

development associations, the lumber and wood-using industries, nature, outdoor and recreation groups and women's clubs.

THE LASKER FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

At the meeting of the board of trustees of the University of Chicago held January 12, a communication from Mr. and Mrs. Albert D. Lasker was presented, in which are set forth the particulars by which is created the Lasker Foundation for Medical Research. The fund thus contributed to the university adds another large endowment for research in medicine, an endowment which provides the means for investigation of notable significance.

Added to the resources of the Douglas Smith foundation, of the Mr. and Mrs. Frank G. Logan fellowships, of the Seymour Coman fellowships (all of which funds are designed to encourage research in various branches of medical science and in the prevention, cause and cure of disease), the new foundation greatly increases facilities and opportunities for medical research.

The Lasker Foundation (established by Albert D. and Flora W. Lasker) consists of \$1,000,000, "the net income of which shall be used for the promotion of medical education and research at the University of Chicago." Already a liberal portion of the founding fund has been transferred to the university and the remainder will be paid with interest during the next three years. The offer to pay interest during the period of deferred payment enables the university to begin at once with the full amount of income from the fund the beneficent inquiries and to seek the hoped-for results which are contemplated by the creators of the foundation.

The donors' letter says in part:

We express the desire that the income from this fund be used in the first place to support research into the causes, nature, prevention and cure of degenerative diseases. In the event, however, that in the opinion of the advisory board—which we shall subsequently mention—and the board of trustees of the university, the income of this fund can be used most effectively for medical education and research in other and further directions, the university shall be authorized to make such changes in the use and purposes of the income derived from said foundation. The general direction of the income shall be determined by an advisory committee, to be appointed by the trustees of the university. It is understood as part of this offer and agreement, and any agreement based thereon, that the publication of researches conducted wholly or partially through the support of this foundation shall, if possible, in the title recite the fact that said research has been supported by the Lasker foundation for medical research.

STANDARD MATHEMATICAL SYMBOLS

APPROVAL of mathematical symbols as American standards has completed the first step in a program of unification of the scientific and engineering symbols and abbreviations used in engineering and industry, under the auspices of the American Engineering Standards Committee. The confusion resulting from variations in symbols used in different publications, reports and tables, led to the initiation of a project of unification by the standards committee early in 1923. The work has been progressing since that time, with 14 national organizations participating.

The approved mathematical symbols include those for arithmetic and algebra, elementary geometry, analytic geometry, trigonometric and hyperbolic functions, calculus, special functions and vector analysis. The effort was made to select from symbols already in use those which are most clearly understood and least likely to lead to confusion with other symbols.

Professor E. V. Huntington, of Harvard University, representing the American Mathematical Society, was chairman of the mathematical symbols subcommittee. This subcommittee is part of the sectional committee on scientific and engineering symbols and abbreviations, of which Dr. J. Franklin Meyer, of the U. S. Bureau of Standards, is chairman. The sectional committee includes other subcommittees on symbols for hydraulics, symbols for heat and thermodynamics, symbols for aeronautics, navigation and topographical symbols, electrotechnical symbols (including radio), symbols for photometry and illumination and symbols for mechanics, structural engineering and testing materials.

THE WEEK ON AGRICULTURE AT THE INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTRY

THE week of July 23, 1928, at the American Chemical Society Institute in Evanston will be devoted to a discussion of the ways chemistry can help agriculture by developing markets for its products other than for food and clothing. To date the twelve speakers listed below have accepted the invitation of the society to take part in the institute sessions during the week of July 23.

W. E. EMLEY: Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C. He has charge of the work supported by the Department of Commerce on the industrial utilization of farm wastes. He has made a careful and extensive survey of this entire field as to the past and the future.

G. J. ESSELEN, JR.: Skinner, Sherman and Esselen, Boston, Mass. An expert on cellulose. He will discuss cellulose in modern industry and the influence of cellulose on civilization.

H. T. HERRICKS: Color and Farm Waste Division, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. He will dis-