

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."

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.

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.

"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

of insanity, a puckered type which will be helped by sodium rhodanate and a mushy type which will be helped by an anesthetic such as sodium amytal. These two types

exist and can be helped in this way. Manic depressives and epileptics are of the puckered type; dementia praecox catatonics are of the mushy type."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. ALBERT EINSTEIN, who sails for Europe on March 15, will be the guest of honor at a dinner, given by friends of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, at the Hotel Commodore, New York City. It is expected that a thousand men of science and letters will attend. It is planned to present to Dr. Einstein at the dinner a fund for the Hebrew University and for other organizations in which he is interested. The fund, it is hoped, will reach \$100,000.

THE Edison Medal for 1932, awarded to Bancroft Gherardi, vice-president and chief engineer of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, in recognition of his "contributions to the art of telephone engineering and the development of electrical communication," was presented to him by the president, H. P. Charlesworth, at the recent annual convention in New York City of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. The principal speakers were Dr. Gano Dunn, of New York City, and Dr. Dugald C. Jackson, head of the electrical department of engineering of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and chairman of the Edison Medal committee.

THE presentation of the Alfred Noble Prize to Frank M. Starr, of the General Electric Company, was made on January 23 at the opening meeting of the American Society of Civil Engineers. The prize, an award of \$500, was presented by Arthur S. Tuttle, vice-president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, which is trustee for the memorial fund created in 1929 by friends of Mr. Noble. The award was made for a published paper, "Equivalent Circuits—II."

DR. WILLIAM BOWIE, of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, has been awarded, by the Royal Academy of Belgium, the Charles Lagrange Prize in recognition of his having effected the complete unification of the triangulation systems of Canada, the United States and Mexico. North America is the only continent having a single triangulation system.

MERLE RANDALL, professor of chemistry at the University of California, has been awarded a medal of merit by Charles University of Prague, in recognition of his contributions in research and the training of young men for careers in chemistry.

DR. GLADYS A. REICHARD, Barnard College, Columbia University, has been awarded the A. Cressy Morrison Prize by the New York Academy of Science for her monograph entitled "Melanesian Design: a Study of Style in Wood and Tortoise Shell Carving."

DR. EMIL ABDERHALDEN, professor of physiology at Halle, has been elected an honorary member of the Italian Society for Experimental Biology.

F. E. MATTHES, of the United States Geological Survey, has been elected president for 1933 of the Association of American Geographers, and S. S. Visser, of Indiana University, vice-president. The secretary, F. E. Williams, of the University of Pennsylvania, and the treasurer, R. S. Platt, of the University of Chicago, were reelected.

PROFESSOR GEORGE C. HUMPHREY, of the University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture, was recently elected president of the American Society of Animal Production.

At the annual general meeting in London of the Royal Meteorological Society on January 18, Professor S. Chapman was reelected president. The Buchan Prize, awarded biennially for the most important original papers contributed to the society during the previous five years, was presented to D. Brunt.

DR. HARRY WOODBURN CHASE, president of the University of Illinois, previously professor of psychology and president of the University of North Carolina, has been elected chancellor of New York University to succeed Dr. Elmer Ellsworth Brown.

DR. WALTER H. EVANS, chief of the Division of Insular Stations of the Office of Experiment Stations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, reached the compulsory retirement age on February 1. During his forty-one years' service in the department, first as botanist and botanical editor of the *Experiment Station Record*, then as chief of the Division of Insular Stations of the Office of Experiment Stations, and for a time as acting chief of the office, Dr. Evans was responsible for establishing and developing agricultural experiment stations in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands, and in promoting research, particularly in plant physiology and pathology, by the state experiment stations.

DR. CHARLES WEISS, formerly associate professor of applied bacteriology and immunology at Washington University School of Medicine, has been appointed director of the Clinical and Research Laboratories of the Mount Zion Hospital, San Francisco, California. He has also been appointed associate professor of research medicine in the Hooper Foundation of the University of California, and consulting immunologist to the University of California Hospital.