

It was built entirely of timber, and by modern standards was very ill provided with exits. A survey made two years ago showed the fire risks to be so grave that they could no longer be ignored. Plans were prepared, and a scheme of reconstruction was undertaken. This has now been completed, and a housewarming party was held on the evening of May 6. The principal consideration in the rebuilding has been to satisfy modern standards of security by means of fireproof construction and by the provision of suitable exits; but the perfection of the design of the lecture theater for the scientific purpose for which it was built has been recognized the world over, and succeeding generations of members have held their meeting room in affectionate regard, so that it has been a particular care to effect the restoration with as little modification of its qualities and appearance as possible. Advantage has naturally been taken of the opportunity to bring the equipment up to date, and the theater has been provided with a cinematograph projector, an epidiascope, a great variety of services to the lecture table for experimental purposes, and a number of other refinements for the assistance of the lecturer and the convenience of his audience. The rebuilding of the lecture theater has involved the replanning and reconstruction of a large adjacent part of the building. On the ground floor the arrangements have been largely determined by the requirements for exit to the street from the theater above. A new entrance hall has been constructed, some of the rooms have been replanned, and a large new chemical laboratory has been built. During the evening Sir William Bragg, Fullerian professor of chemistry and director of the laboratory, demonstrated to the guests some of the classical experiments of the Royal Institution.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR STUDIES REGARDING POPULATION

ORGANIZED by the Italian committee for the study of population problems an *International Congress for Studies Regarding Population* will be held in Rome from September 7 to 10.

His Excellency the Head of the Government, Benito Mussolini, has accepted the honorary chairmanship of the congress, while the effective chairmanship is entrusted to Professor Corrado Gini, president of the Italian committee.

The organization of the congress will include: (a) An honorary committee; (b) An International Committee of Patronage, composed of presidents and representatives of National Scientific Organizations for the study of population problems and other personalities who will be entrusted with the propaganda for the congress in their own countries and with the re-

lations between the organizing committee and those engaged in these studies in the respective associations; (c) An Organizing Committee, composed of Italian members who will be entrusted with the organization of the congress and will be responsible for the acceptance of communications.

The program of the congress is purely scientific, so that any political, moral or religious propaganda whatever is forbidden, even if questions concerning the problems of population are involved.

For the distribution of the scientific papers the congress will consist of the following sections: Biology and Eugenics, Anthropology and Geography, Hygiene and Medicine, Demography, Economy, Sociology, History, Methodology.

Each meeting will be presided over in turn by specialists belonging to different nationalities. The congress will be open to the public. All taking part in the congress will be entitled to send communications of which the final text should reach the organizing committee before July 1.

Some subjects of special importance, chosen by the organizing committee, will be the object of reports by persons previously nominated and will be submitted to discussion by the sections.

The fee entitling to take part in the congress and to receive a copy of the proceedings is fifty lire for all those invited, whether individually, or through national scientific committees or associations, and one hundred lire for others taking part in the congress.

All those who take an interest in the congress and would like to receive the detailed program are invited to apply to the "Comitato Italiano per lo Studio dei Problemi della Popolazione."—10, Via delle Terme di Diocleziano, Roma (Italia).

RANGE RESEARCH CONFERENCE AT EPHRAIM, UTAH

THE Ecological Society of America is sponsoring a meeting for the purpose of discussing range research with particular attention to methods. The program is being planned to give opportunity for field discussions and demonstrations as well as for more formal discussions. The committee in charge of arrangements consists of C. L. Forsling, *chairman*; H. C. Hanson, Walter P. Taylor and W. G. McGinnies, *secretary*.

The tentative program includes a discussion of the following topics:

1. Methods of studying plant populations and their changes.
2. Methods of studying forage production and yield, including clipping, height growth, volume determination or other methods; clip quadrats,

their location, treatment and charting, systems of clipping, weighing, value and limitations.

3. Methods of studying plant development for seasonal use and other purposes, autecology-phenology and life histories; value and methods; period studies, panel exclosures, and other methods including procedure, measurements, equipment, value and limitations.
4. Utilization and palatability, methods of measuring and computing for different kinds of vegetation.
5. Methods for controlling the grazing factor, including isolation transects, permanent exclosures and inclosures, intermediate control inclosures and exclosures, and other fenced plots.
6. Instrumentation, essential facts to measure, instruments and analysis correlation, and presentation of data.
7. Methods of studying the influence of grazing on saw timber types.
8. Methods of studying inter-relation between grazing and erosion.
9. Methods of studying animal life, including livestock, rodents, big game, upland game birds and other birds and animals.
10. Terminology—suggestions regarding standardization—(a) standard terms, (b) open terms.
11. Plant nomenclature—(a) scientific names, (b) common names.
12. Compilation and analysis of range research data with special attention given to the use of statistical methods.

The committee hopes to prepare a detailed account covering the various topics for discussion at the meeting. In order to do this it is necessary to have available outlines of the various methods in use by different investigators. The committee would be glad to receive any suggestions as to points to be discussed and would especially like to have each investigator submit outlines or other descriptions of methods used in range research.

It would greatly facilitate matters if every one would send the secretary his own name and address and the names and addresses of others who might be interested in order that subsequent announcements may be properly sent.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS

PLANS for formation of a consolidated scientific organization to be known as the American Institute of Physics have been made public by Dr. Karl T. Compton, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Both science and the public are to be served. The institution will bring together several scientific organizations now separate but having common interests. It will also knit together a great group of men

in industrial laboratories and manufacturing plants who, as physicists, play a most fundamental rôle in modern industry, but who have not heretofore constituted a well-recognized unit. Also in schools and colleges, local or student branches of the institute may be found. For the public there will be a press department to explain some of the fascinating laboratory happenings which often remain masked behind unfamiliar scientific words. This will include cooperation with the press and contacts with local groups interested in physics.

The plans were started jointly by the American Physical Society, the Optical Society of America and the Acoustical Society of America. The Society of Rhedology has also joined in the movement to establish the institute and several other national as well as some local organizations have expressed interest in joining or becoming affiliated with it.

Dr. Compton is chairman of the governing board of the institute, which has been set up jointly by the cooperative societies to work out the organization problems. The secretary of the board is Dr. George B. Pegram, head of the department of physics and formerly dean of engineering in Columbia University. Other members include directors and leaders in some of the largest industrial research laboratories as well as university men.

The productivity of American research physicists has increased so rapidly that the present means of publication of their results have been quite overstrained. Hence one immediate objective of the cooperating societies is to achieve through the new institute unified and enlarged publications for research results and other information in physics, including abstracts of all published work in physics over the world. In this publication to cover the field of physics it is expected to attain a high standard of completeness and promptness. The Chemical Foundation, Inc., of New York, has offered to undertake the handling of the business end of the publication.

HONORARY DEGREES CONFERRED BY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

THE recipients of the honorary degrees of doctor of science at the recent commencement of Columbia University with the formulae used by President Nicholas Murray Butler in conferring the degrees were:

JAY DOWNER, chief engineer of the Westchester County Park Commission—Native of Iowa; graduated at Princeton University with the class of 1905; for some twenty years associated as planner and leader with the development of the neighboring county of Westchester; a singularly high type of public servant, endowed with that vision and courage which multiply