SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE COPYRIGHT BILL

THE Copyright Bill introduced in the Senate by Senator Hebert, of Rhode Island (S. 176) is substantially the same as the Vestal Bill of 1930–31, which was passed by the House at the last session and was being considered by the Senate in the closing days of the session.

The Copyright Bill favorably reported by the House Committee on Patents April 5, and referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, was introduced on March 10, 1932, as H. R. 10364 and later in amended form as H. R. 10740 and H. R. 10976, by Representative William I. Sirovich, of New York, who, with the shift in control of the House, succeeded the late Mr. Vestal as chairman of the Committee on Patents.

Of the two the House Bill is the better bill. It was drawn from the standpoint of author and artist rather than from that of book and music publisher and distributor; is simpler, more direct, and a better piece of draftsmanship. It makes no reference to the International Copyright Union, but the adoption of the bill would, in the opinion of the State Department, clear the way for ratification of the Rome Convention by the United States, if the Senate were favorable to such action.

It outlaws piracy, recognizes property right as dating automatically from creation of the work or from first public presentation, does not make registration compulsory but encourages registration by restricting the damages that can be secured for infringement of copyright if the work has not been registered; gives the author the right to sell different aspects of his copyright to different parties so that he can dispose separately of publishing rights, dramatic rights, motion picture rights, radio and television rights, etc. The term of copyright is named as fifty-six years from the date of first public presentation.

American authors are still required to have their works printed in America as a condition of copyright.

The bill still favors the corporation over the individual in the vague and doubtful provision that "in the absence of agreement to the contrary where any copyrightable work is created by an employee within the scope of his employment, his employer shall be considered as the author of the work." Whether the writing of a book on physics by a university professor of physics would be "within the scope of his employment" would be for the courts to determine.

The greatest defect in the bill is a provision inherited from preceding bills known as the "book prohibition clause," which in the present bill is camouflaged under a section entitled "Impounding." In the effort to put the purchasing power of the American market into copper-riveted marketable form, so that it can be the subject of contract between American publishers and English authors or publishers, and under the mistaken assumption that additional opportunity for labor is thereby provided for the American workman, the bill prohibits the individual American citizen from ordering a single copy, for his own use and not for sale, direct from London or Edinburgh, Toronto or Sydney, of a book published in English by an author in his own country (even though the American citizen is willing to pay at his own costs the duty imposed on such importation by his own laws), if an American publisher has secured the right to publish an American edition when he is ready to do so, under penalty of impounding at port of entry and eventual confiscation.

As a result of the continued opposition to this provision the grudging concession has been granted that the citizen may exercise his right, provided he has first made application to the holder of the right of American reprint and the American publisher declines, or in ten days fails to signify his willingness, to procure the desired book for the citizen at a time not specified, with no penalty for delay, at a price equivalent to the foreign retail price plus transportation charges and customs duties.

Not 10 per cent. of books in English published abroad are reprinted in this country. The number of individuals who buy books without seeing them and without solicitation, on their own initiative, is relatively small. Yet to put a stop to this negligible trickle of foreign trade which might still flow over tariff walls, it is proposed to destroy a fundamental liberty of the citizen to trade in the markets of the world, so far as reprinted English books are concerned, a restriction on individual liberty for which there is no parallel in the legislation of any country; and for the negligible and doubtful good, thereby to be attained, to subject all legitimate foreign book trade to intolerable red tape and delay. The representative of the Publishers' Association at the public hearing stubbornly opposed the proposal to give the individual scholar the same right that has been finally conceded to libraries and to the United States Government itself, in the case of books for its own use, and the author of the bill at the public hearing, upon conclusion of the reading of a memorandum by Dr. M. Llewellyn Raney against the provision, submitted in writing on behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, made the statement that the

provision must remain in the bill because the American Federation of Labor demanded it.

