Edison, through his discovery of how to preserve the spoken word, made man and himself immortal. What greater is possible in practical achievement?—ROBERT A. MILLIKAN, California Institute of Technology.

At the dawn of the electrical age, a little over fifty years ago, Edison appeared like a heaven-sent pioneer. His burning enthusiasm and undaunted courage and perseverance succeeded in creating in 1882 the incandescent electrical lighting system, which has not experienced an essential change since that time. This was his greatest achievement and entitled him to immortality.—MICHAEL PUPIN, Columbia University.

Edison was truly one of the great Americans. His contributions to science have been outstanding.—JOHN C. MERRIAM, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

Thomas Edison used science for the benefit of mankind to such a high degree, and brought science and the scientific method into such high repute in the public regard, that it is an open question which of these two great contributions to modern civilization is the greater. Certain it is, that no other man of our generation has made a larger or more inspiring contribution.—VERNON KELLOGG, permanent secretary of the National Research Council.

With the insight of genius Edison made trial and error combined with industrial organization a method of research. He was one of the greatest men America has produced, leading in the applications of science to industry that have made possible a new civilization based on democracy, universal education and general welfare.—J. MCKEEN CATTELL, editor of SCIENCE.

America has lost one of its most famous citizens and the world one of its greatest benefactors. In a very real sense Edison was the founder of our electric era. What a fine thing it would be if such a useful and inspiring personality could be granted a span of life commensurate with his value and usefulness to the world. If so, Edison would have lived for ages.—EDWIN W. RICE, JR., honorary chairman of the board and former president of the General Electric Company.

Edison was doing—and is doing—more to advance our human affairs and interests than any one I know. I repeat "is doing" because his example of actively trying to lift us continually a peg higher in our civilization by strenuous personal effort is now actuating countless youth of all lands.—WILLIS R. WHITNEY, director of the Research Laboratory of the General Electric Company, Schenectady.

Edison demonstrated to the world the enormous practical importance of electric power and its applications. Few men have ever benefited more of their fellow-men.—IRVING LANGMUIR, associate director of the General Electric Research Laboratory.

Among all the people of the earth no name has been mentioned with greater admiration than that of Thomas A. Edison, the greatest inventor of his time. An adequate appreciation of all Mr. Edison's merits can not be encompassed in brief space, but this much can be said here: not only his work but his personality especially was of sublime grandeur.—OSCAR VON MÜLLER, Deutsches Museum, Munich.

In Edison the world loses one of the greatest technical geniuses who ever lived. Though Edison himself very often equated genius with application, we know that his successes can not be accounted for by application alone. In Edison intuitive thought and exact weighing of all technical and economic problems were united with unparalleled perseverance in pursuit of his problems to such a degree that thereby he became for us the archtype of inventor.—AUGUST CAROLUS, the University of Leipzig.

The passing of Edison is a great loss to the world and especially to science and industry. Not only was the world indebted to Edison for innumerable creations of his own brain, but for his aptitude in adapting to practical purposes the ideas of other inventors, which but for him would have remained impracticable.—THE DUC DE GRAMMONT, Paris.

With the passing of Edison one of the world's greatest benefactors leaves us. What he has done for business, pleasure and philanthropy can not easily be calculated. But some idea of what the world would be without his inventions, his self-sacrificing labors, can be gathered if we try to live for a day in busy centers without the use of the telephone. He was a great and constant inspiration to me throughout my life.—GUGLIELMO MARCONI.

In Edison, one of the great technical inventors to whom we owe the possibility of alleviation and embellishment of our outward life has departed from us. An inventive spirit has filled his own life and all our existence with bright light. Thankfully we accept his legacy, not only as a gift of his genius, but also as a mission placed in our hands. For to the new generation falls the task of finding the way for the right use of the gift given to us. Only if it solves this task will the new generation be worthy of its inheritance and become really happier than former generations.—ALBERT EINSTEIN.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

CONFERENCES ON THE CALENDAR AND ON METEOROLOGY

PROFESSOR CHARLES F. MARVIN, chief of the U. S. Weather Bureau, was a representative of the State Department at the fourth general Conference of the Committee on Communications and Transit of the League of Nations, which met at Geneva, Switzerland, on October 12. This designation was in response to a request from the League of Nations that this country be represented at the conference, especially in connec-

tion with the question of the simplification of the calendar, which is one of the agenda.

Professor Marvin is vice-chairman of the National Committee for the United States on Simplification of the Calendar, which is an unofficial committee consisting of representative men and women interested in the improvement of the present calendar. His attendance at this conference was as an expert observer for the State Department and not as chief of the Weather Bureau.

