

interest to physicists has been selected. "The Application of Optical Methods and Instruments to Chemical Research" will be discussed, A. Herman Pfund presiding over the week's program. The speakers will be Dr. Pfund, George F. A. Stutz, H. E. Merwin and Ralph H. Muller.

The final week will be devoted to the subject of "Catalysis." J. C. W. Frazer will be chairman of the program for the week of July 24, and the speakers for the conference will include Paul Hugh Emmett, Dr. Frazer, Arthur F. Benton, J. A. Becker and Herbert G. Tanner.

Those interested in the conferences may register for the full five weeks, or for any part of the program that attracts them. Cottages on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay, within commuting distance of the university, are available for those who wish to combine a summer vacation with scientific study and discussion.

IN HONOR OF DR. ELIHU THOMSON

ACCORDING to the final plans for the dinner held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on March 29, leaders in science, engineering and education paid tribute to Dr. Elihu Thomson, dean of electrical engineers and inventor, on his eightieth birthday.

A correspondent writes: "Within the span of four score years Dr. Thomson, a pioneer in electrical science, has witnessed and played an important part in the development of the country's great electrical industry. He is the last of the magnificent 'big four,' Thomas A. Edison, Charles F. Brush and James J. Wood. Three of them gave the people electric lighting systems, Edison invented the incandescent lamp. To-day Dr. Thomson is the 'last of the first,' with more than seven hundred United States patents to his credit. From 1920 to 1922 Dr. Thomson was acting president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is a life member of its corporation and a non-resident professor of applied electricity."

On the afternoon of Dr. Thomson's birthday there was a conference at which brief lectures on the historical development of the applications of electricity, modern theories and the present trends of research were presented. According to the program, President Karl T. Compton, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, discussed the historical aspects of electricity

with particular reference to Dr. Thomson's achievements in this field. Dr. John C. Slater, head of the institute's department of physics, discussed modern theories of electricity, and Dr. K. K. Darrow, research physicist at the Bell Telephone Laboratories, spoke on the trends of modern research.

As part of this celebration, many models and some of the originals of Dr. Thomson's most significant inventions were on exhibition. This exhibition was open to guests on Wednesday, continuing for the public from Thursday to Sunday, from 2 to 5 p. m. The models included the frictional electrical machine made from a discarded wine bottle by Dr. Thomson when he was eleven years old, and a dynamo invented in 1878, which has all the essentials of the great modern generators. Many early types of the arc lamps designed by Dr. Thomson and his colleague, Professor E. J. Houston, are shown. One of the most significant exhibits was the Thomson recording wattmeter, forerunner of the 30,000,000 meters now installed in homes, factories and stores to record the amount of energy consumed. There were shown early types of lightning arresters, as well as Dr. Thomson's first electrical resistance welding transformer, a method which is now universally used in almost every branch of manufacturing.

It was expected that President Karl T. Compton would preside at the dinner, at which Governor Joseph B. Ely, of Massachusetts, would voice the tribute of the people of Massachusetts to Dr. Thomson. George B. Cortelyou, president of the Consolidated Gas Company of New York, was expected to speak for the electrical industries and Dr. Harry P. Charlesworth, president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, in the name of the engineering societies, to pay honor to the inventor. The tribute of educational institutions, many of which had bestowed upon Dr. Thomson their highest academic honors, was to be given by Dr. Vannevar Bush, vice-president of the institute and dean of engineering. Other speakers announced were Dr. Harvey Cushing, of Harvard University, who represented professions other than engineering, and Mr. E. W. Rice, Jr., honorary chairman of the board of the General Electric Company, its former president, and one of Dr. Thomson's earliest associates in the electrical industry in Lynn, for his friends and colleagues.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. WILLIAM H. WELCH, whose eighty-third birthday occurred on April 8, has been confined to the Brady Clinic of the Johns Hopkins Hospital since February 1. It is announced that there is a slow improvement in his condition.

DR. THEOBALD SMITH, of the department of animal pathology, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, Princeton, New Jersey, will deliver the Thayer Lectures at the Johns Hopkins Medical School on April 5, 6 and 7.