

able trained force of fire guards sufficient to strike immediately the maximum number of fires set by any electrical storm. Only by such means will it be possible for the government to avoid the recurrence of such destructive and costly disasters as we have had this year. The Federal Forest Protection Board, composed of representatives of all federal agencies concerned in the problem of forest protection, shares the forest service view-point on the forest fire situation."

THE NEW BUILDING OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE central structure of the Department of Agriculture building, the first unit of the present federal building program in Washington, D. C., is nearing completion with some prospects of it being ready for occupancy shortly after January 1, according to an oral statement made to the *U. S. Daily* by the chief clerk and superintendent of buildings of the department, Mr. R. M. Reese. The building, now under construction at an estimated cost of \$2,000,000, was planned twenty years ago.

Mr. Reese explained that the builders are under contract stipulation to have the structure ready by April 1, 1930.

The building will house the offices of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, five directors, the solicitor, the chief clerk and other administrative officers. The height of the building, which is of Georgia marble, is five stories and basement. The authorized appropriation is \$2,000,000. Its architects are Rankin and Kellogg, of Philadelphia, who also were the architects for the east and west wings.

The construction of the new building began twenty years from the time the department began occupancy of the east and west wings. The new building is fronted by twelve Corinthian columns and has a large interior court, glassed over at the level of the second floor. The interior court will contain a fountain and the Department of Agriculture war memorial, which is now in course of sculpture, for installation when the building is completed.

The inscriptions carved on the front of the building are: (1) "The husbandman that laboreth must be first partaker of the fruits."—St. Paul. (2) "No other human occupation opens so wide a field for the profitable and agreeable combination of labor with cultivated thought as Agriculture."—Lincoln. (3) "With reference either to individual or national welfare, Agriculture is of primary importance."—Washington.

The completed building—that is, all three units, the old east and west wings and the new central structure—will have an entire frontage of 750 feet.

The Department of Agriculture now occupies in Washington more than forty buildings of various types. Some of these are the property of the federal government and some of them are rented from private enterprise.

OFFICIAL AMERICAN DELEGATES TO THE INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING CONGRESS IN TOKIO

THE official list of delegates chosen by the scientific and technical societies and engineering educational institutions of this country to represent them at the coming World Engineering Congress in Tokio has been issued by Maurice Holland, executive secretary of the American committee of the congress and director of the division of engineering and industrial research of the National Research Council. The number of official delegates to the congress allocated to the United States by the Japanese authorities was set at about sixty, though the number of Americans to participate will be about 250.

The four "founder" societies, the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers, as well as the American Association for the Advancement of Science and national organizations of the special lines of engineering, designated the official American representatives who cover practically the whole range of engineering and technology in the United States. The party will sail for Tokio on October 10 from San Francisco. Two ships, the *President Jackson* and the *Korea Maru*, have been chartered.

At a recent meeting of the committee the designating of official delegates was closed with the appointment of the following:

Magnus W. Alexander, A. S. M. E., president of the National Industrial Conference Board, New York; Dr. H. Foster Bain, secretary of the A. I. M. M. E., New York; Dr. George D. Barron, vice-president of the A. I. M. M. E., Rye, N. Y.; Edward Bartow, professor of chemical engineering, State University of Iowa; F. W. Bradley, president of the A. I. M. M. E., San Francisco; Dr. George K. Burgess, director of the Bureau of Standards, Washington; Howard E. Coffin, the Society of Automotive Engineers, Detroit; W. H. Carrier, the American Society of Refrigerating Engineers, Newark; George S. Davison, former president of the A. S. C. E., Pittsburgh; John V. N. Dorr, the Engineering Foundation, Pittsburgh; Byron E. Eldred, New York; William Elmer, vice-president of the A. S. M. E., Philadelphia; John R. Freeman, Providence, R. I.; E. H. Fritch, secretary of the American Railway Engineering Association, of Chicago; George W. Fuller, American Society of Civil Engineers, New York; Mrs. L. M. Gilbreth, Montclair, N. J.; C. E.

