

of his community. He was held in the highest esteem by all his friends and colleagues because of his charming personality and sterling qualities of character.

JNO. A. FLEMING

RECENT DEATHS

WILLIAM FRANKLIN EDWARDS, director of research for the U. S. Testing Company, New York City, formerly president of the University of the State of Washington, died on January 13, at the age of seventy-seven years.

DR. EDWARD N. BRUSH, professor emeritus of psychiatry of the University of Maryland and the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Baltimore, died on January 10 in his eighty-first year.

PROFESSOR JOHN GLAISTER, who held the chair of forensic medicine in the University of Glasgow from 1898 until 1931, when he was succeeded by his son, Professor John Glaister, has died at the age of seventy-six years.

CECIL FOWLER BEADLES, curator of the pathological department of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, died on January 3 at the age of sixty-six years.

DR. ELIE IVANOFF, of Moscow, specialist in artificial fecundation, who had many mammalian hybrids to his credit, died last year in Russian Turkestan, to which place he had gone, financed by the Soviet Government, for the purpose of producing hybrids between man and the chimpanzee, on which work he was engaged at the time of his death.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

RESOLUTION ON TECHNOCRACY OF THE AMERICAN ENGINEERING COUNCIL

THE following resolution was passed at the recent meeting of the American Engineering Council in Washington condemning the claims of technocracy:

The statements of a group of men organized under the name "technocracy" have received wide publicity through the press by reason of startling predictions which involve a complete overturn in our economic structure. These pronouncements, circulated as coming from engineers, have led to the belief that they represent practical engineering thought.

Many requests for information on technocracy have come to the American Engineering Council, which is the representative of national, regional and local engineering societies in the United States.

The council has endeavored to obtain from the promoters of the movement an authoritative statement of their findings and their program. It is significant that no information could be obtained beyond what has appeared in the press.

The accepted practice among engineers of presenting new developments to some engineering society for critical study and discussion has not been followed. The data and statistics brought forward in magazine and newspaper articles as a basis for speculative claims are open to question; some of the findings have been discredited or disproved by other investigations.

These statements and conclusions may have the serious effect of undermining public confidence in our present civilization, and they hold out an unwarranted promise of a quick solution of economic ills. The method of presentation has been marked by exaggerated, intolerant and extravagant claims. They have capitalized the fears, miseries and uncertainties due to the depression and have proposed a control which is, in effect, class dictatorship.

Contrary to these claims, there is nothing inherent in technical improvement which entails economic and social

maladjustments. Indeed technology offers the only possible basis for continuing material progress. The volume of goods produced, distributed and consumed during the years 1928 and 1929 was not excessive. That volume may and should be surpassed upon the return of prosperity.

The alleged unmanageability of a machine economy has not been proved. Its dislocations are traceable to improper and unskilled use rather than to inherently harmful characteristics. Complete replacement of men by the machine is precluded by the law of diminishing returns. Instances are increasingly in evidence. Contrary to the pronouncements of technocracy, applied science holds the promise of better things to come in a society which fearlessly and intelligently meets its problems. It is the considered opinion of American Engineering Council that our present economic structure contains within itself the possibilities of progressive improvement and of the attainment of higher standards of living.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING MATERIALS

THE thirty-sixth annual meeting of the American Society for Testing Materials will be held in Chicago during the week beginning on June 26. This week has been designated "Engineering Week" by the Century of Progress Fair authorities and Wednesday, June 28, has been designated "Engineers' Day."

The Hall of Science will house extensive exhibits of a technical nature both in pure and in applied science. They will be of special interest, since they will in general deal with processes and not merely products.

The fair opens officially on June 1 and will be in full swing during "Engineering Week." During this week and during the preceding week, designated "Science Week," special programs will be given in keeping with the aims and activities of the many societies