

acres in critical areas which should be administered as public forests. For the better management, protection and reforestation of the remaining 125,000,000 acres of forest land in the Mississippi watershed not in public ownership reliance is placed on individual and cooperative effort, stimulated by federal and state cooperation and leadership.

"It remains to be seen," says the report, "how far such a plan will be found adequate to meet the situation. If success exceeds reasonable expectations, it may be possible to reduce somewhat the total area to be finally purchased. On the other hand, if private forestry, even under the stimulation of federal and state assistance, fails in any substantial measure to meet the requirements of satisfactory stream-flow regulation and soil conservation, to that extent its replacement by public forestry is inevitable. The only other alternative would be to classify flood destruction and soil depletion as less troublesome and costly than the cure, an admission of weakness and incompetence too distasteful for the people of this country to accept."

Investigations into the ways and means of arresting erosion by forestry measures, the determination of the best species of plants for revegetating denuded and eroding lands and the conditions under which they should be used, and research into proper management of range, pasture and forest lands, also are recommended. These investigations should be carried on simultaneously at several places in the Mississippi Valley. They are badly needed in the bluff region on the east side of the Mississippi River, in southwestern Wisconsin, in the rolling or plateau lands of the lower Ohio River drainage proper, and in the mountainous section of the Appalachians. They are also badly needed in the Arkansas "Breaks," in the northwestern "bad lands," and at several places in the open range lands.

#### THE NEW LABORATORY BUILDING AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

THERE is being erected at Columbia University at a cost of \$1,000,000 a new building, which according to Dr. Henry Lee Norris, director of buildings, as reported in the New York *Tribune*, will be one of the finest and best equipped laboratory buildings in the country.

The building is designed primarily to house the department of natural sciences, will be ten stories high and will be equipped with many modern laboratories. On the roof will be an experimental greenhouse for the use of the department of botany. Floor connections with the Schermerhorn building will be made so that the new structure will be in a sense an annex, corresponding to the Chandler laboratories opened two years ago on the opposite side of the campus.

Construction work is being pushed steadily. The framework has been up for several months and the brick walls are almost completed. The greenhouse has been so designed that it will fit in with the general planning level of the Columbia buildings. The new campus addition is situated on the north side of the campus at Amsterdam Avenue and 119th Street.

Zoology, botany, mineralogy, psychology and agriculture departments will be housed in the annex, relieving an overcrowded condition in Schermerhorn Hall that has existed for several years. One floor of classrooms separates the departments, providing expansion when needed. The building design has been made flexible so that in future years classrooms may be turned into laboratories without too much remodeling.

The department of psychology has been without a permanent home for some time, its present headquarters being in the physics building on 120th Street. Removal of these offices to the annex will not only provide better quarters for the psychologists, but will make way for expansion in the physics department.

Columbia's campus is gradually being enlarged according to a well-ordered plan. With all of the gaps filled with structures, both Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue will be lined with solid rows. Entrances to the campus will be made in the cross-streets.

The new annex under construction adds another link to the group which will eventually surround "The Green" at the north end of the campus, the more recent additions being the Chandler laboratories and the physics building.

#### SUMMER WORK OF HARVARD GEOLOGISTS

ACCORDING to an article in the *Harvard Alumni Bulletin*, Professor R. A. Daly, Professor Charles Palache and Professor E. S. Larsen will not be in the field, but will stay in or near Cambridge and complete studies begun earlier. Professor Kirtley F. Mather and Professor P. E. Raymond will conduct the Harvard summer field course in geology in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. At the end of July, Professor L. W. Collet, of the University of Geneva, Switzerland, and his assistant, Dr. Edward Parejas, will join them in a detailed study of the structure of the Rocky Mountains in Canada. This will be a Shaler Memorial investigation and will occupy the party the remainder of the summer.

Professor Kirk Bryan will spend the early part of the summer in a study for the U. S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation. The work will be on the irrigation projects on the Pecos River in southeastern New Mexico and Texas. Professor Bryan will examine the Avalon Reservoir on the Carlsbad Project, several sites on the Red Bluff

Project further down-river and the El Vado dam site for the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy Districts. The remaining time will be given up to physiographic studies in the basin of the Rio Grande under a grant from the Shaler Memorial Fund.

