

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 Mickiewicz, 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.