

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard Observatory; *Vice-president*, Professor Lewis A. Brigham, Boston University; *Secretary*, Mr. Frank S. Hogg, Harvard Observatory; *Treasurer*, Mr. Freeman D. Miller, Winchester; *Councillors*, Mr. Percy Witherell, Jamaica Plain; Mr. Horace Taylor, Cambridge; Mrs. Eleanor Ingelfinger, Swampscott.

THE RUMFORD FUND

FOR nearly one hundred years the American Academy of Arts and Sciences has maintained a standing committee of seven persons, called the Rumford Committee. This committee receives and deals with applications for grants of money in aid of researches in light and heat, branches of science in which the founder, Benjamin Count Rumford, was particularly interested. Since 1839, the American Academy, through its Rumford Committee, has made 270 grants of this character, in sums between \$25 and \$750, averaging about \$260.

Applications may be accepted from any duly qualified resident of North America or of the American islands. Applications should indicate the nature of the research and the particular aid sought. Grants may be applied to furnishing apparatus which remains the property of the academy, or to the printing and publishing of the results; but are not applicable to assistants. The research subjects within the scope of the fund are light and heat, including X-rays. Applications should be addressed to the Rumford Committee, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Boston.

A. E. KENNELLY,
Chairman

CONFERRING OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL ON MR. EDISON

MR. THOMAS A. EDISON received on October 20 from Mr. Andrew W. Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury, the medal conferred on him by act of the Congress. The address was made by President Coolidge over the radio as given on page 389. In concluding his address in presenting the medal Secretary Mellon said:

It is that genius which has made possible the achievements of Thomas A. Edison. It has set him apart as one of the few men who have changed the current of modern life and set it flowing in new channels. Such men appear only at rare intervals in the world's history. They belong to no nation, for their fame, no less than their achievements, transcends national boundaries. America is proud that she has given such a man to the world and, as an expression of what the nation feels, Congress has directed that a gold medal be struck in commemoration of what Thomas A. Edison has done in il-

luminating the path of progress through the development and application of inventions that have revolutionized civilization in the last century. It is my privilege, Mr. Edison, to present to you this medal as a token of the high esteem and grateful appreciation of your country.

On receiving the medal from Secretary Mellon, Mr. Edison responded as follows:

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary and honored guests—in accepting the medal which has been awarded to me, I do so with a keen appreciation of the great honor that has been conferred on me. To my mind there is a profound significance in this token of the esteem and good-will of my fellow countrymen as expressed by their representatives in Congress. This medal will be a source of pride and veneration to my family as well as to myself and will be preserved in my home with my choicest possessions.

For the occasion the British government returned to Mr. Edison the first talking machine, which was loaned to the British Patent Office Museum forty-five years ago.

The concluding address was made by President John Grier Hibben, president of Princeton University.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

A MONUMENT in honor of Joseph Henry was unveiled in Albany on October 18 at the time of the annual convocation of the University of the State of New York. The presentation to the city was made by William Gorham Rice, vice-president of the Albany Institute of History and Art. It was accepted by Mayor John Boyd Thatcher, 2d. Professor Islay F. McCormick, head master of the Albany Academy, spoke in appreciation of the monument having been placed in front of the academy where Henry carried out his experiments on the electromagnet. Dr. John H. Finley, of the New York *Times*, formerly New York State Commissioner of Education, made the principal address.

A DIPLOMA of membership in the Berlin Geographical Society was presented on October 14 to Dr. C. F. Marbut, chief of soil survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture. The presentation was made in Washington by Professor A. Penck, president of the society. Dr. Marbut was elected a corresponding member of the society at its centenary meeting some months ago.

THE Grasselli Medal Committee of the Society of Chemical Industry has voted to award the Grasselli Medal for 1928 to Dr. H. J. Rose for his paper on the "Importance of Coal Preparation in the Manufacture of Gas and Coke." This medal is awarded