. Louis. Two of these sessions have been allotted to a symposium on "Analytical Chemistry," in which several prominent chemists have already agreed to take part. One of these sessions will be held at the time of the general divisional meetings on Tuesday afternoon, April 17. The topics for this particular session are: "Objectives and Content of