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PROGRESS IN RESEARCH AT MELLON INSTITUTE DURING 1931–32

ACCORDING to the *Nineteenth Annual Report* of the director, Dr. E. R. Weidlein, to the trustees of Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, Pittsburgh, the sum of $722,541 was received by the institution from industrial fellowship donors during the fiscal year ended February 29, 1932. The total amount of money appropriated by donors to the institute for the past 21 years was $8,277,018, all of which was expended in defraying the cost of scientific investigations conducted for these companies and associations. Throughout the year covered by the report, 75 industrial fellowships, employing 176 investigators and engineers, were in operation. At the close of the year 58 fellowships were active, and of these 28 have been at work for 5 years or longer and 13 have concluded more than 10 years of research.

In reviewing the progress that has been made since 1911, when the industrial fellowship system was established at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Weidlein points out that the Mellon Institute has had fellowships on 230 distinct subjects, on which 775 scientists and engineers have been engaged. In all, during the period 1911–1932, 313 fellows and 357 fellowship assistants of the institute have completed their services to science and technology in the institution and have entered the fields of industry and education. As trained additions to the forces of manufacturing and teaching, these men, Dr. Weidlein says, constitute the institute's greatest contribution to humanity.

The fellowship achievements of 1931–32 are summarized in the report, special attention being given to the research advances made by the Air Pollution Investigation, the Multiple Fellowship on By-Product Coke, the Iodine Investigation, the Organic Synthesis Fellowship, the Petroleum Production Fellowship, the Protected Metals Fellowship, the Steel Fellowship, the Sugar Investigation and the Fur Fellowship. The activities of the institute's department of research in pure chemistry are also described.

During the calendar year 1931, members of the institute made the following additions to the literature: 2 books, 4 bulletins, 39 research reports and 33 other papers. Twenty-two U. S. patents and 33 foreign patents were issued to fellows. Lists of publications, 1911–1932, and copies of Dr. Weidlein's report for 1931–32 will be sent free of charge to laboratory directors, librarians and science teachers upon request.

The constructional work on the institute's new building is said to be proceeding satisfactorily; it is thought that this edifice will be completed and ready for occupancy in the summer of 1933.

PRINCETON CHAPTER OF SIGMA XI

THE sixtieth Chapter of Sigma Xi was installed at Princeton on March 19, 1932, and includes faculty members and students of Princeton University and staff members of the Princeton branch of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. Dr. L. B. Wilson, national president, and Professor Edward Ellery, national secretary, were present to conduct the ceremonies. The installation took place in the historic faculty room in Nassau Hall, after which followed a banquet in Procter Hall of the Graduate College.

Twenty-six members of the faculty were initiated to full membership. Fourteen others were elected to membership, but were absent at the time of the initiation. Forty-two Sigma Xi members from other chapters, who are now on the Princeton faculty, affiliated themselves as charter members of the new chapter.

The officers elected for the first year were:

President	G. H. Shull
Vice-President	E. N. Harvey
Secretary	Paul MacClintock
Treasurer	E. R. Caley
Committeeman, 3 years	A. M. Greene, Jr.
Committeeman, 2 years	R. W. Glaser
Committeeman, 1 year	A. F. Buddington

The presidential address by Dr. L. B. Wilson was "The Cultural Implications of Research in the Sciences."

Eight visiting delegates were present as follows:

Chapter	*Delegate*
Brown	Leonard Carmichael
Columbia	J. W. Barker
Lehigh	Gilbert Doane
New York University	H. Austin Taylor
Pennsylvania	Charles W. Burr
Rutgers	M. A. Chrysler
Swarthmore	Edward H. Cox
Yale	L. L. Woodruff

THE OHIO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE Ohio Academy of Science will hold its forty-second annual meeting at the Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, on April 28, 29 and 30, under the presidency of Dr. Alpheus W. Smith, of the Ohio State University. The program of the meeting, as now being formed, will follow in a general way those of other years, which is to say, a short business session of the academy will be held early Friday morning followed by a general scientific session to be ad-