In the group for the physical sciences provision will be made for the discussion of problems of astronomy, geodesy and geography, geology and mineral resources, seismology and volcanology, oceanography, meteorology and terrestrial magnetism, and radio communications. The contributions to the program of the congress will consist mainly of specially invited papers.

The Government of the United States has been invited by His Majesty's Government in Canada to participate in this congress by the appointment of twenty-five official delegates to the congress from this country. These delegates will be named by the government. In addition the National Research Council of the United States has been authorized to extend an invitation to the learned organizations and institutions in this country to participate in the congress. Universities, societies and research institutions which may wish to appoint representatives to attend this congress are requested to communicate with the National Research Council.

W. H. HOWELL,
Chairman, National Research Council

ENGINEERING WEEK AT CHICAGO

PLANS for the conference of engineers at Chicago, during Engineering Week, June 25 to 30, which is being sponsored by the Century of Progress Exposition, are making progress. Education will be an important theme of the conference, with the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education taking an important part. In addition to its sessions some twenty of the national engineering societies will participate with sectional and national meetings.

On Sunday evening, June 25, when Engineering Week opens officially, the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics will have a joint session with Section M of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. A number of the engineering societies will participate with a program which is being arranged on the "Application of Physics to Engineering" by Dr. R. A. Millikan. On the evening of June 27, A. P. M. Fleming and H. Gough, of England, will address a similar joint session on "The Industrial Developments of the Century."

In addition to the individual activities of the various groups during the week, there will be a joint conference on Engineers Day. The program for this day includes a banquet at the Hotel Stevens. It is expected that there will be an attendance of more than 3,000. The program, which is not yet ready for announcement, will include addresses by distinguished American and foreign scientific men and engineers.

In addition to the educational exhibits at the Century of Progress Exposition, the sixth Midwest Engineering and Power Exposition will be held at the Coliseum during that week. At this exposition some 300 manufacturers will exhibit the latest developments in steam-generating equipment for power and process purposes. In addition there will be a wide range of equipment such as heating and air conditioning apparatus, water treatment and softeners for swimming pools and many other items of interest to engineers and superintendents of schools.

AWARD OF THE NICHOLS MEDAL

AWARD of the William H. Nichols Medal of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society for 1933 to Dr. Wilder D. Bancroft, professor of physical chemistry at Cornell University, has been announced by Dr. Walter S. Landis, chairman of the Medal Committee. The medal will be presented at a meeting of the New York Section in the Electrical Institute Auditorium, Grand Central Palace, on March 10. "Protein Therapy" will be the subject of Professor Bancroft's medal address. Other speakers will be Professor W. Lash Miller, of the University of Toronto, who will narrate the achievements of Professor Bancroft, and Dr. Charles L. Parsons, of Washington, D. C., secretary of the American Chemical Society, who will discuss the personal aspects of Professor Bancroft's career. Dr. Victor K. LaMer, professor of chemistry in Columbia University and chairman of the New York Section, will preside.

In announcing the award Professor Bancroft's work is described as follows:

> Professor Bancroft's researches are derived from the work of Claude Bernard, French physiologist who sixty years ago advanced the view that anesthesia was due to a reversible coagulation of some of the proteins of the brain and of the sensory nerves. Although biologists, physiologists and medical men rejected Bernard's view, Professor Bancroft has demonstrated that it is of "enormous importance in physiology, pharmacology and medicine."
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> Professor Bancroft's general conclusions are that in some forms of insanity a coagulation of brain and nerve protein occurs. In others, protein dispersion takes place. He points out that in manic depression and epilepsy a slight coagulation of protein has taken place in either all or a part of the brain. Therefore, he concludes that a chemical agent which has the opposite effect on proteins should work toward a cure.
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> Through the use of these methods, Professor Bancroft's researches have indicated that the use of sodium rhodanate may cure narcotic addiction and that it may also be employed eventually as a treatment for hay fever.
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> "If the brain is permanently abnormal," according to Professor Bancroft, "the thinking will be abnormal also and the patient will be called insane. The brain can be abnormal in two ways, by being too puckered or by being too mushy. There must therefore be two types