In addition to attending the meetings of the League of Nations committee, Professor Marvin attended, as chief of the Weather Bureau, the meetings of the International Meteorological Committee and a meeting of the executive council of that committee. These meetings were held at Locarno beginning on October 5.

The International Meteorological Organization, which consists of the directors of all the meteorological services of the world, meets every six years. The International Meteorological Committee is a subcommission of the major body and has 21 members. Its meetings are held on the call of the president, usually every two years. There is an executive council, composed of five members, which is charged with the conduct of the administrative affairs of the main body. Professor Marvin is a member of both the subcommission and the executive council. This year these are meeting at the same time at Locarno.

The program of the International Meteorological Committee consists of the consideration of the reports of the president, secretary and other officers, as well as meteorological subjects, among them being that of the polar year program. One of the items to be handled by the executive council is that of selecting a permanent secretary of the major organization, the headquarters of which are to be in Switzerland. The secretariat is supported by the various governments concerned.

TECHNO-CHEMICAL LECTURES OF THE MELLON INSTITUTE

Two series of lectures on important subjects in industrial chemistry and chemical engineering are being presented by technologic specialists of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research during 1931–32. These discourses are delivered on Mondays, from 10:30 A. M. to 11:30 A. M., throughout both semesters, in the fellows' room of the institute, and are open to all students of industrial chemistry and chemical engineering in the University of Pittsburgh, as well as to the institute's members.

The introductory lecture was given on September 28 by Dr. Edward R. Weidlein, director of the institute, on "The Field and Opportunities of the Chemical Engineer." The first series of lectures entitled "Some Important Chemical Engineering Materials, Their Manufacture, Properties, Uses, and Evaluation" is being given on the following dates:

October 5, Mr. H. J. Rose, "Coke"; October 12, Mr. R. F. Ferguson, "The Manufacture of Refractories"; October 19, Mr. S. M. Phelps, "The Properties and Uses of Refractories"; October 26, Mr. C. H. Geister, "The Manufacture, Properties and Uses of Lime"; November 2, Mr. Tracy Bartholomew, "The Manufacture, Properties and Uses of Portland Cement"; November 9, Mr. R. H. Heilman, "Heat-Insulating Materials"; November 16, Mr. J. D. Alley, "Abrasives"; November 23, Dr. S. A. Braley, "Iron and Steel"; November 30, Dr. A. W. Coffman, "Corrosion-Resistant Materials"; December 7, Dr. W. W. Duecker, "Sulphur"; December 14, Mr. R. R. McClure, "Rubber."

The second series include: "Lectures on Professional Opportunities in Various Industries—What the Chemist and Chemical Engineer Have Done, are Doing, and can Probably Accomplish in these Fields," and will be given as follows:

January 4, Dr. F. P. Lasseter, "Hydrometallurgy"; January 11, Mr. H. H. Meyers, "Fertilizers"; January 18, Mr. E. J. Casselman, "Glass"; February 8, Mr. E. W. Reid, "Solvents"; February 15, Dr. P. B. Davidson, "Paper"; February 29, Dr. R. N. Wenzel, "Fatty Oils and Soaps"; March 7, Mr. E. R. Harding, "Foods"; March 14, Mr. C. F. Goldthwait, "Textiles"; March 21, Dr. H. K. Salzberg, "Paints"; April 4, Dr. A. G. Loomis, "Petroleum Production"; April 11, Dr. H. E. Foote, "Industrial Gases"; April 18, Dr. G. J. Cox, "Sugar"; April 25, Dr. J. J. Enright, "Bacteriology, Chemistry and Public Health"; May 2, Dr. O. F. Hedenburg, "Insecticides and Fungicides"; May 9, Dr. George D. Beal, "Pharmaceuticals"; May 16, Dr. L. H. Cretcher, "Synthetic Medicinals."

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

DR. J. BENTLEY SQUIER, professor of urology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, and director of the Squier Urological Institute of Presbyterian Hospital, was elected president of the American College of Surgeons for next year at the recent New York meeting. He will be inducted into office to succeed Dr. Allen B. Kanavel, of Northwestern University, at the next annual meeting, the date and place of which have not yet been determined. As its next vice-presidents the college elected Dr. C. Gordon Heyd, professor of clinical surgery and attending surgeon at the New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital, and Dr. W. Edward Gallie, surgeon-in-chief of the Toronto General Hospital.

At the concluding session on October 16 three honorary fellowships and 647 regular fellowships were conferred and an address to the initiates was given by Dr. Allen B. Kanavel, president of the college.