visory board of the Society for the Prevention of Asphyxial Death, which is calling the conference. The meeting will be held under the auspices of the public health relations committee of the New York Academy of Medicine.

The morning session will include an address by Dr. Shirley W. Wynne, commissioner of health of the City of New York, on vital statistics relating to asphyxia, with Dr. Haven Emerson, of Columbia University, opening the discussion; Dr. Harrison P. Martland, medical examiner of Essex County, New Jersey, will present medical examiners' findings in asphyxial cases, with discussion opened by Dr. Thomas A. Gonzales, deputy chief medical examiner of New York City; Albert W. Whitney, associate general manager of the National Bureau of Casualty and Surety Underwriters, will speak on the economic aspects of asphyxial mortality, with discussion by Leon Senior, manager of the Compensation Insurance Rating Board; Chief Surgeon Daniel J. Donovan, of the New York City Police Department, will explain through motion pictures the first-aid resuscitation methods used by the department.

Dr. Chevalier Jackson, of Philadelphia, will open the afternoon session with a paper on the fundamentals of laryngoscopy as applied in resuscitation, with discussion led by Dr. Charles J. Imperatori, professor of laryngology at the New York Post-Graduate Medical School and Hospital; Dr. Yandell Henderson, professor of applied physiology at Yale University, will present the fundamentals of gas therapy as related to the use of oxygen and carbon dioxide in resuscitation, with discussion opened by Dr. Dayton J. Edwards, associate professor of physiology at Cornell Medical College.

Dr. Edmund B. Piper, professor of obstetrics, University of Pennsylvania Medical School, will show the practical application of laryngoscopy and gas therapy in the treatment of the asphyxiated, with discussion led by Dr. H. J. Stander, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the Cornell Medical College; Dr. Pol. N. Coryllos, professor of clinical surgery at Cornell Medical College, will give the principles and practise of the negative pressure cabinet in the treatment of asphyxia; Dr. John F. McGrath, vice-president of the Society for the Prevention of Asphyxial Death, will suggest ways and means of applying the improved resuscitation principles to medical and hospital practise.

A report preliminary to the conference has been issued by the Society for the Prevention of Asphyxial Death, of which the directors are: Dr. Paluel J. Flagg, president; Dr. Cornelius J. Tyson, medical director, St. Vincent's Hospital; Dr. Joseph D. Kelley; Dr. John F. McGrath, of the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, and Dr. George W. Cumbler, of the Neurological Institute of the Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia Medical Center.

The report calls attention to the "alarming and needless loss of life through neglect and improper treatment of asphyxial cases." More than 50,000 deaths from asphyxia, many of which are preventable, occur annually in the United States, with approximately 2,800 deaths occurring each year in New York City alone. The death rate from this cause in New York City is twice that from automobile accidents, eighteen times that from diphtheria and nearly forty times that from typhoid. Of the total of 5,579 infants stillborn in New York City in 1931, approximately one fourth may be classed as having been capable of response to resuscitation properly applied.

THE DEDICATION OF THE GEORGE EASTMAN LABORATORIES AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

CHEMISTS and physicists gathered at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on May 1 for the dedication of the great George Eastman Research Laboratories. President Karl T. Compton, of the institute, made the address of welcome to a large gathering of official delegates from scientific and engineering organizations and various educational institutions in this country and abroad.

In an address on "Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology," Dr. Samuel C. Prescott, dean of science, reviewed the contributions of the institute to the progress of science and commented upon its present status and prospects for the future.

Dr. Harry M. Goodwin, dean of the Graduate School, discussed the field of advanced education at the institute, while Dr. Frederick G. Keyes, head of the department of chemistry, discussed the significance of chemistry. The address of Dr. John C. Slater, head of the department of physics, described education and research in physics.

Following the morning meeting, which was held in the main lecture hall of the new building, there was an inspection of the various laboratories of physics and chemistry, followed by a luncheon.

The exercises included the dedication of a tablet at the entrance to the present Rogers Laboratory of Physics, commemorating the establishment in 1869 by William Barton Rogers, founder of the institute, of the first physical laboratory for purposes of instruction.