Grunsky, past president of the A. S. C. E., San Francisco; F. C. Hanker, Pittsburgh; Allen Hazen, A. S. C. E., New York; H. D. Hibbard, A. I. M. M. E., Plainfield, N. J.; Maurice Holland, National Research Council, New York; John C. Hoyt, A. S. C. E., Washington; F. L. Hutchinson, national secretary, A. I. E. E., New York; James E. Ives, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington; D. C. Jackson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston; F. B. Jewett, New York; Major-General Edgar Jadwin, former Chief of Engineers, War Department, Washington; C. M. Keys, Garden City; C. W. Latimer, New York; C. K. Leith, professor of geology, University of Wisconsin; Wilfred Lewis, Haverford, Pa.; Paul M. Lincoln, director, School of Electrical Engineering, Cornell University; Francis F. Lucas, New York; Charles T. Main, president of the American Institute of Consulting Engineers, Boston; R. R. Martel, associate professor of civil engineering, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Calif.; F. O. Martin, South Pasadena, Calif.; Charles D. Marx, professor emeritus of civil engineering, Leland Stanford University; William Benson Mayo, Detroit; C. W. Merrill, A. I. M. M. E., San Francisco; O. C. Merrill, chairman of the American committee, World Power Conference, Washington; Ralph Modjeski, New York and Philadelphia; L. A. Osborne, New York; H. de

B. Parsons, American Institute of Consulting Engineers, New York; Asa E. Phillips, American Society of Municipal Improvements, Washington; Donald B. Prentice, dean, Lafayette College, Easton, Pa.; Antonin Raymond, architect for the United States Embassy, Tokio; Henry G. Reist, Schenectady, N. Y.; Mark L. Requa, San Francisco; J. V. W. Reynders, vice-president of the A. I. M. M. E., New York; Calvin W. Rice, secretary of the A. S. M. E., New York; Robert H. Richards, professor of mining engineering, M. I. T., Boston; Joseph W. Roe, professor of engineering, N. Y. U.; David Rushmore, A. S. M. E., New York; Herman Schneider, president, University of Cincinnati; R. F. Schuchardt, Chicago; C. E. Skinner, Pittsburgh; George Otis Smith, director, Geological Survey, U. S. Department of the Interior; Elmer A. Sperry, president of the A. S. M. E. and chairman of the American committee of the World Engineering Congress, Brooklyn; Charles W. Stone, Schenectady; Francis Lee Stuart, Engineering Foundation, New York; A. N. Talbot, past president of the A. S. C. E.; Max Toltz, A. S. M. E., St. Paul; E. N. Trump, A. S. M. E., Syracuse; Daniel L. Turner, New York; H. Bruce Walker, professor of agricultural engineering, University of California; William Y. Westervelt, American Electrochemical Society, New York.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Ninth International Congress of Psychology meeting last week at Yale University selected Copenhagen as the place of meeting in 1932, with Professor Harold Höfding as president. The registered attendance at New Haven was 1,051, including 129 from 22 foreign countries and 722 members of the American Psychological Association. Accounts of the proceedings of the congress and of the International Physiological Congress held at Harvard University will be printed in *SCIENCE*.

THE American Chemical Society is meeting this week in Minneapolis under the presidency of Dr. Irving Langmuir, director of research of the General Electric Company. According to the program there are 20 general and sectional meetings at which 325 papers are being presented.

At the closing session of the annual meeting of the American Astronomical Society at Ottawa Dr. Robert Aitken, of the Lick Observatory, was elected a vice-president, and V. M. Slipher, of Flagstaff, Arizona, was reelected. Dr. R. S. Dugan, Princeton University, secretary, and Dr. Benjamin Boss, Albany, N. Y., treasurer, were reelected. Professor Ernest W. Brown, of Yale University, has still two years to serve as president. The meeting for 1930 will be held at Harvard University.

At the triennial meeting of the International Congress of Surgery held in Warsaw last July a new

class of members—honorary members—was created and Dr. W. W. Keen, of Philadelphia, was elected as the first honorary member. The next meeting of the congress will be held in Spain in 1932.

IN recognition of his long service as president of the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, from which Dr. Stuart McGuire retired on July 1, 1925, the board of visitors of the college has established the McGuire Lectureship, which will be filled annually by an invited speaker. The subjects of the lectures will usually cover topics related to medicine, dentistry, pharmacy or nursing, the fields covered by the several schools of the institution.

Nature calls attention to the eighty-fifth birthday on August 25 of Sir Thomas Muir, the mathematician, who has been resident for upwards of forty years in Cape Colony. In 1892 he was appointed superintendent-general of education in Cape Colony, holding office until 1915, when he received the honor of knighthood in recognition of work in new fields of educational effort. Sir Thomas Muir is the author of papers contributed to the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the *Messenger of Mathematics* and the *Philosophical Magazine*, as well as to the publications of the South African Philosophical Society. He was an active promoter of the program of the British Association on its first visit to South Africa in 1905. In 1910, he was president of the Cape Town meeting of the South African Association, and delivered an ad-