

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

holding meetings. On Engineers' Day, Wednesday, June 28, all the societies will join in an extensive program. Special trips and programs will be arranged at the fair. In the evening a dinner will be arranged at which will be present engineers and scientific men from this country and abroad. The society is taking an active part in plans for Engineers' Day and it is possible that some of the customary features of an annual meeting will be merged with the general plans.

The following organizations have signified their intention of participating:

American Association of Engineers  
 American Ceramic Society  
 American Foundrymen's Association  
 American Institute of Architects  
 American Institute of Electrical Engineers  
 American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers  
 American Society for Testing Materials  
 American Society of Agricultural Engineers  
 American Society of Civil Engineers  
 American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers  
 American Society of Mechanical Engineers  
 American Society of Municipal Engineers  
 American Society of Refrigerating Engineers  
 Institute of Radio Engineers  
 National Association of Practical Refrigerating Engineers  
 National Council of State Boards of Engineering Examiners  
 Society of Industrial Engineers  
 Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education  
 Western Society of Engineers

Among the technical features being arranged for the thirty-sixth annual meeting, there are the Symposium on Cast Iron, the discussion on Significance of Tests of Concrete and Concrete Aggregates, and an extensive report dealing with physical properties, corrosion-resistant data, etc., of light metals and alloys, in which field this committee functions.

#### THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

NINE new corporate members of the New York Botanical Garden were elected at the annual meeting of the corporation held on Monday, January 9, at 2 P. M., in the office of Henry W. de Forest, president, at 165 Broadway, New York City.

They are: Joseph R. Swan, president of the Guaranty Trust Company; Arthur M. Anderson, a partner in J. P. Morgan and Company; Dr. William J. Bonisteel, professor of botany at Fordham University; Richardson Wright, author and editor of *House and Garden*; Raymond H. Torrey, nature study leader; Captain Henry B. Heylman, of Pelham Manor, known as a lover of trees; Robert H. Montgomery, owner of unusual collections of conifers and palms on his two

estates, one near New York and one in Florida; George Arents, Jr., financier and owner of an estate in Rye, and Miss Mabel Choate, a daughter of the late Joseph H. Choate.

Arthur M. Anderson was elected as a manager to fill one of the vacancies caused by the deaths of Robert W. de Forest, Edward D. Adams and Frank K. Sturgis. Managers reelected to succeed themselves for three years are Henry W. de Forest, Clarence Lewis, Dr. Lewis R. Morris, N. L. Britton, founder and director-emeritus of the Garden, E. D. Merrill, director, and Henry de la Montagne, Jr., business manager.

In recognition of their gifts of important herbarium material, Frank W. Johnson and Kenneth K. Mackenzie were elected fellows for life. Mr. Johnson's contribution is of approximately 40,000 specimens of North American flora, while Mr. Mackenzie's gift of 60,000 specimens includes an especially complete collection of sedges, of which he has made a special study. Dr. Johnson is on the editorial staff of the P. F. Collier and Son Company, while Mr. Mackenzie is a practicing attorney.

In his annual report, Dr. E. D. Merrill, director, paid tribute to members of the staff and their assistants who have pursued their work diligently in the face of severe retrenchments both in salaries and money for equipment. He said:

In spite of continued unfavorable economic conditions, in spite of reduced income, in spite of the fact that many suggested and desirable innovations could not be developed because of the financial situation, and in spite of the fact that in an attempt to balance the budget, salary reductions totaling \$23,386 had to be made, definite progress has been made in various fields, and several important new projects have been developed. Much that has been accomplished has been due to the loyalty and interest of staff members who have maintained their morale in the face of discouraging circumstances.

An important innovation for the New York Botanical Garden the last year has been the establishment of the school for gardeners and special courses for professional gardeners, the first of its kind opened in this country. Dr. Merrill writes:

Financial provision for the publication of the results of research by staff members should be made, if possible, to obviate the present discouraging outlook which is essentially to the effect that many researches, no matter how meritorious or how important, must remain unpublished. Staff members, while content with a limited income and an opportunity to prosecute scientific work, are no longer content when there is coupled the handicap of inability to publish the results of their researches.

Lastly, the difficult period through which the institution has been passing during the past three years, and