A TABLET in memory of Dr. John E. Sweet, professor of mechanical engineering at Cornell University from 1872 to 1879, was unveiled on April 5 at the Engineers' Club, New York. The tablet is the gift of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in tribute to one of its founders and presidents. Dr. Sweet, who died May 8, 1916, was the inventor of the straight-line engine and, at the time of his death, one of the most widely known mechanical engineers in the United States.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

EXHIBIT OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES AT THE SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM

A NEW and permanent exhibition has been opened at the Science Museum, South Kensington, to illustrate the historical development of standards of weights and measurement. The London *Times* states that the exhibit occupies the whole of the entrance hall facing Imperial Institute Road and the long ground-floor gallery which leads into it. In the vestibule is a series of instruments arranged to display the principles of the equal-arm balance, the steel-yard and the more complicated recent mechanisms which extend the applications of the lever principle.

The earliest exhibit is an authentic Egyptian equal-arm balance of 1350 B. C., with a wooden beam and a cord pivot suspension, such as is still used in the bazaars of India and in China. One of the original stone weights accompanies it. A Roman bronze balance and steel-yard are shown (both in replica), and a number of glass weight standards of the Early Middle Ages. The methods of suspension by cord, by the less accurate ring device, by the gallows-and-pin, and by the knife-edge are shown both in the working specimens and in a series of transparencies in the adjoining gallery, while a number of skeleton models designed by Mr. W. A. Benton, of the Avery Historical Museum in Birmingham, display upon a small scale the various improvements made within the last few centuries to allow large weights to be measured with great speed and accuracy.

Certain turning-points, such as the Roberval "static enigma" of 1669 and Wyatt's cart-weigher of 1740, have affected the whole of modern practice in large-scale weighing machines, but though the models of these are interesting more attention perhaps will be drawn by Mr. Benton's reconstruction of the two self-indicating balances designed by Leonardo da Vinci in a manuscript now in the Bibliothèque Nationale.

The companion collection of instruments of measurement is of more recent date, since the invention of the micrometer can not well be traced beyond William Gascoigne's micrometer designed in 1639 for astronomical purposes. Important instruments such as Watt's eighteenth-century micrometer, Whitworth's measuring machine of 1855 (the first to indicate a millionth of an inch) and the comparators recently developed by the National Physical Laboratory through the use of a beam of light, can be seen and demonstrated in the gallery. Three important standards of length lent by the Royal Society are Graham's standard yard of 1742, Bird's standard 90 inches of 1750 and Shuckburgh's 5 ft. standard of 1796. It was by the use of these that the Standards Commission of 1843–55 was able to connect the standards now in use with the Elizabethan yard, after the destruction of the Imperial standard in the 1834 fire at the Houses of Parliament.

THE PROPOSED MEDICAL CENTER IN BROOKLYN

AT the semi-centennial dinner of the Alumni Association of the Medical School of the Long Island College Hospital plans were announced on April 26 for the establishment of a medical center in Brooklyn, N. Y. The plan, which includes separation of the Long Island College Hospital from its Medical School, calls for the organization of a new medical college to be associated with nine Brooklyn hospitals. The physical equipment of the combined units will cost more than $100,000,000.

The new institution, for which a board of trustees has already been chosen, will apply shortly for a charter as a medical college. It has voted the first $500,000 toward an endowment fund to meet the educational law requirements for the organization of a collegiate institution in New York State.

Dr. James C. Egbert, president of the medical school that is being discontinued, is a member of the board of trustees of the new institution.

The plans for the college include the erection of a central building which will be located in mid-Brooklyn and which will be easily accessible to the hospitals involved in the plan. The site has already been selected. The building which is to be erected within the next five years will cost, according to an estimate made by Dr. Egbert, more than $3,000,000. The plans of the board also call for an immediate endowment fund of at least $1,000,000.

The central plant and its affiliated hospitals will take care of at least 400 medical students. Courses in the first two years will be given at the central building. In the last two years students will receive in-