to this the establishment of financial awards for the most noteworthy and valuable inventions and discoveries in the several branches of science, to be bestowed under such conditions as Congress may direct."

This resolution was unanimously approved.

As a matter of course the present situation with reference to such a measure is purely tentative, until details, if it is thought to be desirable, are worked out.

I have had some correspondence the last three or four months with Colonel B. M. Chiperfield, congressman of the fifteenth Illinois district, on the subject and he wrote that he was favorably impressed. Since the meeting at Peoria he was written as follows:

I think that the measure will require a great deal of careful thought and collaboration on the part of those who are more familiar with the subject than myself. I stand ready to introduce such a measure at any time but I do not feel sufficiently familiar to draft it without considerable assistance.

Of course I do not mean the mere mechanical work of drafting the bill, which is easy enough, but as to what awards should be made, by whom, and for what I shall need advice and direction.

With all that Colonel Chiperfield here says I fully agree. My idea in referring to it at all at the state meeting was based on the belief that ultimately something might be accomplished and that, if the matter were introduced at the next session and referred to a committee of Congress to act with a committee representing the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the several other organizations of national scope, such as the National Research Council and the National Academy of Sciences, and to prepare the main features of a bill enumerating the number and scope of the awards and the lines for which they were to be made, the material would be in such shape as Colonel Chiperfield suggests.

In the course of a year's study of the development along various lines of research, the prizes bestowed, the fellowships awarded, and medals given, I was impressed with the fact that the most notable of all is a foreign prize, the Nobel, and that the winning of this is a world distinction. There are many generous prizes in our own country, it is true, but they are established largely by individuals, associations and institutions and do not constitute a generous government recognition of a public service. It is true that medals are given and these of course are to be esteemed as tokens of honor and recognition.

I can imagine, however, what an award like the Nobel to the late Albert A. Michelson meant in the prosecution of such a work as he was attempting, if his own means and the limitation on his time would not otherwise have permitted it. It is, indeed, fortunate that we have institutions and museums that promote the work of research, invention, and exploration, and also that we have scientific publications that advance this cause.

But I think also of those with cramped means and limited time, who are engaged in invention, exploration, architecture, physics, astronomy, electricity, chemistry, geology, botany, medicine and surgery, and perhaps other lines of basic research, and who are struggling under adverse conditions to give the people the finished product of their thought and study, whom a government award or endowment or pension might greatly aid and encourage.

Dr. John C. Hessler, a former president of the Illinois State Academy of Science, has suggested that if such a bill is framed it might well include a clause that empowers the government to receive gifts toward such an endowment fund from which awards could be made, and it is possible that there may be many, who, desiring to emulate the example of the founder of the Smithsonian Institution, would gladly be contributors. Such contributors could be added to any appropriation that Congress might make.

But at present it seems to me that Congress at least could, as an initial step, be solicited to appoint a committee to act, as indicated, with a committee of leading scientists.

Personally I believe that such awards in research would inspire and stimulate and result in great good. It is farthest removed from my thought to commercialize science, but rather the idea is to give the best, the freest, the fullest opportunity to the ones most competent to give the world something worth while.

FRED R. JELLIFF,
Past President
ILLINOIS STATE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

NEW TECHNICAL WORDS

IN the issue of SCIENCE for May 22 (73: 565–566) Messrs. Tester and Bay describe their ingenious instrument, "The shapometer: A device for measuring the shapes of pebbles."

As "shapometer" is an obvious hybrid, interdicted by good usage in fashioning word novelties, and inasmuch as we already have in use the words morphometry and morphometrical, it is hoped that the gentlemen referred to may be induced to adopt the name morphometer for their device (from Greek μορφή, form or shape, + μέτρον, measure). If that term be deemed specifically insufficient, the more definite word psephometer (from Greek ψῆφος, a pebble, + μέτρον, measure) might be suggested.

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