enteenth century are shown for comparison with the Chinese geomancer's compass, and the various forms of dip circle which show the natural inclination of the compass needle. The magnetic compass was used in special forms of design for mining purposes from the middle of the seventeenth century, and it is fairly easy to understand the working of examples lent from Sweden, but the instruments become increasingly complicated as the visitor proceeds, though the "Watts Vertical Variometer," a new type of British instrument evolved in the present year, is neatly and comprehensibly made.

A second method relies upon the gravitational effect exercised by bodies proportionally to their mass, and its practical application to prospecting dates only from 1888, when the Eötvös torsion balance was invented. Progress with instruments involving this method has been particularly rapid in the past five years, and a novel form of apparatus designed by Captain H. Shaw and Mr. E. Lancaster-Jones, two members of the staff of the Science Museum, has recently come into use.

Another section of the exhibition shows the seismic method of investigation, which consists in testing the rate at which a small artificial earthquake (usually an explosion) is propagated over various points, the elasticity of the local crust of the earth being discovered by these means, while the fourth method, that of testing electrical interference by mineral bodies, is shown in a separate range of instruments.

CUSTOMS DUTIES ON SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS

THE imposition of the appropriate customs duties upon scientific apparatus imported into the United States by the University of Illinois, a state agency, through the port of Chicago, is reported by the *United States Daily* to have been upheld by Justice George M. Young, of the United States Customs Court.

Protest was lodged against this assessment of duty upon the following ground:

> That such merchandise should come in without duty, as being imported by an instrumentality of the Government of the State of Illinois, for use in the execution of a government function and purpose, under the well-established policy of the Federal Government not to tax the states or their agencies and subdivisions.

At the trial it was argued that the Federal Government has no authority to impose duty upon imports made by the State of Illinois.

The attorney for the University of Illinois, Mr. Sveinbjorn Johnson, contended that the exaction complained of is a tax; that the property upon which it is sought to be levied is property used necessarily and exclusively by the University of Illinois as an educational agency; that the university is a state agency, and that education is a governmental function, so that the agencies and properties, used in connection therewith, are exempt from federal taxation as instrumentalities of the state created and used to facilitate the exercise of a governmental as distinguished from a proprietary purpose.

In his opinion, upholding the imposition of the tariff assessment, Judge Young stated:

> If this and similar tariff taxes on goods imported by a state university were raised so high as to prohibit the articles from importation, would that destroy the institution, assuming that it is a governmental instrumentality of the state? If it would, then the tariff is invalid. If not, then it is constitutional.
>
> Counsel for the plaintiff contends that the power to levy such a tax is the power to prevent its use by the consumer. We admit that this is true, but if the University of Illinois were prevented entirely from making importations, would it be destroyed? We believe not.
>
> The existence of the states is in no way threatened by such duties. Even if the duties should be made so high as to preclude their importation, it would not result in destroying the university or seriously impairing its usefulness.
>
> The constitutional implication preventing the Federal Government and the state from taxing each other's agencies must receive a practical construction permitting each government to function with a minimum of interference with the other.
>
> We therefore hold that the plaintiff herein, the University of Illinois, has no constitutional exemption from the payment of duties collected in the case at bar.
>
> The defendant (the Federal Government) is entitled to judgment.

THE SINNOTT MEMORIAL IN THE CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK

VISITORS to Crater Lake National Park, Oregon, next summer will benefit from the recent action of the Carnegie Corporation in donating $5,000 for the furnishing and installation of equipment in the Sinnott Memorial located there.

This structure, authorized by Congress last year in connection with appropriations for the National Park Service, is a memorial to Representative Nicholas J. Sinnott, of Oregon, who took a keen interest in the park and did much to further its use by the public. In providing for the memorial Congress appropriated $10,000 for its construction, acting upon the suggestion of the Honorable Louis C. Cramton, then chairman of the subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee handling Interior Department appropriations.

