tion, that two academy members are high officers in a great public-service corporation, etc.

If on the map of the United States a line be drawn, starting on the Atlantic coast at Lynn, Massachusetts, with straight sections of the line terminating successively at Schenectady, New York; Ithaca, New York; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Washington, D. C., and the Atlantic coast, the area limited by this line and the coast line will contain the residences of 158 of the 238 members of the academy, or 66 per cent.

A similar line, starting at Cleveland, Ohio, and passing successively through Detroit, Michigan; Madison, Wisconsin; St. Louis, Missouri, and back to Cleveland, will bound an area in which reside 40 members of the academy, or nearly 17 per cent.

In the State of California, at Berkeley, Palo Alto (Stanford), Mount Hamilton, Pasadena and La Jolla, there reside 36 members, or 15 per cent. of the total membership.

In the western two thirds of the United States, that is, west of a north and south line passing through St. Louis, but excluding California, there are three members: one at Iowa City, Iowa; one at Denver, Colorado (retired), and one at Flagstaff, Arizona.

East of a north and south line drawn through St. Louis, and south of a line starting at St. Louis and running through Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Washington and on to the Atlantic coast, one academy member resides—at Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

The three northern states of New England contain no academy members.

The distribution of memberships in the academy seems to deserve the thoughtful consideration of all those who are in any way responsible for the higher educational interests of the nation.

W. W. CAMPBELL

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA,
AUGUST 10, 1928

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE CENTENARIES OF THOMAS YOUNG AND HUMPHRY DAVY[1]

Two of the centenaries of greatest scientific interest which occur next year will be those of the deaths of Thomas Young and Sir Humphry Davy, both of whom died in May, 1829, the former in London and the latter at Geneva. The birth of Young took place in 1773, that of Davy in 1778, the centenaries of which, in 1873 and 1878, however, the scientific world allowed to pass without proper recognition. In the case of Davy we commented in our columns at the time on this lack of recognition, adding, "We leave it to a foreign nation to honor the memory of one of our greatest explorers and to a petty provincial town to commemorate the birth of one of our greatest chemists." It is with interest, therefore, we learn that inquiries are already being made as to what steps are being taken to pay due homage to Young, who was the first to explain the phenomenon of the interference of light, who described the optometer, the precursor of the ophthalmoscope, who first gave the word "energy" its present scientific significance, who provided engineers with "Young's modulus," and who deciphered the Rosetta Stone. Of Davy it is only necessary now to recall his experiments with nitrous oxide, his isolation of potassium and sodium, his determination of the elementary character of chlorine and his invention of the safety lamp.

Both Young and Davy came from the "West Country,"—the former from Somerset, the latter from Cornwall—both became distinguished fellows of the Royal Society, both were connected with the Royal Institution, both were foreign associates of the Paris Academy of Sciences, and both are commemorated in Westminster Abbey. If Young surpassed Davy in the depth and range of his scientific inquiries and his immense learning, Davy by his manipulative skill, his command of language and his poetic imagination secured a popularity denied his great contemporary. Both, however, had a world-wide reputation, and while Davy's work is commemorated by the Davy Medal of the Royal Society, Young's is recognized by "The Thomas Young Oration" of the Optical Society. It is to those societies that the scientific world will look for the initiation of the proper celebration of the centenaries of these eminent men of science.

[1] From *Nature*.

OLD MAPS AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM

The Geographical Journal, published by the Royal Geographical Society, London, reports that, on the occasion of the International Geographical Congress, Mr. F. P. Sprent, in charge of the map department, arranged an exhibition of manuscript and printed maps in the King's Library of the British Museum. Among the maps exhibited were several of the unique or rare possessions of the museum, which have frequently been described, such as the world map of 1506 drawn by Contarini (the first printed map to show any part of America), the manuscript map of Guiana drawn for Sir Walter Raleigh and Hondius's world map showing Drake's route on his circumnavigation, with the accompanying "Corte Beschryvinghe" and portraits of Drake and Cavendish. In selecting and arranging the maps, Mr. Sprent has succeeded in combining comprehensiveness with variety, for all the continents and most countries are represented, and most types of maps. The opening section contains