Professor L. C. Graton plans to enlist the services of his advanced students in his geological work in Canada. Professor D. H. McLaughlin, who will resume his study of the geology of the Homestake Mine in South Dakota, will be assisted by S. C. Davidson, and J. K. Gustafson, Austin teaching fellow in physiography. H. J. Fraser, assistant in geology, will devote the summer to research with Professor Graton on the permeability of rocks to mineralizing solutions. The research is financed by mining interests of Northern Rhodesia, South Africa.

P. A. Schafer, assistant in meteorology and geology, will return to Canada for a second summer of investigations for one of the mineral exploration companies. H. A. Powers, instructor in petrography, who will leave the staff of the division to join the U. S. Geological Survey, has been assigned to map the geology of the island of Hawaii. He will work in conjunction with Dr. T. A. Jaggar, who was at one time a member of the division. Russell Gibson, instructor in economic geology, expects to resume his work in the west with the U. S. Geological Survey. R. T. D. Wickenden, assistant in geology and paleontology, will be an assistant with field parties of the Geological Survey of Canada, working on Cretaceous and Pleistocene deposits of Manitoba.

#### COMMITTEES OF THE AMERICAN ENGINEERING COUNCIL

ANNOUNCEMENT of the membership of committees of the American Engineering Council, which will work with Congress and the Federal Administration in shaping public policies involving vast engineering operations, has been made by Arthur W. Berresford, of New York, president of the council. The council was organized in 1919 under the headship of Herbert Hoover.

D. Robert Yarnall, manufacturer of Philadelphia, has been appointed chairman of the Public Affairs Committee. Mr. Yarnall is a representative on the council of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Public questions affecting engineers generally will come before this committee, the other members of which are:

J. L. Hamilton, St. Louis.

John Lyle Harrington, Kansas City, Mo.

H. A. Kidder, New York City.

W. S. Lee, Charlotte, N. C.

R. C. Marshall, Jr., Chicago.

R. F. Schuchardt, Philadelphia.

Charles Penrose, Philadelphia.

C. E. Skinner, East Pittsburgh, Pa.

Max Toltz, St. Paul, Minn.

Edwin F. Wendt, Washington, D. C.

A new committee on communications has been named to study proposed legislation for federal supervision of such means of communication as radio, telephone and telegraph. Bills by Senator Watson of Indiana and Senator Couzens of Michigan are now pending which contemplate the establishment of a Federal Communications Commission analogous to the Interstate Commerce Commission, and the Council's Communications Committee, headed by Edwin F. Wendt, will study the fundamental questions raised by the Watson and Couzens bills. Other members of the Communications Committee are:

O. H. Caldwell, New York, federal radio commissioner.

Dean Dexter S. Kimball, Cornell University.

Frank A. Scott, Cleveland.

Charles B. Hawley, Washington, D. C.

Another committee is that on flood control, of which Gardner S. Williams of Ann Arbor, Mich., is chairman. The committees, according to Mr. Berresford, are already at work and at a meeting of the council's administrative board, to be held in Washington in October, will submit reports reflecting the engineering attitude toward legislation arising at the next session of Congress.

Chairmen of other committees of the council were announced as follows:

*Power*—Farley Osgood, New York.

*Reforestation*—William Boss, University of Minnesota.

*Street and Highway Safety*—M. M. Fowler, Chicago.

*Recent Economic Changes*—Dean Dexter S. Kimball, Cornell University.

*Engineering and Allied Technical Professions*—H. C. Morris, Washington, D. C.

*Regional Activities*—O. H. Koch, Dallas, Texas.

*Program of Research*—Dr. Harrison E. Howe, Washington, D. C.

*Man-Hour Information*—L. P. Alford, New York.

*Patents*—Edwin J. Prindle, New York.

*National Hydraulic Laboratory*—Farley Osgood, New York.

*Washington Potomac Canal*—D. H. Sawyer, Washington, D. C.

*Finance*—John H. Finney, Washington, D. C.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, now being held in Cape Town, the South Africa Research medal, founded in

commemoration of the visit of the association to South Africa in 1905, will be presented to Dr. Robert Broom for his archeological and anthropological researches.