The Carnegie fund for the development of the memorial has been transmitted through the National

Academy of Sciences, which has appointed a committee to cooperate with the National Park Service in the installation of equipment. Dr. John C. Merriam, president of the Carnegie Institution, is chairman of this committee. The other members are Dr. Frederick Whiting, president of the Art Federation; Dr. David White, National Academy of Sciences; Dr. Fred Wright, of the Geophysical Laboratory; and Mr. Charles W. Eliot, 2nd, of the National Parks and Planning Commission. It is also hoped that Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted, nationally known landscape architect, may accept appointment to the committee. Development of the museum will proceed under the supervision of Ansel F. Hall, senior park naturalist of the National Park Service, who while in Washington recently conferred with this committee.

The memorial will be developed with a twofold purpose: To bring to the visitor to the park an adequate idea of the beauty of the picture presented, and to furnish interesting scientific data as to the formation of the crater in which the blue lake lies and its geologic history.

A DIVISION OF PLANT PATHOLOGY AT THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

DR. LOUIS O. KUNKEL, at present pathologist at the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research at Yonkers, New York, has been appointed a member of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research in charge of a division of plant pathology, to be established in connection with its Department of Animal Pathology situated near Princeton, New Jersey. The combined laboratories will hereafter be known as the Department of Animal and Plant Pathology of the Rockefeller Institute. The department is located on a tract of approximately eight hundred acres of land at Plainsboro, New Jersey, three miles from Princeton University. With the addition of plant pathology to the subjects studied in its group of laboratories and hospital, the Rockefeller Institute will include in its scientific work all the main branches of the pathology of living matter. For the first time human pathology, the pathology of lower animals and that of plants will have been brought together into one closely knit investigative unit.

Dr. Kunkel was born in Audrain County, Missouri, on May 7, 1884, and studied and received degrees at the University of Missouri, Washington University, St. Louis, and Columbia University. He was Cutting Traveling Fellow of Columbia University during 1915–16, when he studied in Stockholm, Sweden, and in Freiburg, Germany. He taught at the University of Missouri and at Columbia University, and later became pathologist to the Bureau of Plant Industry in the U. S. Department of Agriculture, then associate pathologist with the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association, and in 1923 pathologist at the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research.

Dr. Kunkel has been a contributor to the pathology of plant diseases, and his most recent investigations relate to the virus diseases of certain economic and ornamental plants. He has made contributions to the knowledge of the mosaic diseases of tobacco, sugar cane and corn, and of the virus disease of asters known as "yellows."

The constantly increasing number of diseases of man and lower animals discovered to be induced by filter-passing viruses brings the pathology of animal and plant diseases into intimate association. That both animal and plant pathology will profit materially by being investigated in close relationship may be taken as assured.

Dr. Kunkel will spend a period abroad, visiting institutions in which the study of plant pathology is pursued, before designing the new laboratories and establishing the new division of the Rockefeller Institute at Princeton.

CONFERENCE ON THE PROMOTION OF INTEREST IN PHYSICS

THE Council of the American Physical Society is considering how best to promote interest in all branches of physics and realizes that already existing organizations of students, teachers and users of physics may, in many places, be the best agencies for this purpose. In order to cooperate properly with these organizations and in order to assist if called upon in the formation of new groups, the society invites all who are interested to attend a conference for the informal discussion of some of the questions that have already presented themselves. The most pressing of these are:

1. Should the American Physical Society, or any larger organization, publish a journal of general interest to physicists? If so, what should it contain and how frequently should it appear?

2. Should the American Physical Society assist local organizations in arranging for programs of special interest, as, for example, by supplying lecturers?

3. How should the cost of desirable additional activities be met?

Other questions appropriate to the general purpose of the conference will be discussed if time permits.

The conference will be held at 8:00 p. m. on Thursday, April 30, in the National Academy of Sciences Building, B and 21st Streets, Washington, D. C. Professor L. W. McKeehan, Yale University, chairman of the American Physical Society's committee on sections and local groups, will be glad to