

of zoologists than the *viva-voce* vote of the crowded sessions of an international congress.

I speak for the conscientious teachers who seek to give their pupils some contact with biological literature. Confusion of names, absurdity of names, appalling length of names waste their time and dull the interest of their pupils. In some quarters it seems to be expected of the teachers that they shall meekly and apologetically explain to their pupils that all this foolishness is due to the vastness of plant and animal creation. But it is not so. The fact that there

are more than a million species of animals in the world does not of itself necessitate that the bird in my hand shall bear a harder name.

I am well aware that it will be no easy task to find a way out of the existing confusion. Good judgment, expert knowledge, human sympathy, hard labor and long patience will all be required. When these have been applied we may hope for something better. It surely is not well to have scientific effort so organized as to reward mistakes and to preclude the elimination of errors.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### ENGINEERS IN AMERICAN LIFE

MEN of science are assuming a dominant position in American life, Lawrence W. Wallace, of Washington, executive secretary of the American Engineering Council, said in an address at the recent annual meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in New York. By supplementing with broad humanistic and scholarly interests the technical genius responsible for the "Machine Age," they are becoming a controlling force in culture and in politics no less than in commerce and industry, in finance, in education, and in national defense, Mr. Wallace asserted, making public the results of a survey of "Engineers in American Life" which he conducted in association with Joshua Eyre Hannum, research engineer of New York.

Of the 28,805 "notable living men and women of the United States" named in "Who's Who in America" (1928-1929), 2,858 were engineers and architects. They received 1,417 academic degrees in branches of learning other than science, as well as 2,497 scientific degrees. They are members of 1,138 associations, conferences, boards and commissions, half of which are non-technical.

They hold 4,785 official positions in 3,928 organizations, of which number 2,993 are industrial and commercial companies. They occupy the position of president in 1,128 industrial and commercial organizations, 72 engineering firms, 68 banks and trust companies and 23 colleges and universities.

Among these 2,858 engineers and architects there are, or have been, 10 governors, 13 members of Congress, 2 members of the Cabinet, and the president of the United States. Five hundred and eighty-eight of these men hold 905 memberships in Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi and Tau Beta Pi, the four honorary fraternities in which membership connotes outstanding achievement in various fields.

The men studied hold membership in 1,138 associations, commissions, conferences, and the like, half of

which are non-technical. The activities of these organizations touch practically every interest of mankind, and they are not restricted geographically, but are located in many parts of the world.

Nearly 40 per cent. of the group are officers of industrial and commercial companies. Of the entire group, 37.1 per cent. are available for consultation, 34.8 per cent. have made contributions to scientific and technical literature and 6.9 per cent. have been editors of technical papers.

In the fields of public service scientific men have made important inroads. Over one half of the men under consideration have served or are serving municipal, state or federal governments. City governments have been served by 208 of these men. Among them have been 28 city engineers, 18 mayors, 6 city managers, 3 chiefs of police and 2 superintendents of city schools.

State governments have engaged the efforts of 269 of the group, 59 of whom are now in state work. There have been 10 governors, 5 legislators and a state district attorney among them. The present governors of Delaware, Utah, Wyoming, New Jersey, Alaska and Alabama are engineers. The governors of North Carolina and Indiana hold engineering degrees.

In our federal government, the president of the United States, the secretary of the interior, the secretary of commerce and the director of the budget are among the men of science holding important positions. To name the various branches of the federal government in which engineers hold responsible offices would be to catalogue the activities of the government. Suffice it to say that no other group is more influential in shaping the destiny of the nation.

### DENTAL COUNCIL ON MATERIA MEDICA AND THERAPEUTICS

THE American Dental Association announces the formation of a proposed council to deal with dental materia medica and therapeutics.