Many of the official delegates to the dedication, representing scientific societies and educational institutions, attended a reunion dinner of the Research Laboratory of Physical Chemistry in the Forris Jewett Moore Room. The dinner was given in honor of Dr.

Arthur A. Noyes, founder of the laboratory and acting president of the institute from 1907 to 1909, now director of the Gates Chemical Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology.

The program in the afternoon included a meeting at which Dr. Arthur H. Compton, of the University of Chicago, described the latest work on the origin and nature of the cosmic rays. At this meeting Dr. Charles A. Kraus, professor of chemistry at Brown University, made an address on "Thirty Years of Physical Chemistry."

At the conclusion of the afternoon meeting the inspection of laboratories was resumed, after which the visitors attended a tea in the Forris Jewett Moore Room. In the evening they were the guests at a private dinner in Walker Memorial, and later attended a reception by President Compton and members of the staff of the new laboratories.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN

AS SCIENCE has reported, the French Government has offered its hospitality to Professor Einstein, and for this purpose has created a chair of mathematical physics at the College of France. This has been offered to Professor Einstein, who has accepted the call.

The London *Times* states that the creation of this new chair required legislation, and a bill was hastily prepared by the Ministry of Education. It was introduced into the Chamber by M. de Monzie, the responsible minister, and was rapidly passed through all the necessary stages before the deputies separated for the recess.

In the preamble to the bill M. de Monzie recalled as a precedent the action of the French Government in 1840 in creating a Chair of Slavonic Literature for the Polish poet Adam Mieckiewicz, then in exile, and declared that the Third Republic should show itself to be at least as liberal as the July Monarchy. The chair was destined for the occupation of a foreign *savant* who would find in the foundation of Francis I. the spiritual liberty and serenity necessary to his labors and the welcome due to his genius.

At the close of a brief discussion of the measure in the Chamber M. Daladier asked the deputies to associate themselves with the government in passing the bill and thus honor not only a man of genius but a man of courage. The measure was unanimously adopted.

Professor Einstein has addressed the following open letter to the Prussian Academy of Sciences, from which he recently resigned:

I have received from absolutely reliable sources the report that the Academy of Sciences, in an official declaration, spoke of the "participation of Albert Einstein in the atrocity campaign in America and France."

I hereby declare that I have never taken part in any atrocity campaign, and I must add that I have seen nothing whatsoever of such a campaign. In the vast majority of cases people contented themselves with repeating and commenting upon official declarations and decrees of responsible persons in the German Government as well as the program for the economic destruction of the German Jews.

The information I have given to the press was that I would resign my position in the academy and surrender my rights of German citizenship; I gave as my reason the fact that I did not want to live in a country where equality before the law and freedom of speech and of teaching were not granted to the individual.

In addition I explained the state of present-day Germany as one of psychic illness in the masses and said something about the causes. In an article which I gave for circulation purposes to the International League for Combating Anti-Semitism, and which was in no way intended for the press, I further summoned all thoughtful people who remain true to the ideals of a threatened civilization to do everything possible to prevent this mass psychosis, which had manifested itself in such an appalling way in Germany, from spreading further.

It would not have been difficult for the academy to have acquired a proper text of my statements before talking about me in the way it has done. The German press has misrepresented my statements in a tendentious manner, as is only to be expected in view of the present gagging of the press.

I stand by every word I have uttered. But I expect in return that the academy—particularly as it has contributed to my defamation before the German public—should put this statement of mine before its members and the German public before whom I was calumniated.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. JAMES B. CONANT, Sheldon Emery professor of organic chemistry, was on May 8 elected president of Harvard University by the corporation to succeed Dr. A. Lawrence Lowell.

AT a meeting of the board of trustees of the American Museum of Natural History on May 1, a resolution was adopted directing that the hall which houses the collection of the Pleistocene period be known as the "Osborn Hall of the Age of Man," in recognition of Dr. Osborn's "untiring devotion to vertebrate paleontology." At this meeting a portrait of Dr. Osborn by Mr. Julian Lamar was presented to the museum by the trustees.

DR. MAX PLANCK, professor of physics in the University of Berlin, celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday on April 23.