The functions of the council will be to aid the dental profession to further rationalize its materia medica and therapeutics by fostering a spirit of chemical mindedness on the part of the dental profession, and to protect the dental profession and public against fraud, undesirable secrecy and objectionable advertising in connection with proprietary dental remedies. For the immediate future, the council will confine its attention to the examination of drugs and dental proprietaries for inclusion in an "accepted list." It is planned, however, that the scope of the council will eventually be enlarged to consider ceramic and metallurgical products and physical therapeutic apparatus in the dental field. The endeavors of the council will also be directed toward an improvement in pharmacological and biochemical instruction in dental colleges.

Invitations to serve on the council have been accepted by the following:

Paul J. Hanzlik, professor and head of the department of pharmacology, School of Medicine, Stanford University.

Percy R. Howe, Thomas Alexander Forsyth professor of dental science, Harvard University, and director, Forsyth Dental Infirmary for Children, Boston, Massachusetts.

Milan A. Logan, instructor, department of biological chemistry, Harvard Medical School.

Arno B. Luckhardt, professor of physiology, University of Chicago.

John A. Marshall, associate professor of dental pathology and biochemistry, College of Dentistry, University of California.

Victor C. Myers, professor of biochemistry, Western Reserve University.

John F. Norton, chief of laboratories, department of health, Detroit, Michigan, formerly professor of bacteriology and hygiene, University of Chicago.

U. G. Rickert, professor of physiological chemistry, hygiene and therapeutics, School of Dentistry, University of Michigan.

Harold S. Smith, practicing dentist, Chicago, Illinois.

As *Ex-officio* members:

C. N. Johnson, editor of the *Journal* of the American Dental Association.

Harry B. Pinney, secretary of the American Dental Association.

Samuel M. Gordon, American Dental Association chemist and former National Research Council Fellow in the Biological Sciences, has been appointed secretary of the council.

The first meeting of the council was held in Chicago on January 3 and 4, 1930. Examinations of purely dental nostrums will be dealt with by the Bureau of Chemistry of the American Dental Association as heretofore.

## GOLD MEDALS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

TRUSTEES of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society have made their final survey for the centennial year and awarded twenty centennial gold medals, eighteen centennial silver medals, six large gold medals and made two special awards. The gold medals, as announced in the *Boston Transcript*, are as follows:

Albert C. Burrage, president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, for eminent service in horticulture.

T. A. Havemeyer, president of the Horticultural Society of New York, for his many years of distinguished service to horticulture.

F. R. Newbold, secretary of the Horticultural Society of New York, for his many years of distinguished service to horticulture.

John C. Wister, secretary of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, for his many years of distinguished service to horticulture, especially through his writings and lectures.

Worcester County Horticultural Society, organized in 1840 and ever since that date a potent factor in the advancement of horticulture in Massachusetts.

Dr. Henry P. Walcott, as a fitting tribute to a former president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

Nathaniel T. Kidder, as a fitting tribute to a former president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

General Francis H. Appleton, as a fitting tribute to a former president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

William C. Endicott, as a fitting tribute to a former president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

Professor Oakes Ames, for his service to orchidology. The botany of the orchid has been Professor Ames's life study, and no man stands higher in this field.

Professor Ernest H. Wilson, for his inspirational books. Besides being the greatest of living plant hunters, Mr. Wilson has a rare capacity for transferring his knowledge to paper.

Olmsted Brothers, Brookline, for their work in raising the standard of landscape architecture and especially in the development of public parks. There is hardly a corner of the country where their influence has not been felt.

Harlan P. Kelsey, East Boxford, for his work in behalf of better horticultural nomenclature. He was New England's representative on the committee responsible for standardized plant names.

Alexander Montgomery, Hadley, for his work in originating new roses. The fame which Hadley, Crusader, Templar and Talisman have brought to the man who originated them is shared with the state in which he lives.

Mrs. Susan D. McKelvey, for her notable monograph on the lilac, the most important work of the kind ever undertaken in this country.

Mrs. S. V. R. Crosby, for her work in the conservation of wild flowers. Her high purpose and practical methods